

Categories of Membership for OFS-USA Database

ACTIVE MEMBERS

- **Inquirers** (date of Welcoming)
- **Candidates** (date of Admission)
- **Professed (Active) Members** (date of Profession)
If applicable, (date of Transfer from Fraternity of Origin); (Date of Receiving Fraternity council acceptance of Transfer)
- **Professed (Active) Excused** (from attending meetings)
Professed members who cannot actively participate in community life on a regular basis because of health, family, work or distance. Local council needs to maintain regular contact. (GC 53.3; NS 18.10) (date of council decision to mark “excused”; second date for annual status review)

Professed Members may leave the fraternity in the following ways:

- **Deceased** (date of death)
- **Lapsed** (NS 18.7b)
 - someone who no longer attends meetings
 - does not financially support the fraternity
 - has not been excused from these obligations by the council
 - has declined repeated invitations to return to fraternity
 - (date of council decision to mark as “lapsed”)
 - can be reversed by the council upon request of the individual (date of council decision)
- **Temporarily Withdrawn**
 - voluntary withdrawal from the fraternity (not from the Order) (GC 56.1)
 - *officially requested* in writing by the individual, *approved by the council* (date of council decision) and noted in the fraternity register
 - involves exclusion from fraternity meetings and activities
 - can be reversed by the council upon request of the individual if the council agrees that the circumstances leading to the withdrawal have been overcome (date of return to active status)
- **Definitively (Permanently) Withdrawn**
 - voluntary withdrawal from the fraternity *and from the Order* (GC 58.1)
 - *officially requested* in writing by the individual and *approved by the council* (date of council decision)
 - not reversible

- **Suspended**
 - removed from the fraternity for serious cause (GC 56.2) by vote of the council (date of council decision)
 - involves exclusion from fraternity meetings and activities
 - suspension can be reversed by the council upon request of the individual if the council agrees that the circumstances leading to the suspension have been overcome (date of council decision)

- **Dismissed**
 - removed from the fraternity and from the Order (GC 58.2-.4) for serious cause by vote of the council (date of council decision)
 - must be declared by the council of the higher level (date of Regional Council decision)
 - (date of confirmation by National Council)
 - not reversible

See National Statutes Art. 20 (Transfer, Withdrawal, Suspension and Dismissal from the Fraternity and the Order); see also OFS Constitutions Art. 55-59.