

RSO Pandemic Guidelines

Overview:

To ensure the health and safety of individuals and the collective ULM community, Recognized Student Organization (RSO) activities will operate with strict parameters during the Fall 2020 semester. These are the established guidelines and expectations. Exceptions to these guidelines may be made by the Office of Student Life and Leadership. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in serious repercussions and possibly suspension of the RSO.

Specific Guidelines for the Activities of Recognized Student Organizations:

SPRING 2021 UPDATE:

All "meetings" are required to be virtual effective January 1, 2021 until further notice (with select, approved exceptions).

- A moratorium for ALL in-person RSO events and activities will be in effect between the time residence halls open on Friday, August 14th and after 5pm Tuesday, September 1, 2020. No events will take place until Wednesday, September 2nd. These events will only be approved at that time if your RSO has met the attendance requirements for the fall RSO Leadership Orientation meeting held on Friday, August 21st at 12pm via Zoom AND submitted your Pandemic Response Plan via Wingspan.
 - Exceptions to the moratorium, at this time include Greek Life Recruitment activities and official Week of Welcome activities. Exceptions have been approved by the Office of Student Life and Leadership.
- RSOs will be required to develop an organization-specific Pandemic Response Plan.
- In-Person RSO events and activities must have an event/activity plan in place that ensures the safety for members and participants. This plan must be attached to the Wingspan event request submission in order to be approved. It should detail all precautions and safety measures being taken and ways that the event has been modified to ensure safety.
- Tracking attendance at all in-person events and activities is REQUIRED. You must track attendance through Wingspan.
- No food or alcohol may be served or provided at RSOs events or activities.
 - Exceptions to this mandate, at this time include Campus Activities Board and Student Government Association events as well as CCM, BCM, Wesley, and WFR College Ministry events under strict conditions and approved by the Office of Student Life and Leadership.

- RSO Travel to represent the student organization in off-campus events or activities is prohibited through the fall semester.
 - Under limited conditions, RSO activity may require transportation to engage in the essential business of the organization within a designated mileage limit of 30 miles. Carpooling is not allowed and use of University vehicles is allowed only if approved by the department with oversight for the vehicle.

RSO Meetings

Definition: a recurring/repeating membership ONLY gathering where the business of the RSO is conducted.

- All RSO Meetings must follow the policies and mandates set forth by the state of Louisiana and the University. If all social distancing guidelines can be followed 100%, you may host your meetings in-person. That includes 50% capacity of the facility you are using and/or no more than 50 people (check with the facility manager of the space you wish to reserve to find out that number BEFORE you make a reservation and event request submission), maintaining 6ft distance between all people at all times, and wearing masks at all times. If your RSO's meetings cannot meet these guidelines in a given facility, your meeting is required to be conducted virtually as of August 5, 2020. Please review the Student Life and Leadership website for consistent updates.
- Failure to comply will result in suspension for the remainder of the semester and a fine to the RSO.

RSO EVENTS

Definition: in-person gatherings that are essential to the organization in order to pursue the mission of the group. These events are restricted to members of the ULM community (no guests, including in-person invited speakers/performers) for the fall semester.

- ROSs will be eligible to host up to ONE event (with in-person participation) per 30-day period between August 2, 2020 and December 12, 2020.
- Maximum in-person attendance at the event will follow state and University guidelines as they evolve.
- RSO events will only be permitted in the following spaces and under these conditions:
 - A facility reservation with the proper department.
 - A reservation for a facility NOT under the oversight of Student Life and Leadership, Academic Facilities, Event Services, or Recreational Services that has been approved by the appropriate department for RSO use will be under the supervision/direction of the department responsible for the space.
 - An event request submission in Wingspan.
- Failure to comply will result in suspension for the remainder of the semester and a fine to the RSO.

**The above parameters apply only to events where participants gather in-person. ROSs may host unlimited virtual events.*

RSO Activities:

Definition: in-person recurring/repeating membership ONLY gatherings where the business of the organization that CANNOT take place virtually is conducted (ex: practice, rehearsal, etc.)

- RSOs will be eligible to host up to two activities with in-person participation per 30-day period between August 17, 2020 and December 7, 2020.
 - Exceptions to this mandate, at this time apply to Spirit Groups and other Recreational RSOs such as Water Ski Team.
- Space use conditions, attendance, and capacity guidelines as defined in RSO Events (above) apply.
- Failure to comply will result in suspension for the remainder of the semester and a fine to the RSO.

Social Media:

- When posting content on your official RSO platforms, you must be mindful that you are using the University's name and representing ULM at all times. Your content must align with the policies and mandates set forth by the University.
- Content taken on ULM campus MUST showcase all social distancing guidelines are being followed, whether on official RSO social media accounts or personal member social media accounts representing an RSO by association.
- Content taken at any RSO event on or off campus MUST showcase all social distancing guidelines are being followed, whether on official RSO social media accounts or personal member social media accounts representing an RSO by association.
- Use of old content not showcasing social distancing guidelines is strongly discouraged; if it is used, it must include date taken and that date must be prior to August 1, 2020. Falsifying this information will result in 3rd offense punishment stated below and possible RSO suspension.
- Content showcasing blatant disregard for safety of members and ULM community taken on or off campus will face the following consequences:
 - 1st offence - \$50 fine to the RSO and 50 hours of community service
 - 2nd offence -- \$100 fine to the RSO and 100 hours of community service
 - 3rd offense -- \$250 fine to the RSO, 250 hours of community service, and suspension for the remainder of the semester

July 27, 2020. These guidelines are subject to update as the University navigates the Fall 2020 semester.