

# General Requirements

Below we've listed some general requirements to keep in mind as you think about starting a student organization. Currently there are two main types of organizations, Associated Student Organizations and Registered Student Organizations. Over 85% of student organizations fall into the Registered Student Organization category.

**Please note that additional requirements can exist for certain organization categories such as Sports Clubs and Social Fraternities and Sororities. Please make sure you are following the Resource Guide you receive to complete the process properly and ensure you are meeting all the requirements necessary for your organization type.**

| University of South Carolina Student Organization Types |  |   |
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|   | Associated Student Organization  | Registered Student Organization   |
| University Advisor                                      | Required - must meet criteria and be designated by Dean, AVP, or their designee to advise the ASO within the context of their University employment. Must complete all additional requirements set forth by the LSC. | Not required. Educational support is offered through the Leadership & Service Center  |
| Constitution  | Required - must meet the requirements set forth by the Leadership & Service Center.  | Review and approval by the Leadership & Service Center is not required. Student organizations must acknowledge they have a governing document. A sample constitution is provided. |
| Membership  | Maintain an updated roster with 7+ members and 2 officers. Membership limited to students officially connected with the University of South Carolina   | Maintain an updated roster with 7+ members and 2 officers. Membership limited to students officially connected with the University of South Carolina                              |
| Officer Criteria  | Student leaders must meet and maintain throughout their term the cumulative GPA requirement for graduation, maintain at least part-time enrollment status, and be in good standing.                                  | Must meet the requirements for membership.  |
| Organization Name                                       | If the ASO's name includes the University of South Carolina's name or any variation, the ASO's name must be distinct from the name of the associated department.   | Maintain a student organization name which does not include the University of South Carolina's name (or any variation) in any form.   |

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| <p>Example</p> | <p>The Homecoming Commission student organization has been delegated by the Department of Student Life the task of developing engaging programming to celebrate campus traditions. Within a Department of Student Life employee's job description is overseeing, advising, and assuming responsibility of all activities of the Homecoming Commission.</p> | <p>The Chess and Go Club has not been delegated any authority from the university and does not perform functions on its behalf, therefore it is an independent legal entity comprising of a group of self-governed students registered with the university as a student organization.</p> |
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## Additional Tips for Associated Student Organizations

### Advisor

All associated student organizations are required to have an Advisor. In order for a Faculty/Staff member to serve as your advisor they must:

- Be employed as a full-time faculty or administrative staff member at the University of South Carolina and be employed with the associated department. Part-time faculty and administrative staff and university affiliate military personnel may serve as an advisor to an ASO under special circumstances with the approval of the Department of Student Life.
- Be designated by the appropriate Dean, Associate Vice President, or their designee to act in an advisory capacity, as opposed to a directive relationship to the ASO.

### Constitution

All associated student organizations are required to maintain a constitution. A constitution is the governing document for your organization. It outlines how your organization is going to run. For the full list of what is required in your constitution and sample phrases visit our Constitution Guide in the [documents section](#) of our Garnet Gate page.