



The Student Organization Criteria are the Students' Association's standards for recognizing and evaluating undergraduate College Student Organizations.

1. **A Clear, Focused, and Unique Mission-** All student organizations must have a clear and focused mission statement that enhances the Rochester campus community. Without a clear and focused mission, a student organization lacks direction and purpose.
 - a. All organizations are expected to operate within their stated missions.
 - b. The mission statement should clearly embody the aims of the student organization.
 - c. All organizations should offer something unique to campus without exceedingly overlapping with other student organizations on campus. This is necessary to ensure that similar organizations will not detract resources or membership from each other.
2. **Openness-** All organizations must be welcoming to the diverse population of undergraduate students of the University of Rochester. Per the SA Constitution, student organizations must abide by the nondiscrimination policy of the University of Rochester. All organizations must make an effort to be accessible to the student body through programming, publications, activities, or collaboration.
 - a. The Students' Association refuses to recognize organizations that have a 'self-selecting' leadership process, wherein an organization's current executive leadership unilaterally determines either the organization's membership and the next executive board.
 - b. All student organizations that plan to be gender exclusive must follow the guidelines in the Gender Exclusivity Waiver Review Process/Gender Inclusivity Waiver Review Process.
 - c. Student organizations may be exclusive in nature given that their membership is derived from a process that allows any eligible student, as defined by their mission statement, to apply for membership.
3. **Membership-** A strong active membership proves that there is a substantial number of students whose extracurricular experience is improved by the addition of such an

organization, therefore justifying the resources provided for it. The number of active members involved in a student organization will mirror the wealth of resources available to said student organizations. Inadequate membership is often indicative of an organization's lack of uniqueness or a lack of student interest. Therefore, all student organizations are required to maintain and demonstrate a membership sufficient to accomplish their missions.

- a. To ensure accurate reporting, members of an organization must confirm their involvement in the organization via the Campus Community Connection website.
 - b. The Students' Association defines a sufficient active membership as six (6) active full-time undergraduate students, but organizations planning to organize larger events or who may require more resources may be asked to meet a larger active membership number.
4. **Community Contributions** - All student organizations are components of the larger University of Rochester Community and are therefore required to give back to the student body community. Student organization contribution may come in the form of anything that enhances student life.
 - a. Some common examples of ways organizations contribute to student life are programs, physical contributions, community service, publications, initiatives, services, and providing entertainment.
5. **Leadership Development** - All student organizations must actively invest in the future leadership of the organization in order to maintain their recognized status. This includes recruitment, leadership opportunities, training for younger members, and effectively transitioning executive boards. Such activities are essential in enhancing an organization's chance of succeeding and persisting. When an organization gains recognition, they are expected to remain a successful organization for years to come. However, success is not possible without future leadership development.
 - a. Organizations will actively seek out leadership opportunities through their advisors and through the Rochester Center for Community Leadership.
 - b. Executive officers must effectively transition incoming officers to ensure the longevity of the student organization and ensuring all information is passed on.
6. **Resource Responsibility** - Rochester student organizations, per their recognition, are granted access to resources unique to SA organizations. In return, we expect student organizations to use these resources responsibly. This includes fiscal responsibility, being

responsible in social capital, equipment responsibility, being accountable to the university, and making proper use of office, mailbox and cabinet space, amongst others. The mission and actions of student organizations should also exemplify responsible use of University and WCSA resources.

- a. This includes inventory reports, Appropriations Committee funding, equipment, room reservations, and other forms of resources provided to student organizations.

7. **A Spirit of Meliora** - As members of the University of Rochester, we dedicate ourselves to the spirit of Meliora, that we forever strive to be “Ever Better”. We expect our student organizations to do the same, constantly asking themselves “How can we do what we do better?”

- a. This can be achieved through constant reevaluation of processes and their adherence to their approved mission statements, keeping constitutions updated, completing assessment forms, and making sure all documentation is up-to-date.
- b. This also means planning for the future through development of transition documents, effectively transitioning executive boards, goal setting, and ensuring that the mission they were accepted under is available for future generations of students to enjoy.