**Student Organization Membership Eligibility Policy**

**Membership Eligibility**

Students desiring to serve as members of a student organization are expected to meet the following requirements:

1. Undergraduate students are required to be registered for and maintain a minimum of 12 semester hours.
2. Students with fewer than 12 semester hours due to an internship or practicum experience recognized by an academic department may request an exception to this policy at the discretion of the Director of Student Activities.
3. Student organizations have the right to have additional requirements in place for prospective members and officers in accordance with their duly approved constitutions and/or by-laws.
4. No student who is under academic or social suspension from the institution shall be eligible to become or maintain the status of a member or officer of an organization.
5. Graduate students may participate in Tennessee State University student organizations as long as the organization’s constitution and/or by-laws do not prevent graduate student membership. Graduate students wishing to join an organization must be full-time students as defined by the specific program of enrollment and must be in good academic standing. Graduate students may participate as either student members of a student organization or as a secondary advisor. No graduate student may serve as both an advisor and member in any student organization.

**Academic Eligibility**

1. For membership in a student organization, students must have and maintain a cumulative minimum grade point average of 2.5 and a semester minimum grade point average of 2.5 in order to maintain active membership.
2. Members with a cumulative 2.4 grade point average or higher and a semester grade point of average of a 2.3 to 2.49 will be given probationary membership and given specific membership restrictions and requirements (as stated in Section 4. Probationary and Inactive Membership Status).
3. Members with a cumulative grade point average of 2.39 or lower and a semester grade point average of 1.99 or lower will be given inactive membership and given specific membership restrictions and requirements (as stated in Section 4. Probationary and Inactive Membership Status).
4. The Office of Student Activities reserves the right to consider extenuating circumstances when making final decisions regarding eligibility.
5. Organizations may have higher academic standards than Tennessee State University’s academic standards. Such student organizational academic eligibility expectations for active membership should be outlined in their approved constitutions.

**Officer Requirements**

Any organization holding an election must submit the results of the election to the Office of Student Activities immediately following the election. Each organization shall designate an officer of the organization who is responsible for the collection and disbursement of funds and the maintenance of books and records.

**Probationary and Inactive Membership Status**

1. Probationary and inactive membership requirements are located in the Academic Eligibility section. The Office of Student Activities will notify organization presidents and advisors of the names of all individuals within the organization who have been declared inactive members or are on probation based on their academic performance. Students' grade point averages will not be disclosed due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
2. *Academic Plan of Action Form*—Members with probationary membership status must submit an “Academic Plan of Action Form” to the Office of Student Activities within two weeks of the following semester. The Academic Plan of Action must outline how the student plans to improve his or her grade point average during the current semester. Probationary members are required to regularly utilize the Success Center and provide documentation to the Office of Student Activities confirming their attendance at these meetings. The amount of hours and workshops will be determined by the Success Center and approved by the Director of Student Activities
3. *Probationary Members (based on academics)*—Probationary members based on academics performance who fail to 1) submit an Academic Plan of Action Form for approval by the Office of Student Activities, 2) meet required hours and attend designated workshops with the Success Center, and/or 3) improve their grade point average to meet active membership status will be considered inactive. Active membership status can be regained when the member meets the academic requirements.
4. *Inactive Members (based on academics)*— Students who have been declared inactive members based on their academic performance have the following restrictions placed upon them.
	1. Inactive members may not:
* Attend organization meetings and events sponsored by the organization;
* Vote for new members, officers, or other business of the organization;
* Represent the organization in any manner, including:
	+ Serving as an elected or selected officer;
	+ Participating in intramurals, sport events, or competitions;
	+ Participating in campus-wide events including Homecoming, etc;
* Participate in the organization’s membership intake process.
	1. Inactive members may:
* Participate in, but may not exceed, up to two hours per week for service activities.
* Pay membership dues according to the policies of the organization.
* Organizations with scholastic committees/officers may make reasonable restrictions or offer special study skill assistance in addition to the restrictions listed above.

**Probationary and Inactive Member Status Based on Student Conduct**

Members charged with violating the Code of Student Conduct shall immediately be placed on probationary status with restrictions on activities until further notice from the Office of Student Conduct. Upon determination that a member has violated any of the rules, regulations, or disciplinary offenses set forth in the Code of Student Conduct, the member will be placed on inactive status. The Office of Student Conduct will determine sanctions.