

17 Conduct & Discipline

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi values the contributions and involvement registered student organizations can make to a student's overall development and therefore aspires to provide an environment in which registered student organizations can exist. By registering a student organization, a relationship is created between that student organization and the university. That student organization is now held to a set of standards and rules. This section outlines those rules.

- 1 Each RSO is accountable for the conduct, safety and general welfare of its members and their guests whenever they represent the organization or are participating in organizational activities.
- 2 RSOs must adhere to all university rules and regulations, Student Code of Conduct, and all local, state, and federal laws, and must also adhere to their own approved constitutions (current copy must be filed in Student Activities every year).
- 3 Hazing at any level of membership in the organization is strictly prohibited at A&M-Corpus Christi. For further definitions and policies regarding hazing, refer to the hazing section of this handbook.
- 4 RSOs can be held liable for disciplinary action as a result of actions of individual members of the organization, while representing the organization.
- 5 RSOs can not in any way deface university property (i.e., spray painting or placing graffiti on buildings, using duct tape for fliers on lamp poles).
- 6 RSOs may not organize, sponsor, cosponsor, or in any way coordinate an event in University facilities with any student organization that has been prohibited from participating in any type of student activity or University event on or off campus or has had its RSO status suspended, placed on interim suspension, or terminated.

17.1 Discrimination

Although the federal and state laws concerning racial, gender, and disability discrimination have little direct influence on individual student groups, it is important to remember that the university has policies governing these matters as well as it is common decency to extend common courtesy to all Islanders and not just those who you perceive as similar to you. The University's Statement on Harassment and Discrimination published in the Student Code of Conduct states:

In order to abide by this policy, here are some things student organizations may want to consider:

1. To the best of the group's abilities, try to be reasonable in the accommodation of potential members, members, and guests who may be different from you and your group in terms of gender, race, disability, etc. These accommodations include but are not limited to:
 - a. Rearranging physical space to accommodate for people in wheel chairs.
 - b. Rearranging new member events for the late afternoon hours so non-traditional students can also participate in your club or organization.

- c. Strive to work with groups that are different from yours to gain exposure to new ideas and people instead of isolating yourselves which could possibly lead to harassment because of your group's lack of diversity.
 - d. Be wary of alcohol use when interacting with others traditionally different from those in your group (it could increase the likelihood of a negative confrontation).
 - e. Use educational opportunities as methods for improving your understanding of those not like you physically, cognitively, etc.
 - f. Try to take the time to think about how you can accommodate those different from you before they show up to join your club or attend your events.
2. Be sensitive to the "isms" and phobias such as sexism, racism, homophobia, etc. If bigotry of any kind appears in your organization, have a plan in place where those members' ideas can be challenged through education and exposure either through university sponsored events within the organization itself. "Isms" left unchecked become possible harassment situations. The university cannot and will not tolerate harassment of any kind. Confront it early.
3. Do yourself and your group a favor and report harassment of any kind to the university. Student should contact the Assistant Dean of Students at 825-2612. Not reporting this information could hurt your organization if anything were to happen and you and your group knew about it. If you know something and a reasonable person would act on that knowledge and you do not, then you may be liable for the harm that occurs from your inaction.