

<b>TYPE:</b>	Administrative
<b>TITLE:</b>	Recognition of Student Organizations
<b>NO.:</b>	ADMIN-205
<b>RESPONSIBILITY:</b>	Vice-President, Student Affairs
<b>APPROVED BY:</b>	Durham College Leadership Team
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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, educational, and cultural co-curricular opportunities. While bona fide student groups 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 campus organization is a privilege. The College expects that activities of student organizations will be carried out in a responsible, democratic, and co-operative manner that is based on the observance of College policies and procedures and on the acceptance of certain obligations.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy and procedure is to establish the relationship between the College and student organizations. Student Organizations include Durham College Students Incorporated (DCSI) whose membership includes all full-time Durham College students. This policy refers to, but is independent of, the Durham College Students Incorporated clubs approval policy.

## 3. Definitions

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

## 4. Policy statements

- 4.1. Durham College reserves the right to determine which organizations will be recognized by Durham College.
- 4.2. Student organizations that adhere to this policy will be considered by the College to be in good standing. The College has the ultimate authority in administering the privileges associated with being a student organization.

- 4.3. Under the terms of this policy the College will not attempt to censor, control or interfere with any student organization on the basis of its philosophy, beliefs, interests or opinions expressed unless and until these activities violate any Durham College policy and procedure.
- 4.4. Recognition of student organizations by DCSI or by the College implies neither endorsement of a particular group's beliefs or philosophy, nor the assumption of legal liability for the organizations' activities.
- 4.5. Durham College recognizes DCSI as the official representative of Durham College students in a binding Agreement between the College and DCSI. All full-time students are members of DCSI and share in the duties and responsibilities of student government.
- 4.6. The DC-DCSI Agreement requires DCSI to establish and maintain a policy on the recognition and oversight of student clubs, societies and student circles.
  - 4.6.1. The College acknowledges DCSI recognized clubs and societies as legitimately constituted representative organizations of students. No organization has the right to exist or to continue to exist as a Durham College student organization without the express recognition granted by DCSI.
- 4.7. The College does not recognize any organization that:
  - 4.7.1. Operates under a non-public constitution or;
  - 4.7.2. Fails to comply with:
    - The Recognition of Student Organizations Policy
    - The Ontario Human Rights Code
    - The Charter of Rights and Freedoms of Canada
    - Federal and provincial statutes
- 4.8. The College does not recognize fraternities or sororities unless they meet the criteria of this policy and the criteria established by the Ontario Human Rights Code. The OHRC states:
  - 4.8.1. There is an exception to the rule that services must be offered without discrimination. It only applies to organizations such as charities, schools, social clubs or fraternities that want to limit their right of membership and involvement. They are allowed to do this on the condition that they serve only or mostly a particular group of people identified by a Code ground. For example, a cultural club serving only persons with physical disabilities may limit membership to those persons, and a shelter for battered women is allowed to serve only people who identify as women.

Because this is an exception to the Code, it must be read narrowly. Only organizations that clearly qualify as religious, charitable, etc. can use this section.

4.9. 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 including, but not limited to:

- Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy
- Alcohol Policy
- External Communications Policy
- Harassment and Discrimination Policy and Procedure
- Poster Procedure
- Residence Community Living Standards
- Sexual Violence Policy and Procedures
- Student Conduct Policy and Procedures

4.10. Risk Management

Recognized student organizations are required to manage the risk associated with their events and activities regardless of the location both on and off campus and in accordance with the procedures stipulated by DCSI.

Recognized Student Organizations must be registered with DCSI to ensure that they have insurance coverage for their events.

4.11. Benefits to Recognized Student Organizations

Ability to book campus space subject to approval by the DCSI event approval process and the Central Scheduling Office of the College.

Right to hold events in accordance with College policies.

4.12. Non-Compliance

Organizations that attempt to organize and operate on campus without official recognition of DCSI will be responsible for adhering to all College policies and procedures. Such groups will be treated as community groups for the purposes of room bookings and their activities will be subject to review and approval by the Office of Campus Safety and the Office of Risk Management.

Organizations that are not recognized student organizations and that misrepresent themselves as being an official Durham College or DCSI recognized organization will face sanctions under the Durham College Student Conduct Policy and Procedure.

Recognized student organizations that do not comply with the terms of this policy may be deemed by the College to be “not in good standing”.

There are two levels of non-compliance:

1. Level 1: Violation of College policies, violation of agreements between the College and organization, violations of organizational constitutions and/or approved policies.
2. Level 2: Unresolved persistent Level 1 violations and/or activities that constitute a risk to student health and safety, or that are likely to harm College reputation or that result as a failure to cooperate with the College to resolve Level 1 violations.

#### Penalties for Non-compliance

Penalties for non-compliance by a recognized student organization include, but are not limited to:

- a) Loss of room booking privileges;
- b) Loss of status as a recognized student organization;
- c) Review of conduct of individual members or of the entire membership of the organization under procedures associated with relevant College policies.

### **5. Procedure**

This section is not applicable.

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

- 6.1 DCSI is responsible for maintaining and implementing policies and procedures for the recognition of student organizations. DCSI facilitates the creation and support of Campus Clubs, Societies and Student Circles 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 Accessibility Plan (ADMIN-203).

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

- 8.1. Non-compliance with this policy may put students at risk and/or have a negative impact on the learning environment.
- 8.2. Non-compliance may put the institution at risk of complaints under the Ontario Human Rights Code.

## **9. Communications plan**

- DCSI will post their policy on student organizations on the DCSI website and will alert student organizations to DC policies and procedures through the DCSI on-line training module.

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

- Durham College/Campus Living Centres Residence Community Living Standards
- Ontario Human Rights Code