



## Classification of Student Organizations

### No. 8010

**Policy Effective Date:**  
8/12/1992

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**Policy Owner:**  
Frances Keene

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**Affected Parties:**  
Undergraduate  
Graduate

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### 1.0 Purpose

In order to fully serve the needs of student organizations affiliated with the university; to ensure that the intent of earlier university actions to release smaller student organizations and interest groups from unnecessary administrative intrusion; and, to provide more clarity as to the relationships of the various types of student organizations affiliated with the university, this policy supersedes the former Policy 8000, "Registration of Student Organizations." Policy 8010 provides for more comprehensive definitions of student organizations while supporting the fundamental assertion of Policy 8000 that student organizations should not be hindered in their co-curricular missions by university administrative processes.

### 2.0 Policy

Officially recognized organizations shall have the privilege to conduct activities on the campus of Virginia Tech in accordance with established policies and procedures. In order to be officially recognized with the university as an active student organization, a student group must submit the appropriate documents to the Student Engagement and Campus Life (SECL) Department annually in accordance with established procedures. Officially listed student organizations will be classified in the following manner:

1. University Student Life Program (USLP)
2. University Chartered Student Organization (UCSO)
3. Registered Student Organization (RSO)
4. Extended Campus Student Organization (ECSO)

The SECL Department, in conjunction with Student Conduct, will administer conduct matters pertaining to student organizations in accordance with the university conduct system. The university reserves the right to withdraw recognition of a student organization due to violations of university policies as outlined in the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Organizations that seek to be registered as a student organization after losing recognition must be certified by Student Conduct that all required sanctions are complete. Additionally, when applicable, organizations must be certified by the Fraternity and Sorority Life Department to ensure that the governing council has reinstated the organization before university registration is granted. If the student organization is not certified by either department, the SECL Department will notify the organization president that their registration is denied. Further, any student organization that is no longer recognized or has lost recognition will not be considered a viable external entity to act as co-sponsor with a university sponsor as defined in Policy 5000, University Real Property (building, Grounds, Infrastructure) Usage and Events, section 2.2 (<http://www.policies.vt.edu/5000.pdf>).



### 3.0 Procedures

Procedures for the establishment and maintenance of each classification of student organizations are recommended by the Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs in collaboration with the Division of Student Affairs and administered by the SECL Department.

### 4.0 Definitions

1. **Registered Student Organization (RSO):** a voluntary association of Virginia Tech students that has no direct relationship to the university but upon completion of registration documents is entitled to certain privileges to include operating, meeting, advertising, and participating in activities on the Virginia Tech campus.
2. **University Chartered Student Organization (UCSO):** A **University Chartered Student Organization (UCSO)** is an organization that has significant campus impact through providing resources and/or services that are best delivered by students in conjunction with their sponsoring campus department. This classification of organization must align with, and is integral to, departmental and university missions to create robust student experiences. The impact and resources must meet a recognized institutional and student need.
3. **University Student Life Program (USLP):** an organization comprised primarily or exclusively of students whose activities, operations, and decision making processes are directly governed by academic or administrative departments and for which the university is ultimately responsible. Examples of USLPs include Hokie Ambassadors and Club Sports. USLPs are eligible to apply for funding from the student organization funding boards.
4. **Extended Campus Student Organization (ECSO):** a voluntary association of Virginia Tech students at an extended campus location as defined by the Registrar's Office that has no direct relationship to the university. Upon completion of registration documents with its extended campus center and receipt of those documents by the SECL Department, the ECSO is entitled, pursuant to policies established at its extended campus center, to certain privileges. Such privileges may include operating, meeting, advertising, and participating in activities on its Virginia Tech extended campus. Examples of ECSOs vary from campus to campus.

### 5.0 References

Policy 8011, Establishing and Maintaining a University Student Life Program (USLP)  
<http://www.policies.vt.edu/8011.pdf>

Policy 8012, Establishing and Maintaining a University Chartered Student Organization (UCSO)  
<http://www.policies.vt.edu/8012.pdf>

Policy 8013, Establishing and Maintaining a Registered Student Organization (RSO)  
<http://www.policies.vt.edu/8013.pdf>

Policy 8014, Establishing and Maintaining an Extended Campus Student Organization (ECSO)  
<http://www.policies.vt.edu/8014.pdf>

### [Student Code of Conduct](#)



## 6.0 Approval and Revisions

Approved August 12, 1992, by the Vice President for Student Affairs, Thomas G. Goodale.

- Revision 1  
Changed name from "Student Organizations" to "Leadership and Student Organization Programs (LSOP)."
- Revision 2  
Changed name from "Leadership and Student Organization Programs (LSOP)" to "Student Activities."  
Approved February 26, 1999, by Vice President for Student Affairs, Landrum L. Cross.
- Revision 3  
Changed name from "Office of Student Activities" to Student Activities Office.  
Approved April 19, 2002 by Vice President for Student Affairs, Landrum L. Cross.
- Revision 4  
Policy amended to add Extended Campus Student Organizations.  
Approved April 10, 2003 by Vice President for Student Affairs, Landrum L. Cross.
- Revision 5  
Section 2: Policy revised to clarify process a student organization which loses university recognition through student conduct action must complete before recognition can be restored by the university.  
Approved November 28, 2011 by Vice President for Student Affairs, Edward F. D. Spencer.
- Revision 6  
Updates and clarification regarding student organization types, office names, and abbreviations.  
Approved February 11, 2015 by Vice President for Student Affairs, Patricia A. Perillo.
- Revision 7  
Changed name from "Student Centers and Activities" to "Student Engagement and Campus Life"  
Clarification to Extended Campus Student Organizations (ECSO) classification  
Clarification of loss of recognition and ability to act as an external sponsor for on-campus events  
Approved January 21, 2018 by Vice President for Student Affairs, Patricia A. Perillo.
- Revision 8  
Updated University Chartered Student Organization (UCSO) classification definition  
Approved June 6, 2018 by Vice President for Student Affairs, Patricia A. Perillo.
- Revision 9  
Updated organization and group titles.  
Removed duplicative language from Section 4.0.  
Approved September 27, 2024 by Vice President for Student Affairs, Frances Keene.