



UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER  
**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
GOVERNMENT

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

1. **Mission** - All Student Organizations must have a clear and focused mission statement that enhances the Rochester Campus Community.
  - a. A mission statement is defined as a formal summary of the aims and values of an Organization, typically explained in 2-3 sentences. Mission should not include specific examples of activities or programs to allow flexibility as the Organization develops.
  - b. All Organizations should offer something unique to campus without exceedingly overlapping with other Student Organizations on campus.
  - c. Student Organizations cannot be created to replace a Department's activities.
2. **Openness** - All Organizations must be welcoming to the diverse population of undergraduate students of the University of Rochester. All Organizations must make an effort to be welcoming and accessible to the student body through programming, publications, activities, or collaboration.
  - a. Student Organizations may be exclusive in nature given their membership is derived from a process which allows any eligible student, as defined by their mission statement, to apply for membership.
  - 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.
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.
  - a. The Students' Association defines a sufficient active membership as six (6) active undergraduate students. Organizations planning to organize larger events and activities, which require more resources, will be asked to meet a larger active membership number.
    - i. Small Organizations - Minimum of 6 members.
    - ii. Medium Organizations - Minimum of 7 to 13 members.
    - iii. Large Organizations - Minimum of 14 members.

- b. All Organizations should be able to demonstrate how students gain a sense of belonging by being a member.
- 4. **Community Contributions** - All Student Organizations are components of the larger University of Rochester Community. Student Organizations' contributions may come in the form of anything that enhances student life.
  - a. Some common examples of ways Organizations contribute to student life are programs, activities, physical contributions, community engagement, publications, initiatives, and providing entertainment.
  - b. Potential organizations will be expected to have reached out to Departments or Student Organizations if the proposed community contributions of the Organization have intersections with other campus entities.
- 5. **Leadership / Member Development** - All Student Organizations must actively invest in the future leadership of the Organization in order to maintain their recognized status. This includes membership recruitment, leadership opportunities, opportunities to develop younger members, attendance at Fall and Mid-Year Leadership Training, and effectively transitioning executive boards.
  - a. The Students' Association does not recognize Organizations which have a 'self-selecting' leadership process, wherein an Organization's current executive leadership unilaterally determines either the Organization's membership and/or the next executive board.
    - i. Chapters of National Organizations must be able to freely elect their future leadership.
  - b. Executive officers must effectively transition incoming officers to ensure the longevity of the Student Organization and to ensure all information is passed on.
- 6. **Resources** - There are limits on the resources available to Student Organizations. Below are a sample of the resources that will be assessed when approving new Organizations.
  - a. Finances
  - b. Equipment
  - c. Meeting, Performance, Practice, and Rehearsal Space
  - d. Storage
  - e. Fundraising
  - f. Travel/Transportation
  - g. Advisor Time
- 7. **Risk & Liability** - While all student organizations have an element of risk and liability, some potential new organizations will require additional review based on their proposed activities. Examples include:
  - a. National Organizations
    - i. Support and/or mandates that are required to create a chapter of a National Organization will be reviewed.

- b. International Travel
  - c. Club Sports
  - d. Compliance with current Student Organization and University policies
8. **Additional Considerations**
- a. Based on the selected mission category, additional criteria may be considered.