



Durham Panhellenic Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why did the Panhellenic sororities end their ties with Duke University?

The choice to forego recognition from the university was not made easily but the university's decision to prohibit chapters from recruiting first-year women and therefore prohibiting first-year women from joining our organizations made the choice unavoidable. All 26 National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) member organizations believe fiercely in freedom of association and have repeatedly chosen across the country to defend the rights of students, just like all other American citizens, to associate when and with whom they choose.

How will the independent chapters be supervised?

Each inter/national organization continues to oversee chapters within the Durham Panhellenic, including enforcing policy expectations, providing staff support and training local chapter advisors.

Additionally, NPC and inter/national member organizations with chapters serving Duke University students will collaborate to develop a volunteer Panhellenic advisory team to coach and support the student who will serve as leaders of the Durham Panhellenic Association.

Is this the only unrecognized Panhellenic community?

No, NPC and member organizations support independent communities across the country, including those serving students at Yale University, Princeton University and Georgetown University—among others. Additionally, following successful litigation by Panhellenic sororities against Harvard University for limiting student rights, the independent Cambridge Panhellenic Association will soon re-establish itself (fall 2022).

Are unrecognized chapters safe?

While the chapters of the Durham Panhellenic Association will remain independent of Duke University, they are not independent of oversight from and association with their inter/national organizations. As such, they must continue to comply with health and safety expectations, participate in training and development programs and follow key policy expectations.

What is timeline for creation of the Durham Panhellenic Association?

Initial steps will be taken in January 2022 with election of collegiate officers and adoption of governing documents.

When will the next Panhellenic recruitment be hosted?

The Durham Panhellenic Association will host a spring 2022 recruitment and invite all women, including first-year women, to participate and receive invitations to membership. More information will be made available on this webpage in the coming months.



Will the Panhellenic Association have access to university resources and space?

Foregoing recognition means that Panhellenic chapters have chosen intentionally to separate from the university to promote and defend student rights. This means they will no longer have access to space on campus, use of the university name or image, university funds, etc. Like several other independent Panhellenic communities, the Durham Panhellenic Association and its chapters will meet in non-campus spaces available to community organizations.

Will the Panhellenic community continue to align itself with campus values and culture?

NPC-affiliated chapters will no longer have a formal relationship with the university, but our chapters remain committed to providing transformational experiences to members who are Duke students and advancing initiatives that impact the larger campus culture—particularly regarding health and safety and access, diversity, equity and inclusion within our community. Our hope is that these efforts, while not formally connected to the university, will be complementary to Duke’s mission and vision for student culture.

Are there sororities (and fraternities) that remain connected to Duke University?

Yes. Chapters that are part of the Duke Interfraternity Council, the Multicultural Greek Council and the National Pan-Hellenic Council continue to be recognized by the university.

Can the university punish me—or my student—for participation in Panhellenic recruitment or for being a sorority member?

Membership in a Panhellenic organization is no different than participating in other non-university affiliated civic or religious organizations. Students maintain their right to free association, regardless of their status as a student at Duke University; however, students must respect and abide by university policies and the student code of conduct.

Who do I contact if I have a question not already answered here?

Please contact the NPC office at 317-872-3185 or npccentral@npcwomen.org.