

Expansion Guide for Alumni

A Detailed Guide on How to Bring Your Chapter Back to Campus.

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Building Rock Chapters

Expansion is the process whereby a Sigma Nu colony, or provisional chapter, is established at a college/university campus. As a colony progresses toward becoming a fully functioning chapter of Sigma Nu, they will prepare and submit a petition documenting their achievements. The petition must be approved by the Office of the Executive Director and, subsequently, the High Council (Board of Directors). Once approved, the colony is granted a charter to operate as a Sigma Nu chapter and is formally installed. The goal is for colonies to charter 12-18 months from the time they are colonized. An ambitious but attainable goal, the timeline for chartering is ultimately up to the colony members.

Sigma Nu's expansion motto is "Building Rock Chapters," so the Chartering Criteria is a direct reflection of the [Rock Chapter Award](#) criteria – "excellence" across all categories of operations. In other words, colonies will use the criteria for excellence described in the [Pursuit of Excellence Program](#) as a basis for their petition for charter. This philosophy has led to some industry-changing developments as a result, and our expansion team is confident in our model.

Each biennium, our [High Council](#) will set the [strategic imperative](#) that dictates how many expansion projects Sigma Nu will take on in each two year-period. This calendar is in practice meant to be built up 12-18 months in advance of each project. With limited financial and staff resources, the Fraternity is only able to oversee a limited number of expansions each cycle. We hope to work with you to increase the viability of a successful return to your campus.

Our expansion team believes that you cannot build a Rock Chapter without a strong foundation that encompasses a combination of alumni support and engagement, campus community health, and advanced planning. This guide is meant to outline strategies that alumni can administer practically on their campus to assist in the process of identifying resources and research that can be leveraged when considering a return to campus.

[Expansion Resources](#)

[Expansion Resource Page](#)

[Dormant Chapter Inquiry Form](#)

Step 1: Develop/Register Your Alumni Chapter/Club

Alumni Chapters

"Your journey with Sigma Nu Fraternity transcends the college years; it's a lifelong commitment. Understanding and appreciating the full depth of Sigma Nu often unfolds over time, requiring years of engagement and involvement. Alumni experience and participation, both locally and at the General Fraternity level, are integral to the continued success of our international organization."

As articulated in *The Way of Honor*, maintaining connections and involvement in the Fraternity is not just a choice but a fraternal responsibility for all alumni. Among the myriad ways to remain engaged, the alumni chapter stands as a cornerstone for every Sigma Nu brother. It serves as the primary conduit for alumni to stay connected with their brothers and the chapter, extending, and enriching the Sigma Nu experience beyond college years, while affirming one's lifelong commitment to Sigma Nu.

Upon graduation, the transition from the collegiate chapter can leave a void for many alumni. The demands and adjustments of the 'real world' consume their attention, displacing the space once filled by Sigma Nu. Yet, as *The Way of Honor* reminds us, *"Your association with Sigma Nu Fraternity does not end with college. Ours is a Fraternity for life."*

Alumni chapters exemplify the enduring bonds and connections within our brotherhood. They foster meaningful interactions, sustain friendships, and perpetuate the spirit of brotherhood within Sigma Nu.

For alumni, staying connected with their chapter and brothers remains paramount. As life progresses, the Fraternity evolves from a source of daily interaction to a network of personal and professional connections. The alumni chapter serves as the nexus, providing opportunities to:

- Rekindle friendships.
- Expand personal and professional networks through connections with older and younger alumni.
- Engage with collegiate brothers.
- Contribute time and talent to support the collegiate chapter.
- Unite with brothers to support alma mater.
- Stay abreast of national Sigma Nu activities.
- Revel in, strengthen, and take pride in the Fraternity.

Sigma Nu is committed to ensuring that all alumni maintain their connection to their chapter, brothers, and the Sigma Nu experience. The alumni chapter offers that vital connection and opportunity.

The first step to establishing an alumni chapter, or renewing an alumni chapter charter, is to file an [Alumni Chapter Petition for Charter](#). Filing a petition is simple, but it is a requirement for any alumni chapter.

Alumni Chapter Resources

[Petition & Chartering](#)

[Structure & Governance](#)

[Operations](#)

[CONNECT: A Guide to Alumni Chapter Communication](#)

[ENGAGE: A Guide to Alumni Chapter Events](#)

[INVEST: A Guide to How Alumni Chapters Provide Support](#)

[Alumni Development Best Practices](#)

[Alumni Engagement Best Practices](#)

[Current Alumni Chapter Listing](#)

Alumni Clubs

Alumni Clubs are a great way for Sigma Nu alumni in a geographic area to meet new people, enjoy social events, support regional chapters, network, support local and regional charitable organizations, and maintain a connection with the Fraternity.

Countless alumni have experienced the void created by their departure from the collegiate chapter. The excitement and stresses of entering the "real world" command all available attention and fill the space once occupied by the Fraternity. Alumni Clubs, though, are an example of the bonds and connections that persist in our brotherhood, well past graduation. That facilitates meaningful interactions among the diverse pool of brothers that populate a city or geographic area. Through Alumni Clubs, alumni can create and perpetuate friendships and continue to experience the brotherhood of Sigma Nu outside of their own chapter designation.

Sigma Nu is dedicated to ensuring that all alumni can continue to enjoy the camaraderie and fraternal bonds of our brotherhood.

[Alumni Club Resources](#)

[Register Your Alumni Club](#)

[What Clubs Do](#)

[How Clubs Work](#)

[Alumni Club Listing](#)

Step 2: Connect with Your Campus

Sigma Nu views the relationship between the Fraternity and the host institution as a partnership. Connecting with the host institution gives alumni the opportunity to begin forming this relationship. The Fraternity staff can provide guidance on establishing contact with your host institution. Here are some general questions and discussion points:

- Introduce yourself and express your interest in recolonizing the chapter.
- What do you look for in a partnership with alumni? What are some of the strong partnerships you have with other fraternity alumni?
- What alumni resources does your office/department offer?
- What is the current climate of the fraternity/sorority community?
- How could a new fraternity improve the current fraternity/sorority community?
- If your chapter does not currently own or have access to a property, what is the campus norm when it comes to housing and what solutions are there either on-campus or in the community?
- Has fraternity expansion occurred recently? How has this affected the community?
- What is the institution's and/or IFC's expansion policy and process?
- What concerns do you have about fraternity expansion?
- What can I do as an alumnus to help my chapter recolonize?

These questions should be directed to the Fraternity/Sorority Life Professional on your campus. Their office information can usually be found on their website in a Student Affairs or Fraternity/Sorority Life-specific space.

Step 3: Recruit an Alumni Advisory Board

Once you have sufficient information on the re-establishment process and the General Fraternity has confirmed that we are slated to make a return to your campus, the next step is recruiting a skilled team of advisors.

Typically, an Alumni Advisory Board is made up of several chapter alumni who support the collegiate chapter in various aspects of chapter management. Board members can be Sigma Nu alumni, parents, faculty or staff members of the host institution, and/or other men or women who want to support the collegiate chapter.

The Alumni Advisory Board (AAB) is an entity that will share the workload of the traditional Chapter Advisor position. Rather than one individual working with a chapter or colony, a board of seven or more alumni will be assembled to serve this role. The board should be seven (7) members strong or larger with one board member assigned to each chapter officer. One board member will serve as Chairman of the Board to coordinate all communication and future meetings among the Board.

Once trained himself, each alumni advisor should lead the training and advising of his assigned collegiate officer. The advisor should become familiar in his area of chapter operations and should help maintain continuity through each officer transition and long-term planning in that area.

Additionally, the advisor is expected to be involved with the officer's committee. The advisor is not expected to attend every committee meeting; however, he is expected to attend the first committee meeting of the term and other committee meetings, when possible, as well as provide advice, assistance, and encouragement between visits.

The General Fraternity can assist you in your efforts to identify, recruit, and train Alumni Advisory Board members.

[Alumni Advisory Board Recruitment Resources](#)

[Alumni Advisory Board Overview](#)

[8 Steps to Success for Recruiting an AAB](#)

[Recruiting Alumni Advisors](#)

[Sample AAB Recruitment Letter](#)

[Recruiting Alumni Volunteers Webinar](#)

- [Accompanying Slide deck](#)

[Alumni Advisory Board Best Practices Library](#)

A Note on Housing

Fraternity housing can play a significant role in the success and competitiveness of chapters within certain fraternity and sorority communities. While each campus presents unique challenges and opportunities, addressing housing is oftentimes crucial for long-term success.

Here are some important steps and considerations to guide you through the process of securing a long-term housing solution:

1. **Appoint an Alumni Housing Chairman:** Select a dedicated individual to lead the effort of addressing fraternity housing. This person will serve as the liaison between the chapter, alumni, campus, and real estate professionals.
2. **Investigate Current Housing Situation:** Meet with campus administrators responsible for student housing to understand the current fraternity housing landscape. Ask questions about housing availability, ownership, regulations, and institutional support.
3. **Gather Chapter Input:** Engage the chapter members in discussions about their preferences and priorities regarding future housing. Record their feedback and convey it to the Housing Chairman.
4. **Determine Housing Needs:** Develop a commitment document to determine the number of members requiring housing. Ensure any housing plan is sustainable and does not rely on more than 30%-50% of the chapter membership living in the house to make the break-even point.
5. **Utilize Sigma Nu Staff for Colonies:** For colonies, utilize Sigma Nu staff as a resource on campus. They can assist in various functions such as meeting with administrators, scouting properties, and coordinating efforts with the House Manager.
6. **Establish House Corporation:** Conduct open discussions among alumni to assess the feasibility of forming a House Corporation. Serious planning, including financial projections, should be undertaken to ensure sustainability. All lease or purchase agreements should be made through the corporation.
7. **Seek Legal and Insurance Advice:** Alumni interested in forming a House Corporation should seek legal advice to properly organize it. Additionally, consult with insurance brokers to discuss property insurance options. Consider the Fraternal Property Management Association (FPMA) Property Program for insurance needs.

It is essential to consider the financial implications and ensure that any housing solution chosen is sustainable for the chapter and alumni. Keeping the [Sigma Nu Educational Foundation, Inc.](#), informed about potential projects and seeking their guidance can be beneficial.

Housing

When exploring housing solutions, consider both on-campus and off-campus options, such as standard fraternity/sorority housing, residence halls, purchasing land, or renting existing properties. Evaluate each option based on feasibility, cost, and long-term sustainability.

Remember, the decisions made regarding fraternity housing can have long-lasting effects on the chapter's success. Therefore, thorough planning, collaboration, and consideration of all factors are essential for making informed choices.



**Sigma Nu
Fraternity**

**EXCELLING
WITH HONOR**

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