



THE UNIVERSITY of  
NEW ORLEANS

**ADMINISTERED BY: Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs**

**Policy No:** AP-AA-34.4  
**TITLE:** Student and Student Organization Rights, Freedoms and Responsibilities  
**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 4, 2014\*  
 (\*Policy Revised, see below)  
**CANCELLATION:**  
**REVIEW DATE:** Spring 2023

**PURPOSE**

The University of New Orleans exists to educate its students; to advance, preserve and disseminate knowledge through research and scholarship; and to advance the public interest and the welfare of society as a whole. Essential to such purposes is an orderly climate of academic integrity, of rational and critical inquiry, of intellectual freedom, and of freedom of individual thought and expression consistent with the rights of others. To the end that such a climate may be established and maintained, the University of New Orleans as an institution and each member of the University community have reciprocal rights and obligations. It is the obligation of the University as an institution to ensure orderly operation, to preserve academic freedom, to protect the rights of all members of the University community, to prohibit acts that materially and substantially interfere with legitimate educational objectives or interfere with the rights of others, and to institute disciplinary action where conduct adversely affects the University community's pursuit of its educational objectives.

**AUTHORITY**

*Part Two, Chapter III, Section IV of the bylaws and rules of the University of Louisiana System.*

**DEFINITIONS**

**Registered student organization:** Any student organization registered with the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership for the current academic year. Such organizations are "registered" groups and not official components of the University, and thereby may not act on behalf of the University of New Orleans. (As outlined in the Registered Student Organization Handbook.)

**University-sponsored student organization:** Any registered student organization that is financially supported by the University of New Orleans (e.g., through departmental funds, student fees, etc.) Additionally, the University acknowledges the organization (through a department, college or division) as part of its activities and works closely in a supervisory capacity with the organization. This designation is not elective but assigned by the University.

**Membership:** Membership in a registered student organization shall be restricted to the University of New Orleans students [as defined in AP.AA.38], faculty, and staff. When an organization, whether national or local, has a selective membership (i.e., honor and recognition societies, or professional,

service and social groups) the selection of members must be made without reference to race, creed, sex<sup>1</sup>, gender, national origin, sexual orientation or physical ability.

## **GENERAL POLICY**

All students accept the responsibility to conform to all UNO rules and regulations. The University will make every reasonable effort to make the rules and regulations available. Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with and abiding by them.

All students at the University of New Orleans have the following rights and freedoms:

1. All students are guaranteed freedom of expression and assembly. Students have the right to organize groups or to join associations in support of any cause or common interest as long as gatherings are held in an orderly fashion and are not disruptive to the members of the University community or to the functioning of the University.
2. The student press is to be free of censorship.
3. The role and responsibility of Student Government Association (SGA) shall be explicit and clearly defined. SGA affords a means of student expression in the formulation and application of all institutional policies affecting academic and student life.
4. Upon seizure or arrest by University officials, a student will be informed of his or her legal rights in accordance with law.
5. Students will not be subject to duress by arresting officers to coerce admission of guilt or gain information about conduct or other suspected person(s).
6. No searches or seizures of a student's living space or private property will be ordered or conducted unless the order is issued by University officials upon reasonable suspicion of violations of law or of University policy, rules or regulations. However, searches and seizures may be conducted by University officials including the staff of the University Housing Office and/or the Department of Safety and Security once reasonable suspicion of a violation is found.
7. Students and registered student organizations have the right to a fair and impartial resolution of an alleged violation.
8. Students and registered student organizations have the right to be free from discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, disability, national origin, citizenship, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or veteran status, or any other status protected by law.


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<sup>1</sup> Social fraternities and sororities may select members based on sex; see regulations under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

9. Students shall have the opportunity to participate in the formation of policy directly affecting students through membership on committees as determined by appropriate administrators and/or through the President.

All students at the University of New Orleans have the following responsibilities:

1. Students and student organizations will respect the rights of others, maintain behavior that is conducive to a teaching and learning environment, and uphold the integrity of the University.
2. Students and student organizations will abide by all University policies, rules and regulations.
3. Students have the responsibility to know and to obey the laws of the United States, the State of Louisiana and local governments. Student status in no way exempts them from the requirements of obeying such laws.



John W. Nicklow  
President  
University of New Orleans

*\*Policy Updates:*  
*Revisions: 12/01/2020*  
*09/27/2017*