



The Student Organization Criteria are the Students' Association's standards for recognizing and evaluating undergraduate Recognized 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. A mission statement is defined as a formal summary of the aims and values of an organization, typically explained in 2-3 sentences. To allow for flexibility as the organization develops, mission statements should not include specific examples of activities or programs.
 - b. All organizations are expected to operate within their stated missions.
 - c. All organizations should offer something unique to campus without exceedingly overlapping with other student organizations, departments, or services 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. 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. All student organizations are required to maintain and demonstrate a membership sufficient to accomplish their missions.
 - a. To ensure accurate reporting, the organization's membership should be reviewed each semester to verify members continue to meet the requirements of membership outlined in the organization constitution.
 - b. The Students' Association defines a sufficient active membership as twelve (12) 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 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 or activities, physical contributions, community service, publications, initiatives, services, and providing entertainment.
 - b. Potential organizations will be expected to have reached out to Departments or existing recognized student organizations if the proposed community contributions have intersections with other campus entities.
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, member development and training, and effectively transitioning executive boards. Such activities are essential in enhancing an organization's chance of succeeding and persisting.
 - 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. Executive officers must effectively transition incoming officers to ensure the longevity of the student organization and ensuring all information is passed on.
 - c. Two members of the organization are required to attend the Opening Session and Advisor Session of Fall Leadership Training held in August. New leadership is encouraged to attend the Mid-Year Leadership training in January.
 - i. The Business Manager is required to attend the Business Manager Training Session and successfully complete the quiz.
6. **Resource Responsibility** - Recognized student organizations at the University of Rochester are granted access to resources unique to SA organizations. In return, we expect student organizations to use these resources responsibly. Below are a sample of resources that will be assessed when reviewing new student organizations:
 - a. Budgets
 - b. Fundraising
 - c. Equipment
 - d. Meeting, Performance, Practice, and Rehearsal Space
 - e. Storage
 - f. Travel / Transportation

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. Travel – Domestic or International.
 - c. Club Sports.
 - d. Compliance with current Student Organization and University policies.
8. **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. Promote continuous improvement by documenting organizational knowledge, evaluating programs and initiatives, and implementing best practices that strengthen the organization year after year.
 - b. Foster organizational longevity by establishing sustainable practices, preserving institutional knowledge through CCC files and Box documents, and preparing future leaders to build on past successes.