

Diversity Network Affiliation

Diversity Initiatives | Office of Student Activities

What is the Diversity Network?

Diversity Network Affiliation provides a special designation to student organizations who wish to engage in an integrated relationship with the Diversity Initiatives and the Multicultural Student Association. The purpose of this affiliation serves to:

- Strengthen the communication and relationship between organizations with similar goals for diversity
- Provide support for programming, activities, and dialogue which address aspects of identity
- Formally recognize student organizations that support, educate, and/or advocate for diversity and inclusion efforts
- Cultivate a campus climate of inclusion with acceptance and understanding of human difference
- Provide leadership and organization development opportunities focused on diversity and inclusion

Does my organization qualify?

Any student organization may choose to affiliate with the Diversity Network, and enjoy the same privileges as registered/independent student organizations. The purpose of these student organizations primarily focus on the support, education, and/or advocacy of social identities and issues affecting local and global communities. Under this designation, these student organizations primarily focus on one of the following:

- Social justice organizations-raise awareness, engage in service, and/or advocate for a social issue(s).
- Identity-based organizations-educate, support, and/or advocate for a specific social identity which may include but is not limited to gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, political affiliation, gender identity, national origin, language, ability, or military status.
- Faith-based organizations-educate, represent and/or practice religious values and beliefs.

What are the benefits and obligations of being a Diversity Network Affiliate?

Affiliates will enjoy the privileges and abide by obligations set forth in the Affiliation Agreement which includes the following:

- Affiliates will receive support from Diversity Initiatives through assistance with event planning, contracts, marketing, campus resources, funding and additional organization and leadership development opportunities.
- Affiliates will be eligible for MSA Co-Sponsorship which may include but is not limited to assistance with event planning, advertising, volunteers, funding, and assessment tools.
- Each affiliate will designate a liaison from their organization to the Multicultural Student Association. Each MSA Liaison will:
 - Serve as a representative and advocate of their organization to MSA.
 - Be an active member by attending meetings, programs, and serving on committees of the Multicultural Student Association.
 - Assist in making decisions about programming, co-sponsorships, and MSA officer appointments.
 - Disseminate information, announcements, and opportunities to their organization.
 - Provide updates and information from their organization at MSA meetings.
 - Complete an activity report outlining the programs and priorities of their organization at the end of each semester.

Affiliation Process

Student organizations are eligible to apply for this special designation any time during the academic year through the affiliation process administered by Diversity Initiatives. The Assistant Director of Diversity Initiatives must make a recommendation for student organizations to affiliate with final approval from the MSA Executive Board.

Step One-Application: Each student organization shall complete an application addressing each of the criteria and why they intend to affiliate with the Diversity Network. The criteria for this special designation are outlined below:

Purpose

The purpose of organization shall focus on the support, education, and/or advocacy of a social identity and/or issue(s) affecting local and global communities. Typically, organizations focus on one of the following:

- Social justice organizations-raise awareness, engage in service, and/or advocate for a social issue(s).
- Identity-based organizations-educate, support, and/or advocate for a specific social identity which may include but is not limited to gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, political affiliation, gender identity, national origin, language, ability, or military status.
- Faith-based organizations-represent and/or practice religious values and beliefs.

Activity

- The organization hosts regularly scheduled meetings.
- The organization host programs that highlight human difference, equality and respect.
- The organization must be recognized student organization by the Office of Student Activities.
- The organization must abide by University policies, local, state, and federal laws.

Inclusion

- The organization must not discriminate on the basis of any social identity which may include but is not limited to race, ethnicity, creed, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity.
- The organization must not haze for the purpose of admission into or affiliation with the organization.
- The organization members must be free to leave the organization or dissociate without fear of retribution or harassment.

Step Two-Submit Application: Each student organization shall submit their application and letter of intent to the Office of Student Activities for review.

Step Three-OSA Review: Once reviewed, the Assistant Director for Diversity Initiatives will make a recommendation to the MSA Executive Board. The Assistant Director for Diversity Initiatives may ask student organizations to re-submit their application and letter of intent addressing specific aspects by a specific deadline prior to a recommendation.

Step Four-MSA Review: The MSA Executive Board will make a decision to accept or not accept.

- 1) Accept: Student organizations that are accepted to affiliate will move into a probationary period of the affiliation process.
- 2) Not Accept: Student organizations that are not accepted may re-apply in one academic year for re-consideration.

Step Five-Probationary Period: If the application is accepted, student organizations will move into probationary period for the next academic semester. During this period, the organization must meet all their obligations of the affiliation and any Co-Sponsorship Agreement.

Step Five-Final Acceptance: At the end of the probationary period, the organization's affiliation status will be reviewed determine if all the obligations have been met. A decision will be rendered to either affiliate or not affiliate.

- 1) Affiliate: If a student organization is accepted as an affiliate, the organization will receive an official letter of affiliation.
- 2) Not Affiliate: If a student organization is not accepted as an affiliate because they failed to meet obligations in the probationary period, the organization will receive a letter outlining the obligations which were not met. The organization will be eligible to re-apply for the next semester.