

Society of Sisters

Student Organization Constitution**

Article I. Name of Organization

The name of this student organization shall be the Society of Sisters at The Ohio State University (hereafter referred to as “SOS”).

Article II. Organization Purpose

The Society of Sisters exists to unite and empower women on Ohio State’s campus, especially—but not exclusively—women of color. The organization fosters a culture of academic excellence, leadership, mentorship, and professional development while creating a safe and supportive sisterhood that promotes mental, emotional, and social well-being. Additionally, it is committed to providing meaningful service to both the campus and the greater Columbus community, and to cultivating collaboration with other organizations to advance the empowerment of women and marginalized communities.

Article III. University Regulations

Section A. Harassment and Discrimination, including Sexual Misconduct

Society of Sisters agrees that it will not engage in sexual misconduct nor any harassment or discrimination on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status or any other basis in accordance with the Student Organization Registration Guidelines.

Section B. Hazing

Society of Sisters agrees to maintain a zero-tolerance policy for hazing, in compliance with Ohio State University and Collin's Law. All members must conduct themselves in a manner that supports an environment free from hazing. Hazing includes any activity, regardless of consent,

that causes or creates a substantial risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm or humiliation to any individual as part of membership or affiliation with the student organization. If found responsible for hazing, members and/or the organization may face disciplinary actions.

Section C. Bylaws

Society of Sisters retains the right to maintain separate bylaws to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included in the previous articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements set forth by local, state, and federal laws, The Ohio State University’s regulations, policies, and procedures, and the Council on Student Affairs (CSA) Student Organization Registration Guidelines. Organizations may make amendments and changes to the bylaws without consulting the Ohio Union & Student Activities department, and changes to bylaws do not require approval. All elements of organizational bylaws shall be consistent with the organization’s currently approved constitution on file and CSA constitution requirements.

Article IV. Membership

Section A. Membership Eligibility

Active members must:

- Attend at least 70% of scheduled general body meetings each semester.
- Participate in at least one service or outreach activity each semester.
- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5.
- Abide by SOS’s mission, values, and University policies.

Section B. Member Selection

Membership is open to all currently enrolled Ohio State University students. To become a member of SOS, non-members must complete the following steps:

1. Complete the SOS Member Interest Form provided at events or on organizational social media.
2. Attend at least one general body meeting to be officially added to the roster.

3. Be added to the GroupMe or communication platform by the Secretary after completing steps 1 and 2.

Associate or honorary memberships may be extended to alumni, faculty, and community members, but such members may not vote or hold office.

Section C. Membership Timeline

Students are permitted to join this organization at any point during the year without an application.

Section D. Member Removal

A member may be removed for:

- Failure to meet membership expectations.
- Actions inconsistent with SOS's mission and values.
- Violations of University policies.

Removal requires a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee after the member has been notified in writing and given an opportunity to respond.

Article V. Advisor

Section A. Advisory Duties and Responsibilities

The advisor of Society of Sisters will provide guidance, mentorship, and continuity. The advisor will advise officers on University policies and procedures, attend meetings when possible, and serve as a non-voting member of SOS.

Section B. Advisor Term

The advisor will be appointed for a term of one year at the end of the academic school year, and the Executive Board will determine reappointment.

Section C. Advisor Selection

The Executive Committee shall appoint the advisor, subject to confirmation by the membership. An advisor may be removed by majority vote of the Executive Committee if deemed necessary.

Section D. Advisor Replacement

The Executive Board will nominate potential candidates based on interest and alignment with SOS’s mission. A vote will take place among the Executive Board, and the majority will determine the selected candidate.

Article VI. Organization Leadership

Section A. Officer Positions

President

- Provides overall leadership and direction for SOS.
- Presides over general body and Executive Committee meetings.
- Serves as the official spokesperson of SOS.
- Delegates responsibilities and ensures accountability.
- Meets regularly with the advisor(s).

Senior Vice President

- Assumes duties of the President in their absence.
- Oversees internal operations and committee coordination.
- Acts as liaison between the Executive Committee and general body.

Junior Vice President

- Oversees external partnerships, collaborations, and community relations.
- Serves as Parliamentarian to maintain order in meetings.
- Assists with securing speakers and panels for events.

Secretary

- Records and distributes minutes of all meetings.
- Maintains membership and attendance records.
- Manages organizational communications, including weekly email updates.

Treasurer

- Manages all financial affairs of SOS.
- Maintains accurate records of income and expenditures.
- Prepares and presents semesterly budgets.
- Coordinates with the Outreach Chair on fundraising initiatives.

Events Chair(s)

- Plans and executes all programs, workshops, and social events.
- Secures venues, speakers, and event logistics.
- Collaborates with Marketing Chair on event promotion.

Marketing Chair

- Oversees publicity, social media, and marketing campaigns.
- Designs flyers and promotional materials.
- Develops recruitment campaigns to increase membership.

Morale Chair(s)

- Plans bonding activities and initiatives to strengthen sisterhood.
- Recognizes member achievements and fosters positive morale.
- Supports overall member retention.

Outreach Chair

- Leads community service projects and philanthropy efforts.
- Builds relationships with community partners.
- Ensures SOS is active in local and campus service initiatives.

Section B. Officer Eligibility

To be eligible for office, candidates must:

- Be active members in good standing.
- Have at least one semester of active membership in SOS.
- Maintain the minimum GPA of 2.5.

Section C. Officer Selection Process

1. Interested candidates must notify a member of the Executive Board to receive the Executive Application.
2. Qualified applicants will be interviewed by the Executive Board.
3. Approved candidates will be presented to the general body.
4. The general body will vote, and officers will be elected by **simple majority vote** of members present (quorum required).
5. All elected officers must complete a training session led by the outgoing Executive Board.

Section D. Officer Removal

An officer may be removed for failure to perform duties, misconduct, or policy violations.

1. Concerns regarding an officer must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board.
2. The officer will be notified and given an opportunity to respond before a decision is made.

3. Removal requires a **two-thirds vote of the Executive Board**.
 4. Vacancies shall be filled by a special election or Executive Board appointment as outlined in the bylaws.
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Article VII. Organization Dissolution

Section A. Dissolution Requirements

SOS shall be dissolved if:

- Active membership falls below the minimum required by the Council on Student Affairs.
- The organization fails to maintain a President and Treasurer for two consecutive academic terms.
- The Executive Board and advisor mutually determine that the organization can no longer operate effectively.

Section B. Dissolution Procedures, including Assets and Debts

In the event of dissolution:

1. Any unspent operating funds provided by Student Activities must be returned to Student Activities.
2. Program funds raised through fundraising or reimbursements will be donated to a women's organization chosen by SOS.
3. All outstanding debts or financial obligations must be paid using any remaining organizational assets.
4. If debts exceed available assets, the Executive Board is responsible for ensuring all debts are settled. Under no circumstances may any debt be transferred to The Ohio State University or its entities.
5. If assets exceed debts after all obligations are fulfilled, remaining funds will be donated to a women's organization of SOS's choosing.

- 6. Dissolution requires a **majority vote of the presiding officials** (Executive Board and Advisor).

Article VIII. Constitutional Amendments

Section A. Amendment Process

By-laws may be amended by proposing the change in writing and reading it at a general meeting of the membership. The proposed change will then be brought up for a vote at the next general meeting, requiring a **two-thirds majority vote** of the membership present (quorum required).