

OBU Social Club Handbook

Office of Campus Life

We are excited you have chosen to become a member of the Oklahoma Baptist University Family, and we look forward to assisting you in your educational and co-curricular pursuits during your college career. An important part of the college experience is the relationships you will develop during your time at OBU.

Throughout the past 30+ years, Social Clubs have played an important role in many of the traditions at OBU and continue to be instrumental in the success of Student Life at OBU. Social Clubs exist to fulfill in part the mission of Oklahoma Baptist University by equipping students to

- 1) *pursue academic excellence,*
- 2) *integrate faith with all areas of knowledge,*
- 3) *engage a diverse world, and*
- 4) *live worthy of the high calling of God in Christ.*

Social Clubs, at Oklahoma Baptist University, provide an excellent way to enhance your education and meet new and interesting people, who share common interests and goals. The friendships forged through these Christ-centered social clubs are strong, with shared memories and experiences that will play a significant role in your personal journey through the college years and beyond.

Joining one of the Social Club organizations affords you the chance to explore exclusive learning opportunities through fellowship, service, ministry, discipleship, leadership, and academic support programs. You will be challenged in all aspects to achieve excellence in your life and through your affiliation with your Social Club. **The purpose of Social Club organizations is the holistic personal development of each member, with primary focus on the spiritual maturation of the student in his or her walk with the Lord.** Through this holistic approach, our desire is for each student overall experience at OBU to be enhanced.

While each Social Club is autonomous and independent of each other, they are interconnected through their official student organization sponsorship by the University and their charter through the Student Government Association (SGA). OBU provides supervision and guidance to Greek organizations through the appointment of a full-time professional faculty or staff member of the University, who serves as the advisor and mentor to each social club. **OBU sponsors only local Social Club organizations and does not permit the chartering of national fraternities and sororities.**

As you consider the various student organizational opportunities on campus, you are encouraged to ask questions and develop a sense of what you are looking for in your collegiate experience. Although social clubs do not appeal to every student's needs and interests, OBU offers a diverse array of student organizations. These student clubs and groups, along with social clubs provide students with the opportunity of joining a vibrant and exciting campus community, and this campus cultural experience can be transformational.

Please feel free to contact the Director of Student Leadership & Engagement, Melissa Stroud, if you have any questions or concerns regarding Social Clubs at OBU.

Melissa Stroud: Melissa.stroud@okbu.edu

Speaking the language:

Important Greek lingo you need to know

Greek Alphabet

A ALPHA (al-fah)	G GAMMA (gam-ah)	N NU (new)	T TAU (taw)
B BETA (bay-tah)	H ETA (ay-tah)	O OMICRON (om-i-cron)	U UPSILON (oop-si-lon)
C CHI (ki)	I IOTA (eye-o-tah)	P PI (pie)	W OMEGA (o-may-gah)
D DELTA (del-tah)	K KAPPA (kap-pah)	Q THETA (thay-tah)	X XI (zi)
E EPSILON (ep-si-lon)	L LAMBDA (lam-dah)	R RHO (roe)	Y PSI (sigh)
F PHI (fi)	M MU (mew)	S SIGMA (sig-mah)	Z ZETA (zay-tah)

Active/Full member

An active member is a student who has accepted a bid from a social club organization, participated in new member orientation, and been accepted into the club. An institutional GPA of 2.5 or greater must be maintained to remain active.

App Short for application, ‘app forms’ must be submitted by the PNMs prior to Rush so active members can learn more about each prospective member. Applications solicit detailed information about the PNMs interests, background, volunteer service, academic major, career aspirations, reason for interest in Social Clubs, spiritual testimony, etc.

Bid A formal invitation to join a Social Club. The formal bid is usually extended following a designated Rush (membership enrollment) period. Prospective new members may receive more than one bid, but may only select a single chapter’s invitation to join.
EX: “At the end of Rush, she received a bid from two clubs.”

Chapter Describes a group of individuals associated with a particular Greek letter organization. Each chapter is defined by their own name, mission, symbols, and colors. OBU does not affiliate with national chapters and mostly refers to each of our groups by the word “club.”

Dues Each chapter establishes membership fees that help finance the organization’s activities and events. These dues are the responsibility of each member and should be taken into consideration when joining a Social Club organization.

Greek Life

Ambassador During the Rush process each club appoints two GLAs to host the groups and helps walk them through their experience. They do not identify with their particular club until bid night and instead encourage the PNMs to remain open minded through the process.

Hazing The prohibited act of subjecting new members to harassing, meaningless, difficult, humiliating or dangerous tasks in order to gain membership to the organization. Hazing is a violation of Federal law and, as such, is subject to both expulsion from the University and criminal charges.

New Member Orientation	The act of becoming an active member. This rite of passage is often associated with some type of ritual or ceremony.
Ministry	A charity or non-profit organization usually selected by a club to which ministry, volunteer or service work, and fund-raising are invested.
Mixer	A social gathering in which one or more clubs host another Social Club organization for a time of fun and fellowship. These mixers often have themes and encourage interaction and participation from those in attendance. These activities provide the opportunity for meeting other students.
New member	Term given to a student who accepts an invitation to join a Social Club organization, but who has not yet become a full member. New members are involved in new member education as they await initiation into full membership. Also known as pledge. EX: “The new members were excited to receive their bids.”
Open Rush	These are usually individual or brother/sister club events hosted prior to Rush week to encourage all student interested in that particular club to get to know one another in a relaxed setting. Each club typically hosts one open rush each year.
Prospective New Member	New students participating in the Rush process, through exploring and evaluating the possibility of joining one of the Social Club organizations. A student who qualifies for consideration and has applied to join a Greek letter organization. Also known as “PNM.”
Rho Phi	A small group of prospective new members who go through the Rush process together led by an active member of an unidentified Social Club organization of the University.
Ritual	The ceremony associated with initiation into the active membership of a Greek chapter. During this time, new members may learn information privy only to active members. During this ceremony, students transfer their status from new members or pledges into active members.
Rush	The process whereby prospective new members meet and interact with active members to learn about the specific clubs, missions, background, activities, and events. EX: “Are you planning to go through Rush this spring?”
Social Club	Single gender student organizations designated with Greek letters. These organizations have a membership selection process and provide members with an opportunity for holistic personal development through fellowship, ministry, service, discipleship, and academic support programs, activities, and events.

Greek Life:

Academic Excellence, Fellowship, Leadership, Service, and Spiritual Growth

The social club experience at OBU is a unique blend of social activities, service, ministry, leadership, and spiritual growth. While each organization has its own distinctive character, each social club contributes to the campus life and the university community. Students learn and grow from those involved in their own organizations, but also from those engaged in similar experiences in the other OBU social club organizations. There are numerous activities and events that allow students to gain hands-on leadership experience, as well as grow in their personal development and their relationship with the Lord.

The activity calendar of a member of the social club community is never dull! Whether attending a campus activity with club sisters or brothers, playing on your clubs intramural team, attending a weekly discipleship and accountability group meeting, or taking part in fellowship with one of the other social club organizations, there is always something fun and exciting occurring. The members in your organization will become some of your closest friends as you engage the college experience together. The mutual support, spiritual growth, and academic accountability encountered through the members of each chapter are benefits of the social club system.

As core values of Oklahoma Baptist University, being missional-purposed and community-directed are key components of OBU's social clubs. Each organization supports and serves with various ministry and charitable organizations in Shawnee and surrounding communities. Both individually and as a group, the social club community has accepted the responsibility to contribute to the success of these charities and ministries as they volunteer to support their goals and missions.

Joining a Social Club provides instant access to support and encouragement through the sisterhood or brotherhood of OBU social clubs. While each organization holds high standards for each member of the organization, accountability and discipleship go hand-in-hand as incoming members learn about themselves, their interdependence upon fellow members, and their relationship with the Lord. Maintaining a strong commitment to discipleship is an integral part of the Campus Life experience at OBU.

Through the student's involvement in ministry opportunities, committee work, and organizational activity, members of social clubs develop leadership skills that they can utilize in all areas of their lives. These leadership skills teach the students how to interact with members of their organization, student clubs, and fellow classmates in a cooperative effort. The leadership skills that will be developed by being a member of a social club are among the most valuable learning experiences students will have through their Campus Life involvement.

Members of OBU Social Clubs are also expected to maintain high academic standards. Clubs may utilize various study workshops, tutoring sessions, or required study halls to help new members pursue academic excellence and to learn how to balance their academic responsibilities and co-curricular experiences.

Each member financially supports their Social Club through member dues. Membership dues range from \$60-\$200 a semester, depending on the club's guidelines and organizational practices.

Rush week:

An overview of new member recruitment

OBU follows a formal Rush model, Students interested in participating in Rush must register prior to the beginning of Rush events. This will be announced to the student body two weeks prior to the application deadline. The application helps organization members learn more about each interested student before Rush begins and begin to connect a name with a face and story.

Rush Week gives prospective new members an opportunity to get to know the active members of all the social clubs. PNMs will be placed in small groups and guided to the various Rush activities by their appointed Greek Life Ambassador (GLA).

Each social club will host opportunities each night of Rush Week for prospective new members to meet active members, fellowship, have fun, ask questions, and become familiar with the distinctive characteristics. After each round of activities, prospective new members will have a better idea with which clubs they feel the best fit. Once all Rush activities have concluded, each club will select which Rush participants with whom they would like to offer bids for membership. This selection process by active club members and club sponsors is conducted through sincere peer evaluation, reflective discussion, and prayerful consideration. Once each social club has made their selections for membership bids, the Bid List is then compared to the final preference of each PNM to has attended at least two of the three evenings. Final bids are made first to those who mutually selected the particular club as their first “pref” and then the list is worked through and submitted to the club sponsors and Director of Student Leadership and Engagement for final review, approval, and processing.

On Bid Day, each new student bid recipient will be provided with a Bid Card indicating the club(s) that has offered the student a bid for membership. Each student will indicate if he or she accepts or declines their bid by participating in bid night activities with the club. Students accepting bids are then presented to their new social club brothers or sisters at Bid Night festivities on the last day of Rush. This presentation marks the beginning of the student’s affiliation with his or her social club as the student moves from prospective new member to Pledge.

Rush Week Schedule (example)

January 27	Social Club applications available
February 3	Mandatory Meeting 10:00am
February 3	Round One of Rush: For all social clubs
February 4	Round Two of Rush: For all social clubs
February 5	Round Three of Rush: Preference Night
February 7	Bid Night – All Greek Life

The Process of New Member Orientation:

What it means go through New Member Orientation

One of the most active and exciting times in your social club experience will be your new member orientation period. This process provides an opportunity for new members awaiting full membership to become educated about their club and the OBU community in general. Each club will provide new members with material regarding their organization - its structure and foundational principals. New members will also have an opportunity to develop lifelong friendships with their pledge brothers and sisters.

While new member orientation can be an exciting and fun-filled time for the pledge class, it has, in the past, also been associated with the unfortunate and prohibited practice of hazing. Hazing is defined as the act of subjecting new members to harassment, meaningless, difficult, humiliating or dangerous tasks in order to gain membership to the organization. Hazing is a violation of Federal law and, as such, is subject to both expulsion from the university and criminal charges. **Any student subjected to hazing activities, witnessing hazing activities or having knowledge of these practices should report this activity immediately to their club sponsor, Director of Student Leadership and Engagement - Melissa Stroud, or the Dean of Students – Brandon Petersen. Hazing is not tolerated in any form at Oklahoma Baptist University.**

Following new member orientation and after meeting the necessary requirements of the club, each member waiting full membership will be welcomed by the active club and given full member status. At that time the member can begin taking on a more active role in the leadership of the organization and assist in the recruitment process for future members. Once a member has gone through the entire new member orientation and been inducted into their social club, they are not eligible to participate in rush unless one full academic year of being inactive has passed.

Membership Requirements:

Rush, Member, and Academic Requirements

Each student entering the Rush process must be a full-time student (at least 12 hours), enrolled in good standing and free from any academic probation or provisional admission status. Returning students must have an established grade point average of 2.5 or greater. Only undergraduate students are eligible to participate in the social club rush process. At the conclusion of each semester the institutional GPA of all active members is checked. If an active member's institutional GPA has fallen below 2.5, but remains above a 2.0 that member will be considered on probation. They must remain diligent the following semester to improve their academic performance. If their GPA does not meet the minimum 2.5 at the conclusion of the semester, they will become inactive and can only gain an active status in the club once a full academic semester has concluded and the minimum has been reached. Should they fall below the minimum once again they must remain inactive. (Keep in mind that the required institutional GPA for Greek Life and SGA is 2.5 or greater, while other chartered clubs on campus require 2.0 or greater.)

Each Rush participant must apply to participate in the Rush process. At this time, the men's clubs rush in the fall and the women's clubs rush in the spring. **Students who have previously accepted bids from a social**

club organization on campus and later elect to become inactive are not eligible to rush and pref another club for one full academic year.

Individuals wanting to participate in the Rush process are required to attend all Rush engagements including orientation sessions, Rush events and meetings. If a student has a class conflict, they must inform the Director of Student Leadership and Engagement prior to the scheduled meeting time.

PNMs may not purchase, make, or otherwise provide gifts for members of Greek organizations. Members of social club organizations are also not permitted to provide individualized gifts to PNMs during the formal Rush process. PNMs and active social club members are also prohibited from visiting with each other outside of formal Rush activities during the formal Rush period unless to discuss academic matters. Any visitation violation could result in removal from the Rush process and/or forfeiture of membership privileges.

PNMs and active club members may not give promise, either verbal or written, to join a particular club before the formal bid process at the conclusion of the Rush period.

A Few More Words on Hazing...

The new member orientation process upholds the learning opportunities of fellowship, service, ministry, discipleship, leadership and academic support programs. OBU is committed to the intellectual, physical, spiritual, and social development of its students. As a core value of OBU, Social clubs are expected to be Christ centered. Campus organizations should emphasize the development of unity and respect for the dignity and worth of each individual. Hazing, in any form, does not uphold these learning opportunities. No forms of hazing will be allowed in the pledging process. The pledging process is meant to be an edifying process (Ephesians 4:29) in which the pledge is encouraged and valued.

In accordance with its mission and Oklahoma state law (Title 21, Section 1190), Oklahoma Baptist University aggressively seeks to create an environment free from hazing. A member (new or active) will neither participate in nor passively condone any pledging activity that may produce the following results:

1. Endanger one's physical, mental or spiritual health;
2. Reduce one's self esteem;
3. Violate any form of University policy;
4. Violate any form of local state, and/or federal law;
5. Involve the use of alcohol, drugs, or any controlled substance;
6. Violate one's moral or religious convictions; and
7. Conflict in any way with the academic demands of the University.

The University maintains a strict policy which prohibits hazing, including any activity that may recklessly or intentionally endanger the mental or physical health or safety of the student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any University-sponsored organization. Individuals or organizations persisting in hazing activities as defined by the guidelines shall be subject to disciplinary action. Willful participation in hazing activities by the pledge shall not relieve the organization or its members from disciplinary action by the University. It is the responsibility of the student and/or organization to be fully aware of and adhere to the hazing guidelines.

Violations of hazing guidelines shall be reported to the sponsor who shall make the initial attempt to resolve the alleged conflict. If the matter is not resolved satisfactorily, the student reporting the matter and/or sponsor shall inform the Social Club Council President of the situation and he/she shall attempt to resolve the matter through the Judicial Council process.

Hazing Policy for the State of Oklahoma

House Bill No. 1906, Section 3.

Signed by Henry Bellmon, Governor of The State of Oklahoma, On May 2, 1990, And to be effective July 1, 1990:

Section 3. A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1190 of Title 21, unless there is created duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

- A. No student organization or any person associated with any organization sanctioned or authorized by the governing board of any public or private school or institution of higher education in this state shall engage or participate in hazing.
- B. Any hazing activity described in subsection F of this section upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with an organization sanctioned or authorized by a public or private school or by any institution of higher education in this state which is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if the student willingly participates in such activity.
- C. A copy of the policy or the rules and regulations of the public or private school or institution of higher education which prohibits hazing shall be given to each student enrolled in the school or institution and shall be deemed to be part of the bylaws of all organizations operating at the public school or the institution of higher education.
- D. Any organization sanctioned or authorized by the governing board of a public or private school or of an institution of higher education in this state which violates subsection A of this section, upon conviction, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and may be punishable by a fine of not more than One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) and the forfeit of not less than one (1) year of all the rights and privileges of being an organization organized or operated at the public or private school or at the institution of higher education.
- E. Any individual convicted of violating the provisions of subsection A of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and may be punishable by imprisonment not to exceed ninety (90) days in the county jail, or by the imposition of a fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by any institution of higher education.
- F. For Purpose of this section
 - 1. "Hazing" means an activity which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating subject to the sanction of the public or private school or of any institution of higher education in this state;

2. "Endanger the physical health" shall include but not be limited to any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, alcoholic beverage as defined in section 506 of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes, non-intoxicating beverage as defined in Section 163.2 of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes, drug, controlled dangerous substance, or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual; and
3. "Endanger the mental health" shall include any activity, except those activities authorized by law, which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as prolonged sleep deprivation, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.

The following are possible examples of hazing. This is not an inclusive list, but intended to help guide the pledge process.

Subtle Hazing: Actions that are against accepted sorority or fraternity standards of conduct, behavior and good tastes. An activity, action or attitude directed toward a new member which ridicules, humiliates or embarrasses (whether intended or not and generally judged by an outside party).

Examples:

- Any violation of Ritual instructions, procedures or statutes.
- Never doing anything with the new members (ignoring them as though they are not worthy)
- Calling new members any demeaning name (scum, maggot, loser, etc.)
- Requiring new members to call members Mr., Miss, Brother, Sister, etc.
- Any form of demerits or deprivation of privileges for standards above those of initiated members
- Requiring new members to carry anything at all times (i.e. backpack with specific items, a paddle, a 'pledge book' for signatures, etc.)
- Keeping information from the new members prior to initiation (date of initiation, time required each day for fraternity duties, etc.) or deception prior to the ritual designed to convince a new member that he or she will not be initiated.
- Memorization of stories, poems, or information not directly related to your chapter.
- New members expected to do anything exclusively for the entertainment of the initiated members or that all of the initiated members do not do with them.
- New versus initiated members in athletic contests that are purposefully unfair and do not promote friendly competition, or instead of teams composed of both groups

Harassment Hazing: Anything that causes mental anguish or physical discomfort to the new member. Any activity or activity directed toward a new member or activity which confuses, frustrates, or causes undue stress, requires an unreasonable or inordinate amount of the individual's time, or in any manner impairs the individual's academic efforts.

Examples:

- Preventing a new or initiated member from attending class or engaging them with lengthy work sessions that do not allow adequate time for academic work and studies
- Listing of new member's faults or sins, whether publicly or privately (i.e. circling fat, confessionals, etc.)

- Putting new members in a room that is uncomfortable (noise, temperature, too small) at any time (including during pre-initiation activities or between portions of the ritual)
- Extremely loud music or many repetitions of the same music played at any time including during pre-initiation week or between portions of the ritual
- Conducting any type of activity to falsely create respect and trust through trickery (i.e. while blind folded eating goldfish/peaches, light bulb glass/chips, reaching into a toilet with bananas, trust falls, etc.)
- Verbal abuse (yelling at, taunting, getting “in their face,” etc.)
- Any form of questioning under pressure or in an uncomfortable position (alphabet to a burning match, firing line/line up, grilling individuals or groups, having meaningless consequences for incorrect answers, etc.)
- Requiring new members to wear unusual, conspicuous, embarrassing, or uncomfortable clothing, costumes, or uniforms or to carry objects designed to make the new or initiated member look foolish
- Nudity at any time; causing a new or initiated member to be indecently exposed or embarrassed
- Requiring only new members to enter by back/side door/window or go up back/side staircase
- Stunt or skit nights/events with demeaning and/or crude skits and/or poems
- Requiring new members to perform ridiculous work assignments or personal service to actives such as carrying books, running errands, performing maid duties, late night food runs, etc.
- Silence periods for new members (i.e. forbidding them to communicate or visit with family, friends, or others outside the organization for any length of time)
- Preventing a new member from practicing personal hygiene (i.e. wear same clothes for a week, not wearing makeup, not wearing contact lenses, etc.)

Violent Hazing: Anything that causes physical and/or emotional harm.

Examples:

- Forced consumption or ingestion of any substance (i.e. alcohol, food, non-food substances, etc.)
- Sexual violation or unwarranted touching of the body
- Not being allowed to eat for any reason
- Throwing or squirting anything at or on a new or initiated member (i.e. whipped cream, water, paint, etc.)
- Tests of courage, bravery, stamina
- Pushing, shoving or tackling new members
- Physical or mental shocks, regardless of degree or nature (i.e. hot or cold (ice) baths)
- Creation of excessive fatigue
- Any form of forced physical activities and exercise, whether extreme or not (e.g., push-ups, sit-ups or other calisthenics, runs, walks, etc.; whether on a regular surface such as land or a floor, or in some substance such as mud, snow, etc.)
- Sleep deprivation - waking up new members repeatedly during the night or all-night work or study sessions
- Uncomfortable or inconvenient sleeping arrangements (i.e. not being allowed to sleep in own room , sleeping outdoors, in house lock-ins)
- Forced road trips off campus, kidnaps of new or initiated members. This prohibition is not intended to abolish trips to other chapters, fraternity headquarters, and the like. It is meant to abolish situations in which new or initiated members are left stranded in the middle of nowhere without any money, and any other similar activity.
- New member-initiated member games designed to physically harm members of the new member class
- Assault including paddling, beating, striking, or hitting
- Burning, branding, tattooing or marking in any other way of a new or initiated member

- Forcing an individual to participate in any activity or become involved in any situation that is in violation of federal, state or local laws; contrary to the person's genuine moral or religious beliefs; or contrary to the rules and regulations of the educational institution or the national fraternity

NEW MEMBER EDUCATION PROGRAM:

What Do New Members Expect from Their Education Process?

New Members desire many things from their social clubs. They expect these things when they become full members, and they expect them during their education period.

They want:

- To develop long-lasting personal friendships
- To have a positive experience with their organization
- To learn the history and the details about their organization
- To feel wanted and needed
- To be valued as an invested member
- To be informed about what their organization expects from them
- To join an organization, not a disorganization
- To be respected as individuals and members
- To be helped in adjusting to college life, classes, and organization responsibilities
- To have fair treatment and not be subservient to initiated members
- To do only the work that initiated members do
- To respect older members
- To have initiation requirements, but not to have to earn active status through personal favors, competition or juvenile activities
- To grow spiritually, and to be involved in ministering to one another and others
- To fellowship through service opportunities
- To develop leadership potential
- To have lots of fun. After all, what did everyone tell them during rush?

Goals of a Productive New Member Program

- Teach organizational mission, values, and identity
- Foster Unity
- Develop Leadership Skills
- Instill a sense of belonging and membership
- Promote Scholarship
- Instill history and legacy of organization
- Build Knowledge of and Increase Relations to other Greek organizations on campus
- Involve new members in the local and campus community
- Mature Spiritually in a community

When Developing a New Member Education Program

- Know Thyself - Have a clear understanding of who you are as an organization and what you are about.
- Have a clear, written mission statement for your new member education program and for the Big/Little Brother/Sister Program.
- Make the new member program as consistent as possible from semester to semester. Don't leave room for gross interpretation.
- Have all members involved in the process of new member education.
- Don't over program or monopolize a new member's time.
- Don't expect or require things from a new member that you don't expect from a member (e.g. study hours, wearing a pledge pin when members aren't wearing their membership badges/pins, daily/nightly meetings, early morning meetings, etc.)
- Make fraternal values and principles the basis for the new member program.

- Make the academic achievement and support of new members a priority and a component of the new member education program.
- Include the concept of lifetime membership in the new member education program. Stress that the fraternity/sorority experience doesn't end your junior year and shouldn't end upon graduation. Discuss the opportunities for lifetime involvement: advising undergraduate chapters, alumni reunions, making financial donations to the organization's Educational Foundation, etc.
- If in doubt about the appropriateness of a new member activity, ask the Dean of Students. You will never get "in trouble" for asking whether something could be construed as hazing!

Before New Member Education

- Review your new member program at the beginning of each semester with the help of the Assistant Dean of Student Leadership and Engagement, Dean of Students your advisor, and active members.
- Set high membership eligibility standards and make recruitment the process of "earning your letters" through a potential new member's character, academic performance, leadership, and potential. New member education should be the process learning to integrate their existing skills and talents into the organization and identifying areas they would like to develop through the Greek Life experience.
- Provide a written copy of your new member program and expectations to potential new members during recruitment and again to new members before new member education begins.
- Relay chapter expectations to alumni. Don't be afraid to set boundaries with alumni and hold them accountable as you would a member.
- Involve families in the new member education process. Send copies of your new member program and a letter of introduction, including the chapter's stance on hazing, to the families of new members. Develop an event where families can visit the chapter during new member education.
- Communicate in writing what new members should do if they are overwhelmed or feel pressure to do something they normally would not.

During New Member Education

- Take any concerns expressed by new members seriously. If you don't know how to handle a situation, ask the Assistant Dean of Student Leadership and Engagement, Dean of Students or your advisor.
- Review ritual with new members before initiation to alleviate any fears they may have.
- Host a brotherhood/sisterhood event for members before each initiation where you discuss ritual procedures and its message (your organization's values and expectations).

After New Member Education

- Review the ritual process, message and your organizational values with new members during a post-initiation retreat.
- Ask new members to evaluate the new member program after initiation and provide feedback for ways to improve the experience for the next group of new members.
- Review the new member program after each initiation with *all* members to determine how the experience can be improved for both members and new members. If issues or problems arose, ask the Dean of Students or the advisor for help in addressing these issues during the next new member education program.
- Don't fall into the trap of treating new initiates as second-class citizens. Eliminate the use of the term "rookie," "newbie," or "pledge." (if used).

Social Club RUSH Application (EXAMPLE)

Spring

Applications are due by NOON on Feb. 11th. Please turn into GC 101.

All applicants are required to attend a mandatory meeting on Thurs., Feb. 14th at 8 pm in the upstairs GC. If you have questions, please contact Melissa Stroud.

Name: _____ Classification: _____

Current Housing Assignment: _____ Hometown: _____

Home Church: _____ Local Church: _____

Cell Number: _____ Email: _____

Major: _____ Shirt Size: _____

What Social Media do you use? Please specify (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube, other) and give your screen name.

List activities and programs in which you have actively been involved in during your time at OBU.

Why are you interested in becoming a part of the Greek Life Community at OBU? What are you specifically looking for in a Social Club?

What do you aspire to do after graduating from OBU?

What are you interested in? What hobbies and activities do you like to do?