

<b>TYPE:</b>	Administrative
<b>TITLE:</b>	Recognition of Student Organizations
<b>NO.:</b>	ADMIN-205
<b>RESPONSIBILITY:</b>	Chief Administrative Officer, Dean, Students
<b>APPROVED BY:</b>	Durham College Leadership Team
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	April 2024
<b>REVISED DATE(S):</b>	
<b>REVIEW DATE:</b>	April 2027

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## 1. Introduction

Voluntary student organizations are an important part of the Durham College community and contribute significantly to the diversity of the College's intellectual, social, and cultural opportunities and experiences. While Recognized Student Organizations have significant autonomy, their actions do reflect on the College. Their rights to pursue social, cultural and other interests and to organize and hold various activities for the benefit of their members are balanced by understanding that recognition of a Student Organization is a privilege. The College expects that activities of Student Organizations will be carried out in a responsible, democratic, and co-operative manner based on the observance of College policies and procedures.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the relationship between the College and Recognized Student Organizations. These Student Organizations include the Durham College Student Association (DCSA) whose membership includes all full-time post-secondary Durham College students and the Student Clubs ratified under their Policies. This policy refers to, but is independent of, the Durham College Student Association and their policies governing Student Clubs.

This Policy applies to all Student Organizations wishing to be recognized by the College in order to use the College name, access College facilities and equipment and/or hold events as part of its activities.

## 3. Definitions

Refer to [Durham College's Standard Definitions](#).

## 4. Policy statements

- 4.1. Durham College reserves the right to determine which Student Organizations will be recognized by the College.
- 4.2. The College has the ultimate authority in administering the privileges associated with being a Recognized Student Organization.

- 4.3. The College recognizes the DCSA as the official representative of Durham College students in a binding Agreement between the College and the Student Association.
- 4.4. The Student Association must establish and maintain a Policy on the recognition and oversight of Student Clubs.
- 4.5. Student Clubs ratified by the Student Association shall be considered as legitimately constituted representative organizations of students by the College. No Student Organization has the right to exist or continue to exist as a Durham College Student Organization without the express recognition granted by the Student Association or the College.
- 4.6. Membership in any Recognized Student Organization must be open to all registered student members of the College in compliance with the Ontario Human Rights Code. While discriminatory membership practices are not allowed, it is acknowledged that certain groups may be homogenous in nature without being discriminatory.
- 4.7. The constitution of all Recognized Student Organizations must be made available to the public for viewing. All rules governing membership in Recognized Student Organizations and rules concerning members' activities, programs, relationships to other bodies, whether incorporated into a written constitution or not, are subject to policies and procedures governing student behaviour at the College.
- 4.8. Fraternities and sororities, as chartered or incorporated organizations known collectively as the Greek System, and groups associated with fraternities and sororities, will not be granted recognition by the College. These organizations are independent of the College and any acts by these organizations are not the responsibility of the College.
- 4.9. The College is respectful of the autonomy of Recognized Student Organizations and will not attempt to censor, control or interfere with the organization on the basis of its philosophy, beliefs, interests or opinions expressed unless and until these lead to activities which are illegal, discriminatory, infringe the rights and freedoms of others within the College community, or are in violation of the College's policies and procedures.
- 4.10. Recognition by the College of a Student Organization does not imply endorsement of a particular organizations' beliefs or philosophies, nor the assumption of legal liability for the respective Student Organizations' activities.
- 4.11. Recognized Student Organizations do not have the authority to represent themselves as being able to speak on behalf of the College, but may only speak on behalf of their members.
- 4.12. Recognized Student Organizations are expected to act in compliance with the College's policies and all applicable municipal, provincial and federal laws.

#### 4.13. Risk Management

4.13.1. Recognized Student Organizations must be ratified annually with the DCSA to qualify for the Student Association's insurance coverage.

4.13.2. Recognized Student Organizations are required to manage the risk associated with their activities and obtain the necessary approvals for both on and off campus events in accordance with the policies and procedures stipulated by the Student Association and/or the College.

#### 4.14. Revoking of Recognition

4.14.1. Recognition by the College of a Student Organization is a privilege conditional upon the acceptance and observance of this Policy, as amended from time to time. These privileges can be revoked by the College in its sole discretion if a Recognized Student Organization fails to comply with the requirements of this or other College Policies.

### **5. Procedure**

This section is not applicable.

### **6. Roles and responsibilities**

6.1. The Chief Administrative Officer and the Dean, Students are responsible for the general administration of this Policy.

6.2. The Student Association is responsible for maintaining and implementing policies and procedures for the recognition of Student Organizations. The Student Association facilitates the creation and support of Student Clubs to fulfill its Agreement with Durham College.

### **7. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act considerations**

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards have been considered in the development of this policy and procedure and it adheres to the principles outlined in the College's commitment to accessibility as demonstrated by the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

### **8. Non-compliance implications**

8.1. Non-compliance with this Policy could negatively impact the current and prospective College community and could lead to significant financial loss and damage to the College's reputation.

## **9. Related forms, legislation or external resources**

- Ontario Human Rights Code