BLUEPRINTS

The official handbook for RSOs at the
University of Connecticut

Updated October 2020
**Introduction**

We are delighted that you are interested in learning more about RSOs at the University of Connecticut. The University, and in particular the Department of Student Activities, has a long-standing tradition of encouraging student participation in independent organizations. Student’s involvement in co-curricular activities complements their academic experiences and challenges them to develop and apply organization and leadership skills that are useful beyond college. RSOs (RSOs) are an ideal way for students to get involved on campus. Through direct involvement in organization activities, students have the opportunity to acquire skills in leading groups, organizing and promoting programs, budgeting, working within a system, and functioning in society.

*With organizations focused on recreation, culture, religion, politics, community service, career/professional associations, governance and other specific interests, the portfolio of student organizations at the University of Connecticut offers something for everyone.*

This *Blueprints Manual* is designed to inform and assist students in various matters that pertain to RSOs. It answers the most basic questions students might have about how to use the wide and varied resources available, as well as how to create and register a new organization. Additionally, this document informs students and organizations about the responsibilities associated with being an RSO at the University. Each year the department evaluates its policies and procedures. Changes are made after a thorough annual review. Student, faculty, and community input are welcomed and valued. Please direct questions or comments to:

**Please contact the Department of Student Activities – UConn Storrs Campus – for questions or concerns on Blueprints:**
Student Union Room 302. Phone: 860-486-6588. E-Mail: solid@uconn.edu

RSO officers, members, and advisors should refer to the Blueprints Manual as needed. Thank you for helping to make our University community a better, more vibrant place in which to learn!
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Chapter 1: RSOs at the University of Connecticut

1.1 What Constitutes An RSO?
A RSO is a group of students joined together by a common cause, interest or purpose. While the general membership of a student organization may include faculty, staff, or community members, the control, operation, and responsibility of a student organization must reside with the students. These organizations are categorized by their level of involvement on campus and access to university resources in a ‘Tiered’ system.

1.2 RSO/Inter-Campus Considerations
At the time of registration/re-registration all RSOs must designate a ‘Primary Campus’ and then meet and adhere to all registration requirements, policies and procedures outlined by their primary campus Student Affairs/Activities office. Unless otherwise noted in this document the following requirements, policies and procedures are applicable to all University of Connecticut RSOs regardless of their Primary Campus designation.

1.3 Registration
All RSOs must submit and keep up-to-date records and roster on UConntact http://uconntact.uconn.edu. All RSOs must submit annual re-registration through UConntact. Additionally, all RSOs must maintain adherence to all policies outlined in this document to maintain their registration.

Registering a NEW Student Organization. With over 700 active student organizations at UConn, there are many opportunities for students to get involved. Occasionally a student is not able to find and existing organization that meets their interests. In this case, any full-time student is eligible to submit a New Organization application. All new RSO applications will meet with Student Activities staff at their primary campus to discuss how your potential new RSO differs from other existing RSOs and how it will enhance the UConn community. Please see appendix A for a listing of campus staff.

Who is eligible to start an RSO at UConn? Any Full-Time undergrad or graduate student in good standing with the University has the opportunity to start a new organization on campus, as long its purpose and goals are different from those that have already been established. Staff will review your application, purpose of your organization, category, tier, and requirements to become an active organization. If approved, your group will become ‘active’ once meeting all SOLID requirements for your Tier.

FALL 2020 Update: The requirement of a student being full-time has been suspended. Any currently enrolled student is eligible to begin an organization until further notice.

To get started, please visit our New Organization Resource and Application link on http://solid.uconn.edu/neworg
**Annual Re-Registration.** All student organization registrations expire at the end of each academic year. Accordingly, all student organizations must re-register annually following the process communicated to student organization leaders on UConntact with new officer information. **Failure to Re-Register** an organization by the set deadline will disband the organization at UConn. Late Re-Registrations will not be accepted until the following September.

**Affiliating With a ‘Parent’ Organization.** Student organizations may choose to be affiliated with a local/state/national organization, such as a charity, faith community, political party or fraternity/sorority. In these instances the student organization constitution must state the name and nature of the affiliation (often the parent organization has a sample constitution for college student organizations to model).

The campus organization must obtain, in writing, a statement from the parent organization that the UConn chapter has permission to use the name and represent the organization. Control of the student organization must reside with the UConn Students, with all operating decisions made by the students.

**New Greek Lettered Organizations (Storrs Campus ONLY).** The Department of Student Activities and Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development work together to register Social Greek-Lettered Organizations. Due to the nature of these organizations, all applications for Social Greek-Lettered Organizations will be processed and accepted into the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development before seeking registration with the Department of Student Activities. If an organization is not accepted into CFSD, Student Activities will not register an organization at the University of Connecticut. Any social-Greek lettered student organizations that are not registered with Student Activities are disassociated with the University of Connecticut and may not present themselves as associated in any means.

**New Club Sports Organizations (Storrs Campus ONLY).** Any athletic student organization that wishes to become affiliated as a University Club Sport and receive support from the Club Sports office must apply following the guidelines outlined on the Club Sports webpage [http://recreation.uconn.edu/club-sports](http://recreation.uconn.edu/club-sports). No organization will be listed as a Club Sport that is not previously approved by the Club Sports office.

### 1.4 Organization Tiers

Acknowledging the variety of purposes and the different levels of risk and financial responsibilities that student organizations may possess, the University developed a three-tier categorization system to facilitate the development of specific training to support the needs of RSOs.

**Tier-I Organizations:**
Tier-I Student Organizations provide an opportunity for students to lead a group that is simple in nature. These RSOs have low-risk activities, are not eligible for funding support, and do not
have events or participate in high-risk activities. Tier-I RSOs are permitted meeting space requests on campus and utilize Student Activities staff for general advisement. Tier-I organizations exist at Storrs Campus, Stamford Campus, Hartford Campus and Waterbury Campus.

**Tier-II Organizations:**
Tier-II Student Organizations are typically more complex in nature. These organizations may have meetings, participate in activities on and off campus, host or attend events or competitions, are eligible to receive funding support, and require a larger degree of structure and advisement. Tier-II organizations exist at Storrs Campus, Stamford Campus, Hartford Campus, Waterbury Campus, and Avery Point Campus.

**Tier-III Organizations (Student Fee-Funded Organizations):**
Tier-III Student Organizations are established by the University and are managed on a daily basis by students with oversight from the University. Tier-III organizations are supported by student fees with high visibility on campus, high accountability to a large constituency of students, moderate to high risk activities, regular interaction with University staff, and reliance on the University for funding, financial support, facilities and event planning support. Tier-II organizations exist at Storrs Campus, Stamford Campus, Hartford Campus, Waterbury Campus, and Avery Point Campus.

**Note on Liability:**

*NOTE: Most Tier-I and Tier-II organizations at the University of Connecticut are fully independent entities that receive advising support and access to certain University facilities and services in exchange for meeting certain “registration” requirements. The University of Connecticut assumes no responsibility for the activities of these organizations or their members. However, as part of our general advising and support, students are encouraged to meet with Student Activities staff for advice and suggestions on addressing student organizational issues. Please see appendix A for a listing of campus staff.*

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Chapter 2: Organization Requirements & Support

2.1 RSO Membership Minimums
All Tiers of student organizations are required to maintain an accurate and up-to-date roster at all times. Storrs campus RSOs are required to maintain a minimum of 8 primary campus student members. RSOs listing either Avery Point, Hartford, Stamford, or Waterbury as their primary campus are required to maintain minimum of 3 student members from that campus. 51% of the total membership of an organization must be UConn students.

2.2 Organization Constitution
Tier-II student organizations are required to maintain an up-to-date constitution on file in their primary campus’ Student Activities Office AND on UConntact. If your organization’s constitution is 2 years or older, you will need to review, revise and resubmit it to student activities staff. For guidance on constitution requirements and development please visit solid.uconn.edu. Please see appendix A for a listing of campus staff.

2.3 RSO Officer Roles
For the purposes of this document the term “Officer” is defined as a student who has been vested with specific responsibilities related to the activities of the organization.

General Officer Requirements
To be an officer of a RSO the following criteria must be met and maintained:
- Officers must be currently enrolled as a full-time UConn student
- Officers must be in compliance with all policies and procedures associated with being a student organization leader as noted in this document as well as any other relevant document, posting policies, handbook, etc.
- President and Treasurer Officer Positions must be held by students from the organization’s primary campus. Additional officers are permitted from other UConn campuses.

FALL 2020 Update: The requirement of a student being full-time has been suspended. Any currently enrolled student is eligible to hold an officer position until further notice.

An officer who does not meet the criteria may be required to:
- resign from office in a student organization,
- refrain from seeking such an office, and/or
- discontinue participation in certain organization activities

Officer Positions & General Duties:
President
- Primary Contact for the organization & “external spokesperson” of the group
- Expected to interact and communicate with University officials and other student organizations
- NOTE: The President and Treasurer must be from an organization’s Primary Campus
### Vice President
- The “Internal management” of the group
- Expected to interact and communicate with members and guide projects
- Secondary contact for the organization

### Treasurer
- Treasurer is responsible for the organization's finances
- Expected to manage all aspects of financial expenses and receipts and update organization membership on financial matters
- *NOTE: The President and Treasurer cannot be the same individual*
- *NOTE: The President and Treasurer must be from an organization’s Primary Campus*

### Secretary
- This person is the recorder/historian of the group
- Is responsible for all record keeping of the student organization including meeting agendas, minutes, attendance and correspondence between members

**Tier-I Required Officers:** President & Secondary Officer  
**Tier-II/Tier-III Required Officers:** President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary

In addition to the roles identified above, organizations are welcome to have as many additional officers as they feel their organization needs and may list them on their UConntact page. *Note: Only one student may hold one of the four officer positions listed above at a time.*

### 2.4 Organization Advisors

**Advisor Eligibility:**
All Tier-II RSOs are required to have a UConn Faculty/Staff Advisor. Advisors must either be full-time or emeritus Faculty, Professional Staff, Graduate Assistants, Teaching Assistants, or active Adjunct Faculty of the University of Connecticut. Classified Staff are generally not allowed to serve as advisors.

Most advisors share an interest or have experience in some aspect of the organization’s mission or activities. However, all advisors share a genuine concern for and support of student learning and development.

**Advisors Requirements:**
- Advisors must have job responsibilities at the primary campus indicated by the RSO.
- Advisors may be required to complete any online training before assuming their role.
- Advisors are required to be listed and confirmed as an Advisor on UConntact - our Student Organization Management System
- If your RSO has a Student Activities Business Services bank account, the advisor may be required to sign documents related to banking business for the organization. See your primary campus Student Activities Staff for more information. Please see appendix A for a listing of campus staff.
If your RSO is hosting events on campus, the advisor may be required to meet with, sign off on, or attend certain events that your group is hosting.

**Advisor Roles:**
Student organizations on campus can range from very simple and direct, to extremely complex. The dynamics of students working with their peers to bring people together, raise awareness, host events, and have fun can be a large challenge to face. The role of the Advisor is to act as a guidepost for the student organization leaders.

- **Advisors Do** discuss opportunities; guide the decision-making process; assist in developing group dynamics
- **Advisors Do** meet with organization leaders regularly to discuss and develop goals and set expectations
- **Advisors Do** support the individual growth and development of students within the organization
- **Advisors Do** serve as a source of information and continuity to the organization members that transition each year
- **Advisors Do** act as a liaison between the University and the organization
- **Advisors Do** challenge students’ thought process, creativity, and desire to go beyond the status quo
- **Advisors Do** offer advisement in areas such as organization mission, goals, program/event content, and purpose
- **Advisors Do Not** have voting rights in groups; make financial decisions; program approvals; or officer/roster decisions

The exact role of the advisor should be determined by the student organization and the advisor. This role may vary from organization to organization, based on the organization’s needs and goals. Each year, the student leadership of the organization and the advisor should meet to determine the role and expectations of the advisor and the advisor's expectations of the students.

*NOTE: Advisors of an organization do not have the authority to represent the views of the organization. This remains the responsibility of the students. Advisors may not serve as a voting member of the organization’s board of directors, executive council, or similar governing body.*

**Advisor Risk & Liability.** It is important to note that Tier-I and Tier-II organizations at the University of Connecticut are fully independent entities that receive advising, support, and access to certain University facilities and services in exchange for meeting certain “registration” requirements. The University of Connecticut assumes no responsibility for the activities of these organizations or their members, including coverage of insurance and liability for their activities. RSOs can purchase insurance and liability coverage for their events from external sources. For additional information please contact the Student Activities Risk Management Coordinator at ocaa@uconn.edu
With respect to an Advisor’s liability/exposure related to the activities of an RSO for which they’re an advisor: as stated in the Connecticut General Statutes, “As State employees, Student Organization Advisors are immune from personal liability, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 4-165, for conduct that is not wanton, reckless or malicious and is within the scope of employment. In addition, State employees are provided supplemental protection from liability under Connecticut General Statutes 5-141d, which indemnifies and saves harmless any state officer or employee that: 1) is acting within the scope of his/her employment and 2) is not wanton, reckless or malicious in the discharge of his/her duties.” Citation: https://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/pub/chap_064a.htm

The following Section Applies Only to Storrs Campus RSOs:

**RSO Event Risk & Liability Management Resources.** RSO Leaders are very passionate about their student organizations, their members, and their opportunity to have events both on and off campus. These activities can carry a level of risk to the organization as a whole, as well as to individuals and property. We encourage Advisors to discuss the details and logistics of student organization activities in order to help student leaders think through risks and risk mitigation strategies. Additionally, the Event Services Office and Student Activities Off-Campus Activities Advisement Office (Storrs Only) work with RSO Leaders that are planning activities in University spaces and off-campus. Advisors are encouraged to have their RSO Leaders utilize these services prior to hosting any activity.

It is worth noting that RSOs (Storrs Only) wishing to hold events and activities off-campus are required to inform the University of such events/activities through the off-campus activities notification form located at http://solid.uconn.edu. Neither the University nor Student Activities in particular, ‘approve’ off-campus student organization events. However, Student Activities staff can provide helpful information to student leaders about mitigating risk and hosting successful events.

Advisors are strongly encouraged to remind RSO student leaders of the need to submit their plans to hold off-campus events/activities – in advance - to Student Activities. For more on this topic and what you can do to help, please refer to http://solid.uconn.edu/rsorisk

**Replacing an Advisor.** If a student organization advisor resigns, the organization must find a new advisor. Organizations will have 30 days after a resignation to find a new advisor. If the organization is unable to designate an advisor after 30 days, the organization’s status will be listed as ‘Frozen’ as outlined in chapter 2.5 below. It is the organization’s responsibility to notify their Student Activities Staff if/when their advisor resigns. Once you designate a new advisor, please notify the appropriate staff by completing the online Advisor Change Form on UConntact.

**Community Support.** In addition to the organization’s officially recognized advisor, organizations may have community support (e.g., alumni/ae, grad students). It is not
uncommon for student organizations affiliated with a national organization (i.e., fraternities and sororities) to have graduate or alumni support. However, only the properly registered University advisor noted on the organization’s registration material will be recognized by the University as a contact and work with the organization.

2.5 RSO Status & Training Requirements

SOLID workshops provide organization leaders with information on the policies and requirements associated with student groups on campus, an in-depth overview of UConntact, and effective strategies and suggestions specific to each Student Leader position.

**Active.** Active organizations have met all SOLID requirements and are listed on UConntact, eligible for space, funding and advisement requests.

**Frozen.** Frozen organizations have not yet met all SOLID requirements and are not eligible for funding, space, UConntact, or other access to services. Please contact solid@uconn.edu for information related to your status.

**Locked.** Locked organizations are administratively temporarily suspended based on conduct or failure to complete requirements and lose access to all services. (i.e. constitution renewal)

**Inactive.** Inactive organizations have disbanded or have been suspended from the University

Organizations that have not achieved an Active status mid-way through each academic semester may be subject to disbandment.

**SOLID (Student Organization Leaders Intentional Development).** The SOLID program is intended to ensure that student organization leaders are properly equipped to lead groups successfully and utilize all of the resources available. SOLID is designed to help student organizations achieve their goals, develop the leadership knowledge and skills of their leaders, ensure that organizations are aware of university policies and resources, and to promote responsibility and respect throughout the student organization experience. The below chart outlines training requirements for student organization leaders. For workshop descriptions and requirements please visit [http://solid.uconn.edu/solidworkshops](http://solid.uconn.edu/solidworkshops)
# STORRS REQUIRED SOLID WORKSHOPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer Position Title</th>
<th>In Person Workshops</th>
<th>Online Workshops</th>
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</table>
| President + Vice President | - Org Values & Culture  
- Executive Leadership | Policies & Procedures  
Hazing & Harassment  
SOLID: Inclusion & Belonging  
SOLID 101 |
| Treasurer | - Org Values & Culture | Treasurer Training  
Policies & Procedures  
Hazing & Harassment  
SOLID: Inclusion & Belonging  
SOLID 101 |
| Secretary | - Org Values & Culture | Role of Secretary  
Policies & Procedures  
Hazing & Harassment  
SOLID: Inclusion & Belonging  
SOLID 101 |

# STAMFORD REQUIRED SOLID WORKSHOPS

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<tr>
<th>Officer Position Title</th>
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</table>
| President | - Executive Leadership  
- Event Planning | Funding  
Policies & Procedures  
Hazing & Harassment  
SOLID: Inclusion & Belonging  
SOLID 101 |
| Vice President | - Executive Leadership  
- Event Planning | Policies & Procedures  
Hazing & Harassment  
SOLID: Inclusion & Belonging  
SOLID 101 |
| Treasurer | - Executive Leadership | Funding  
Policies & Procedures  
Hazing & Harassment  
SOLID: Inclusion & Belonging  
SOLID 101 |
| Secretary | - Executive Leadership | Role of Secretary  
Policies & Procedures  
Hazing & Harassment  
SOLID: Inclusion & Belonging  
SOLID 101 |
2.6 Organization Functions at Non-Primary Campus

Once registration requirements have been met for their Primary Campus, an RSO may then be eligible to apply for, and use the benefits associated with being recognized as an RSO at that campus.

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<tr>
<th>Officer Position Title</th>
<th>In Person Workshops</th>
<th>Online Workshops</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>- Org Values &amp; Culture</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Executive Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Policies &amp; Procedures</td>
<td>Hazing &amp; Harassment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>SOLID: Inclusion &amp; Belonging</td>
<td>SOLID 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SOLID: Inclusion &amp; Belonging</td>
<td>SOLID 101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An RSO wishing to hold a function at a campus other than their Primary Campus must apply to that campus’ Student Activities Staff Member or appropriate office responsible for reviewing and approving space reservation requests at that campus. In general RSOs will need to have met all registration requirements at their Primary Campus as well as other requirements as deemed necessary by the campus where they would like to hold a function. The responsible office/department at each campus charged with reviewing and approving space reservations requests will have ultimate authority regarding decisions about space reservation requests.

The approval to host/hold a function at a non-Primary Campus applies only to the specific, individual function for which the request had been made and approved. Subsequent functions/events/activities will each require their own approval. Please see appendix A for a listing of campus staff.

FALL 2020 Update: All RSO activities must follow the UConn Reopening Plan outlined at http://studentactivities.uconn.edu/fall-2020

2.7 Student Organization Support
The University of Connecticut is committed to providing student leaders with a variety of resources to support the operations of their organizations and their individual development.

Individual Advisement and Consultation. Professional Staff are always available to speak with student organization leaders about their requests, questions, comments or concerns. Student organization leaders may also schedule appointments to talk about starting a new organization, leadership training, as well as for assistance in other areas. You may also schedule an appointment with a member of the team by emailing your primary campus student activities staff. Please see appendix A for a listing of campus staff.

2.8 Organization Information Changes and Requests

Changing a Student Organization’s Name. Student Organization Presidents may submit a request to change their RSO’s name by emailing their primary campus student activities staff. Additional forms/constitution updates may be required. Please see appendix A for a listing of campus staff.

Dissolving a Student Organization. Occasionally student organizations dissolve operations. This can be desirable for a number of reasons including, but not limited to, low membership or merging with another student organization. To dissolve an organization please emailing their primary campus student activities staff. If your organization has an open business services bank account, or outstanding debts, those will need to be resolved/closed prior to dissolving your organization. If the organization has obtained any materials/equipment funding by student government, those items must be returned.
Chapter 3: Student Organization Resources

3.1 UConntact

UConntact is an online, user-driven involvement experience for UConn students and the UConn community. UConntact represents the online listing of all RSOs at the University as well as a management & advertising tool for all RSO leaders. Please visit http://uconntact.uconn.edu and login with your NetID

With UConntact, your organization is able to:
- Post and Advertise upcoming Events
- Track Attendance with the free UConn Mobile Event Check-In App
- Recruit new students to your organization
- Update Manage Your Roster
- Organize and share organizational documents and create a history
- Post News Articles to the entire UConn community!
- Create surveys, forms, sign-ups, and elections!

Check it out today! If you have any questions on getting your page setup, please email us at SOLID@uconn.edu or ask your Student Activities Staff Member. Please see appendix A for a listing of campus staff.

3.2 Virtual RSO Resources for online Activities

Staff at Student Activities have created a resource guide available at http://solid.uconn.edu/virtual-student-org-management to assist student organization’s transitioning in Fall 2020 to a socially-distanced world and in general to assist students in increasing their online presence and accessibility.

3.3 Organization Finances (Storrs Campus Only)

Managing Your Organization’s Funds

For organizations at the Storrs campus, Student Activities Business Services provides banking services and accounting advice to RSOs. **Tier-II RSOs are encouraged to establish an account with Business Services.**

Student Activities Business Services provides the organization with the tools, resources, and guidance to operate under sound business practices and principles. Organizations interested in opening an account or learning more about being responsible for their organization’s finances are encouraged to contact Business Services staff at 486-3163 or stop by the office in the SU 314.

**FALL 2020 Update: The Business Services office within the Student Union may be closed. Please contact staff at dsabusinessservices@uconn.edu** Business Services also has several resources to completing transactions online at http://dsabusinessservices.uconn.edu
Services Provided by Student Activities Business Services:
- Organizational banking (deposits, disbursements, check cashing, interest)
- Accounting instruction
- Event/Program support for Tier II and III Organizations
- Budget advice
- Various other services

Advantages of Having an Account with Student Activities Business Services:
- No minimum balance
- No service fees
- Very competitive interest rates
- Free supplies
- Personal attention

Student organizations that choose to have an account with the Student Activities Business Services must complete and submit contracts and a signature sheet to Business Services once a year. The contract and signature sheet is effective from the date they are received by Business Services and expire on June 30th each year. The organization must be a RSO, as per Involvement & Student Organization Support requirements.

Tax ID Numbers. Student organizations may be asked for their tax identification numbers during the normal course of business. If you do not have an account in the Student Activities Business Services, you may apply for a Tax ID number with the IRS. Organizations with accounts in Business Services should contact Business Services for specific direction regarding tax identification number usage.

Organization Donations. Donations from individuals or business made directly to your organization are not tax-deductible to the donor. Making them tax deductible will make the transaction more appealing to potential donors. Here are two ways to make that possible:
1. Work with the Student Activities Business Services to establish an account with the University of Connecticut Foundation. All tax deductible donations will go to this account and the individual or business will receive the proper documentation for their donation.
2. Student organizations can apply for their own non-profit tax identification number. To find the appropriate forms and procedure, visit the IRS WebPage. Remember that you will need to apply on both the federal and state level.

Insurance. The activities of students and student organizations are not insured in any way by the University of Connecticut. Individuals and organizations wishing to insure the activities of their members can purchase insurance independent of the University by contacting any insurance agency.

Student Activities Business Services Contact Information
Fundraising
Raising money is always an important topic to student organizations. Many student organizations collect dues or have fundraisers to support their activities. Some fundraising ideas are listed below; however, students are encouraged to be creative and explore new ideas.
Collect dues from members.
- Sell merchandise (flowers, doughnuts, candy, etc).
- Sell services (chair setups, concessions at Athletic events).
- Charge admission for events.
- Co-sponsor programs with other organizations. Look for University departments or other student organizations with a similar mission and pool resources to co-sponsor events.
- Solicit donations.
  - For donations to be tax deductible student organizations must work with the Student Activities Business Services to establish an account with the University of Connecticut Foundation.
- Request funding from the Undergraduate Student Government.

Please contact Student Activities Business Services at dsabusinessservices@uconn.edu for more information on fundraising.

Student Government and Support of Student Groups
The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) was founded for one general purpose: To serve the undergraduate student body. USG has been effective over the years in advocating student concerns to the administration on campus. The Undergraduate Student Government strives to support all student organizations through USG funding and managing the operations of the Student Organization Center.

USG as a Funding Resource. The Undergraduate Student Government has successfully supported thousands of events from hundreds of different organizations with financial assistance. To Apply For Funding From the Undergraduate Student Government (USG):
1. Your organization must be a Tier II Registered Organization.
2. Your President or Treasurer must attend a USG Informational Session once per academic year.

A portion of your Student Activity Fee is allocated to the Undergraduate Student Government to give financial support to student organizations. In short, USG is using money allocated from students to be used for students. Any Registered Tier II organization can apply to USG for that money, so long as it conforms to the USG Funding Guidelines and any State or University policy.
Please contact USG for more information regarding their funding policies or procedures by emailing the Funding Board Chair at fundingboard@usg.uconn.edu.

For more information, the Undergraduate Student Government encourages your organization to stop by during office hours, visit the Undergraduate Student Government website, or call. **USG Contact Information** Office Location: Student Union Room 219 Office Hours: M-F, 9-5pm Telephone: 486-3708 Email: info@usg.uconn.edu Website: usg.uconn.edu.

### 3.4 The Student Organization Center (Storrs Campus Only)

**The Student Organization Center** (SOC) located in Student Union Room 218 is designed to provide RSOs with specialized services to help meet the needs and responsibilities of their organization. Services provided are as follows:

- **Meeting Space** – (No reservation needed)
- **Photocopying** – (200 free copies per event)
- **Storage Bins** – (Request storage bins for organizational items)
- **Mailboxes** – (All registered organizations are eligible to use a mail box in the Student Organization Center)
  - Mailboxes should be checked frequently throughout the semester
- **Computer Stations** For organization use only.

**Storage Locker Policies** Registered Tier-II student organizations are eligible to sign out one storage locker per organization from USG. The storage lockers are located in room 218 and on the fourth floor of the Student Union. These storage lockers are for student organizations to store items and/or equipment pertaining to the organization. The lockers will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Please stop by the SOC (room 218) or the USG office in room 219 of the Student Union or call 860-486-3708 for specific policies and procedures regarding the storage lockers.

**Organization Mailing Address** Student organizations who wish to have mail delivered to the SOC should use the following address template:

Your Organization’s Name  
c/o Student Organization Center  
2110 Hillside Road U3061  
Student Union Room 218  
Storrs, CT 06269

**FALL 2020 Update:** Please contact USG directly to inquire if the SOC will be open during the semester
3.5 Event Planning and Facility Use: FALL 2020 Updates

Organization Events

The Fall 2020 Semester Campus Community Event, Activities and Recreation Implementation Plan establishes processes that try to balance the physical distancing needs, and reduced program space capacity, with the desire to create community among members of the University community, especially for students.

This plan includes the following components:

- Key State of Connecticut rules and University guidelines
- Framework for holding programs and activities in lieu of new rules and guidelines

State of Connecticut Requirements and Guidance

- Governor’s Reopen Connecticut Advisory Group recommendations for Higher Education
- Phase 2 of Connecticut’s Reopen Plan for Indoor and Outdoor gatherings (Phase 3 TBD)
- Note: for purposes of this plan, programs and activities at the University are considered ‘private gatherings’, per the State of Connecticut rules.
- Phase 2 Reopen rules for Sports, Sport Clubs, Gyms, Fitness Centers and Pools (UConn Recreation)
- Physical Distancing - 6 feet of separation whenever possible
- Density in areas were groups congregate – 6 feet of separation between occupants
- Personal Protective Equipment – All faculty, staff and students should wear masks
- Disinfection/Cleaning – Hand sanitizer available at entrances to buildings, frequent hand washing, and regular cleaning of bathrooms and hi-touch areas

Other Sections of the Campus Community Event, Activities and Recreation Implementation Plan

- Recreation Center Re-opening Plan
- Student Union Reservation Process
- University Sponsored Programs and Events

Given the changing nature of the Fall 2020 reopening plan, guidance from the University and State of CT, please visit our online resource at http://studentactivities.uconn.edu/fall-2020 for specific information related to Stage 1, Stage 2, and Stage 3 activity limitations and timing.

Additionally, a website dedicated to general RSO Policies (replacing the previous workshop requirement for Fall 2020) has been established at http://solid.uconn.edu/policies for information related to reservations, off-campus travel, internationals travel, logo usage, painting spirit rocks, and flyers/ads.

3.6 Off-Campus Activity Notification and Advising Policy (Storrs Campus Only)

RSOs are required to submit information about their off campus activities to the Department of Student Activities. Off campus activities are any RSO activities that take place off campus including, but not limited to, practices, meetings, socials, conferences, service programs, competitions, and programs. The Off Campus Activity Notification Form is located on solid.uconn.edu, on UConntact under Campus Links.
How soon should I submit the Activity Notification Form?

Please complete the Activity Notification Form at least 14 days before your activity so that appropriate accommodations can be made by a Student Activities/Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development staff member. Students do not need to have all of the details of their activity planned out prior to submitting the Off Campus Activity Notification Form - please submit as much information as possible. The information provided in these meetings can assist student organization leaders with their activity planning.

I submitted the online Activity Notification Form. What happens next?

A staff member from Student Activities/Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development will contact the Activity Planner of the RSO and arrange a meeting to discuss the details of the activity. The process the staff member utilizes will depend on the type of organization activity.

What types of information are covered in these meetings?

Staff members advise student organizations on risk management in six key areas to help the organizations have the most successful activities possible. These areas include: travel, lodging and overnight stays, activities with alcohol, protection of minors, cash handling, and contracts.

A staff member will e-mail risk management documents to the Activity Planner, the RSO President, and the student organization’s Faculty/Staff Advisor prior to the activity. The documents must be returned to the staff member prior to the organization’s departure from campus.

My organization plans to have several off campus activities during the semester. Do I have to have a separate meeting for each activity?

If your organization plans to have several off campus activities during the semester, it is strongly recommended that activity planners complete notification forms for as many activities as possible at one time. This allows the Student Activities/Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development staff member to discuss multiple activities during a single meeting rather than one activity at a time.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

For more information about off campus event planning please contact offcampusactivities@uconn.edu
Chapter 4: Student Organization Conduct Expectations

4.1 Guidelines
The Department of Student Activities oversees all student organizations registered with the University of Connecticut. The information, policies, and procedures in this Chapter applies to all registered student organizations at the University. RSOs that are also recognized by another department in Student Affairs (such as the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development or UConn Recreation) may be held to additional standards at the discretion of their respective department.

4.2 University Offices & Conduct
The Department of Student Activities (DSA) and the Office of Community Standards (OCS) serve as the primary sources for the review and adjudication of any potential organizational misconduct. Any violations of the University Student Code are adjudicated by OCS. DSA will oversee any ‘non-code’ violations including any potential organizational violations of policies contained or referenced within this document. The organization conduct processes are discussed in Chapter 5 of this document.

4.3 Organizational Responsibility
Student organizations are required to abide by federal, state, and local laws. Additionally, students and student organizations are responsible for adhering to all of the applicable terms and conditions of this document as well as those of The Student Code, the On-Campus Housing Contract, the Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs, the President’s Policy on Harassment, the UGuide (Storrs), and other publicized University notices. Violation of applicable laws and policies by any student organization may result in disciplinary action for that organization and individual members.

Fall 2020 Update: Student organizations are required to abide by the Student Activities reopening policy outlined at http://studentactivities.uconn.edu/fall-2020

4.4 Individual Acts and Group Responsibility
Student organizations may also be held responsible for the acts of its individual members and guests, when acts occur in direct relation to the student organization’s activities or environment. Acts may include, but not be limited to, when members or guests of an organization or organization activity are violating any laws, policies, or codes.

4.5 The Student Code of Conduct
Student organizations are responsible for upholding the Student Code of Conduct both on and off-campus. The code can be found here: https://community.uconn.edu/the-student-code-pdf/. Several types of prohibited conduct from the Code are discussed during the SOLID Hazing, Harming, & Harassment Prevention and SOLID Inclusion & Belonging workshops, both of which are required for all organization officers. Student organization leaders and members are strongly encouraged to be familiar with the elements of The Student Code as they relate to
their actions and activities within their RSO. (Fall 2020 Update: The University’s enforcement of the Code’s description of endangering behavior is particularly relevant during the pandemic and will be enforced by the University with mindfulness towards the unique health and safety implications during this pandemic.)

If you have questions about the content, your student organization activities, and the Code, please contact staff at SOLID@uconn.edu for advisement and guidance.

**4.6 Additional RSO Expectations**

In addition to registration requirements, Student Organizations must adhere to several policies and procedures in their activities on and off-campus. A workshop/website has been created as part of SOLID training at http://solid.uconn.edu/policies as a reference point for policies contained in this section.

**The U Guide**: The Student Union U Guide provides several policies and procedures for student organization activities related to utilizing space on campus. The U Guide provides information about reserving spaces on campus, canvassing, large, outdoor, and/or late night events, and outside amplification of sound.

Please review the U Guide found here. (http://studentunion.uconn.edu, under ‘About’).

**Student Organization Travel & International Travel Policy**: Student organizations having activities off-campus must submit the Off-Campus Activities Advising form at http://solid.uconn.edu prior to any travel. Additionally, organizations traveling internationally must adhere to the UConn Student International Travel Policy and notify Global Affairs prior to their travel.

**FALL 2020 Update**: International Travel is currently banned for all RSOs pursuant to mandates from the State of CT and University.

**General Campus Posting Guidelines (Storrs Campus Only)**

Each building on campus has its own posting policy and guide. Before hanging any flyers, please be sure to know the buildings’ specific policy. Any building that allows postings will provide a space to post your flyers.

RSOs are never permitted to post flyers on/in the following:

- University signs
- Lampposts
- Trees
- Sidewalks
- Windows, walls, or columns, painted surfaces.
- Doors, floors, bricks, and railings
- Bathroom stalls, or any other location that may cause damage to university property
- Any other location that may cause damage to university property

Additionally, when posting a flyer or notice, Duct Tape or any other method of permanent or semi-permanent adhesion is not permitted. Any damages to any surface will be charged to the students and/or student organization. For more information on how to post in specific places, please refer to http://solid.uconn.edu/policies
Statement on Postings by RSOs on UConntact: Pursuant to the Laws, Bylaws and Rules of the University, the University assumes no responsibility for the actions and activities of Tier-II RSOs or their membership nor does it approve the qualifications of speakers whom RSOs invite. The responsibility for any views sponsored by or expressed within or by student organizations rests with the individuals concerned. The University’s role is not to approve or disapprove such views, whatever their nature, but to be concerned exclusively with the discharge of its educational obligation to facilitate free discussion of all points of view to the extent guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Connecticut. The Department of Student Activities reserves the right to remove any postings on a weekly basis.

Logo & Wordmark Usage. The University owns the copyright to several University of Connecticut wordmarks and logos. The usage of these logos is pursuant to all requirements of the Licensing and Branding office. Please visit http://brand.uconn.edu for this policy. You may also visit http://solid.uconn.edu/policies for a guide on how to utilize and get logos created and approved through Student Activities.

Outstanding Debt. Student organizations may incur charges as a result of sponsoring activities and/or conducting organizational business with various University departments. All student organizations are expected to pay for services rendered in a timely manner, if not in advance. Organizations that do not pay their debts to University departments may lose their registration privileges or be sanctioned until, at least, such issues are resolved.

Rock Painting Policy. The tradition of rock painting, properly regulated, has a positive impact on campus. It provides an outlet to show school spirit and pride in individual organizations. This policy and corresponding guidelines are put forth in an effort to address the following needs relative to rock painting:

- To foster pride within student groups
- To keep the campus beautiful and environmentally sound, and to protect investments in new and renovated facilities

The painting of rocks and other forms of University of Connecticut landscape is prohibited with the exception of the following list of rocks, which are the official “paintable” rocks located on University of Connecticut Property:

- The Rock – across from North Garage
- Towers Rocks – bottom of the walkway to Towers behind St. Thomas Aquinas Church
- Buckley/Shippee Rock – on the south side of the road leading to the Buckley/Shippee parking lot NOTE: The rock face on South Eagleville Road, across from Mansfield Apartments, is NOT a paintable rock as of April 1, 2013.

Rock Painting Guidelines

- Those painting rocks will ensure that the area is left in a clean condition. They will remove all materials and litter from the site and properly dispose of all paint
Nearby objects shall not be painted
Only water based latex paint is allowed

In light of concerns regarding unhealthy competition to get the rocks painted, please observe the following Rock Painting Etiquette:

- Entire rock must be painted. Due to the amount of time and planning it takes to paint, it is expected that new painting will completely cover the rock
- Painting the rocks should be a fun, voluntary activity. Members or potential new members shall not be required or forced to paint the rock; this is considered a hazing/harming activity
- Other groups will not interfere with those painting rocks. People have the right to paint rocks without being bothered, harassed or demeaned
- There will be no guarding of any rock
- Members or potential new members shall not be required or forced to guard the rock; this is considered a hazing/harming activity
- Once painted and dry, other groups may paint over the work
- Tagging letters, names, or symbols over other groups’ paintings is prohibited
- All rock painting will be done sober. No drinking or drug use is permitted while painting rocks.
- Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated at the rock sites. This includes loud music

**Enforcement.** A plaque will be installed near each of the designated rocks indicating: “This rock is one of the ‘Spirit Rocks’ on the University of Connecticut Storrs Campus. Painting these rocks has become a well-established and valued tradition for student organizations. The rocks are used to promote pride and excitement within student groups, as well as providing an opportunity for students to show their spirit to the University Community.” Information about appropriate types of paint, as well as Rock Painting Guidelines / Etiquette (listed above) will also be placed on/near each rock. Enforcement of the policy and rock painting guidelines will be coordinated by Student Activities and associated staff, as well as University law enforcement personnel and Community Standards. Violations of the policy and guidelines may result in disciplinary action toward individuals and/or groups.

**4.7 Other University Policies:**

**Fall 2020 Update:** All students living in on-campus housing, whether on the Storrs or Stamford campus, will be required to follow the temporary health and safety procedures distributed to students earlier this summer and available on the Residential Life website.

**Club Sports (Storrs Campus Only)**

Student Organizations that are recognized as members of the Club Sports program with UConn Recreation must also comply with policies and procedures set-forth by Recreation. For a listing of specific Club Sports policies and procedures, please visit: [https://recreation.uconn.edu/club-sports/](https://recreation.uconn.edu/club-sports/)
Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development (Storrs Campus Only)

Student Organizations that are recognized as members of the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development must also comply with policies, expectations, and procedures set-forth by the office. For a listing of specific CFSD policies and procedures, please visit: 

https://greeklife.uconn.edu/

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Chapter 5: Registered Student Organization Policy Violation Process (Storrs Campus Only)

5.1 General This chapter outlines the process by which possible RSO policy violations will be addressed by the Department of Student Activities. For the student organizational conduct procedures as administered by the Office of Community Standards (for Student Code Violations), please visit: https://community.uconn.edu/

The procedures noted below, and their outcomes, in no way preclude the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development (CFSD) and affiliated recognized student organizations’ regional / national / international organizations, or the Club Sports Office (and their governing bodies) from conducting their own conduct processes.

Any outcomes and sanctions resulting from any internal review process undertaken by the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Development and affiliated recognized student organizations’ regional/national/international organizations, or Club Sports (and their governing bodies) shall not negate but stand in addition to the outcomes of the below processes.

5.2 Allegations Any person may file a report concerning alleged misconduct of a student organization directly to the Office of Community Standards (“OCS”) or online at https://community.uconn.edu/submit-a-referral/.

The OCS is responsible for investigating all allegations of Student Code misconduct regardless of group involvement or affiliation. Whether an allegation concerns individual and/or organizational misconduct will be determined by OCS. If it is determined that a RSO’s activity is not a violation of the University’s Student Code but may have violated Student Activities/other University policy, the matter will be turned over to the Department of Student Activities (“DSA”).

The President of the student organization (or designee) is the point of contact on behalf of the organization. All communication pertaining to the student organization will be sent to the President’s (or designee’s) University email account and the organization’s UConntact Faculty/Staff Advisor will be copied.

The following applies to instances where it has been determined that an RSO’s activities/actions, or those of its members, have NOT violated the University’s Student Code and thus are not being investigated by Community Standards. The following applies for instances in which the RSO’s activities or behaviors of its members may constitute a violation of Student Activities or other University policy.

5.3 Interim Administrative Action The Director of Student Activities or designee may impose interim actions on the organization pending a final resolution, depending on the severity of the situation. Such interim sanctions
can include but not be limited to: University suspension, an interim Loss of Recognition/Registration Status, and/or other interim restrictions deemed necessary.

5.4 Organization (Org) Conduct Meeting

All processes will start with an Org Conduct Meeting.

Org Conduct Meeting: Once DSA has received a referral and determined that an Org Conduct Meeting is needed, DSA will conduct a meeting with the organization and their student representatives. The purpose of this meeting is for the student organization leaders to comment and provide some perspective on the referral and their actions related to the incident. Student leaders have the option of accepting responsibility for any alleged actions at this point.

If an organization accepts responsibility for the alleged actions, the DSA Staff Member, in collaboration with the student organization, will determine the next steps and any potential sanctions, resolutions, restorative measures, and outcomes. If an organization does not accept responsibility, the Org Conduct Meeting process ends and the matter will be turned over to the Director of Student Activities.

The Director of Student Activities will typically convene a meeting with the DSA staff member and the student representatives of the RSO. At this meeting the Director will seek to understand the facts and views of the parties involved. If a mutually agreed upon resolution still cannot be identified, based on information obtained, the Director will make a determination of any sanction, resolution, or measures. This decision will be final.

5.5 Student Organization Sanction Review Process

Note: Student Organizations sanctioned through the Office of Community Standards will need to fulfill all requirements and sanctions imposed by the Office of Community Standards prior to being considered in “good standing” with Student Activities. Organizations suspended by OCS, will need to obtain written (email) confirmation from OCS that it has fulfilled all sanctions/requirements prior to being eligible to register with the Department of Student Activities.

Following the outcome of the Org Conduct Meeting process, a student organization that has been sanctioned will have to fulfill all requirements of sanctioning in order to be in “good standing” with the Department of Student Activities.

For organizations suspended through DSA, they may be eligible to re-register at the end of their suspension term, outlined in their official sanction letter from DSA. The lifting/removal of suspension does not guarantee re-registration.

Procedures
A group of students wishing to re-register a student organization that has been previously suspended must submit a request to the Associate Director for Leadership & Organizational Development in the Department of Student Activities. From there, a formal suspension review meeting will occur. The goal of a Suspension Review meeting is to ensure the circumstances
and organizational culture that led to the suspension are no longer present, including any information about sanctions or information about a group continuing to operate after suspension.

Note: If a national organization is requesting to re-register after a suspension through DSA, they have to follow the same process outlined below.

**Outcomes**

i. Meet with the students/national organization wishing to re-form this organization to discuss what led to suspension and provide the students with an opportunity to respond to that information and any other information the students wish to share about their group and their desire to pursue re-registration.

ii. Make a determination regarding whether the student organization should be allowed to re-register on campus and communicate the decision to the requesting students within one week.

iii. If a group is denied re-registration they may re-apply for a Suspension Review Meeting after 6 months.
Appendix A: UConn Student Activities Staff & Resources

Avery Point Campus:
Student Activities, Student Center
Randall Paterson, Director of Student Activities
Randall.paterson@uconn.edu
860-405-9014
https://averypoint.uconn.edu/student-life/student-involvement/

Hartford Campus:
Student Activities, Hartford Times Building
Kim Schwarz Assistant Director
kim.schwarz@uconn.edu
959-200-3838
https://studentactivities.hartford.uconn.edu/

Stamford Campus:
Student Activities, Stamford Room 202
Gayle Riquier, Student Activities Coordinator
stamfordactivities@uconn.edu
203-251-8489
https://studentactivities.stamford.uconn.edu/

Storrs Campus:
Department of Student Activities, Student Union 302
Kristen Carr, Involvement & RSO Support Coordinator
solid@uconn.edu
860-486-6588
https://solid.uconn.edu – RSO Resource
https://studentactivities.uconn.edu/fall-2020

Waterbury Campus:
Student Activities, Room 107
Jim Long, Director of Student Activities
Jim.long@uconn.edu
203-236-9801
https://waterbury.uconn.edu/student-life/student-involvement/
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