

## How to Create a Student Organization

If you do not find a student organization at APSU that is of interest to you and wish to start a new student organization, your first stop should be the Office of Student Life and Leadership. In SLL you can pick up a brochure titled "*Becoming a Student Organization*," which will outline the procedures for obtaining college recognition.

Austin Peay State University clubs and organizations should be formed for the purpose of social, educational and leadership development for students and must relate directly to the mission, goals, and objectives of the University. At all times, organization members should consider how the University community views their organization.

### General Responsibilities

Campus organizations are expected to comply with the policy and procedural guidelines adopted by the Office of Student Life and Leadership, Office of Student Affairs and the University administration. Obstruction of, or interference with, any regularly sponsored or official function of the University may be considered an act of disorderly conduct and may lead to appropriate disciplinary action.

### Membership

Membership in registered student organizations **must** be open to all persons without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, citizenship or handicap. Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972 provides an exemption of fraternities and sororities from the requirement that membership in their groups be open to all persons regardless of sex. Membership should be composed only of currently enrolled students, faculty or staff of Austin Peay State University. Non-students may not be members, hold office or be responsible for any activity.

### Faculty/Staff Advisers

Student organizations are required to have an adviser who is a regular, full-time member of either the faculty or the staff of Austin Peay State University. Each adviser approaches his/her relationship to a student organization differently. Some advisers play active roles, attending meetings, working with student officers, assisting in program planning and development. Others maintain a more distant relationship to the organization, seeing officers or members only occasionally. It is hoped that an adviser will maintain regular contact with the organization. An adviser accepts responsibility for keeping informed about activities of the organization and for advising officers of the organization on the appropriateness and general merits of policies and activities. Advisers are not responsible for the actions or policies of student organizations if they are not informed; members are solely responsible. However, if an adviser is aware of a student organization not following policies or laws, he/she is liable for the group's actions. *The Governors Guide for Student Organizations* has information for student organizations on working with their advisers as well as information for organization advisers.

[Click here for steps on becoming a new student organization](#)