



NPC Variable Quota Fast Facts

Purpose

Variable Quota (VQ) aims to stabilize a College Panhellenic community for its long-term health and make all chapter sizes comparable. Implementing VQ is intended to be a short-term, community- and chapter-level stabilization process (i.e., no more than 1-2 years). VQ is not an automatic solution for an extension that may have gone differently than planned.

Conditions that May Warrant VQ Consideration and Implementation

To be considered, the College Panhellenic community must meet most of the following conditions:

- Recently completed the extension process or needs to consider extension.
- Wide discrepancies in chapter sizes.
- Two or more chapters are significantly below the median or average chapter size.
- A high percentage of eligible women interested in sorority membership have already participated in the primary recruitment process.
- Panhellenic culture and campus reputation challenge organizations to reach size parity through the primary recruitment period and in continuous open bidding (COB).
- Experiencing rapid growth and large quotas.
- Extremely large chapter sizes create significant space availability challenges for chapter community programming, operations and campus meeting/programming space.
- Lowering the quota of the chapter(s) with the highest relative recruitment strength (RRS) would not significantly impact their ability to meet their facility requirements.
- Lower RRS chapters are willing to invite most potential new members (PNMs) to membership.
- Existence of some upheaval (e.g., the removal of and/or the return of sanctioned chapters).

VQ Implementation Result Observations

- VQ gives a slight bump to a chapter or chapters struggling with recruitment, but it provides the most effective push to get a chapter close to parity if it is new to the Panhellenic community (One to three years post-establishment).
- VQ has been successful for most College Panhellenics in moving the chapters closer to parity and closing the differential gap between the largest and smallest chapters.
- VQ enabled the smallest chapter to compete against stronger recruiting chapters.
- VQ provided the newer chapter to quickly establish a positive reputation due to VQ's success.
- VQ has been successful in slowing overall chapter growth for some mega-chapter College Panhellenics (e.g., the University of Arkansas and the University of Mississippi).



History of VQ

The original intent of VQ was to find a creative solution for a challenging situation at the University of Arkansas - Fayetteville in 2013. At that time the community experienced:

- Wide discrepancy in chapter sizes – variance between the smallest and largest chapter was 272
- Extremely large quotas (151) – a record at the time
- Extension challenges (added two member organizations at once)
- Barriers to entry for new organizations

Additionally, with its successful implementation at Arkansas we observed possible application for other similarly-situated campuses and have since continued to improve the process and create hybrid models to gain parity for new chapters

Prior Implementations

2013	University of Arkansas	2022	Washington University - St. Louis
2014	University of Arkansas		Mississippi State University
	University of Connecticut	2023	Mississippi State University
2015	University of Arkansas*	2024	Samford University
2016	Mississippi State University		University of Mississippi
	UCLA (hybrid model)	2025	Pennsylvania State University
	University of Arkansas*		Samford University
	University of Mississippi		Southern Methodist University
2017	Mississippi State University		University of Arkansas
	Saint Louis University		University of Mississippi*
	Samford University	2026	Clemson University
	University of Arkansas*		Southern Methodist University
	University of Connecticut		University of Arkansas
	University of Mississippi		IU University of California - Santa Barbara
	University of Oregon		
2018	Louisiana Tech University		
	Saint Louis University		
	Samford University		
	Stanford University		
	University of Arkansas*		
	University of Connecticut		
	University of Mississippi*		
	University of Oregon		

**The University of Arkansas and the University of Mississippi implemented VQ more than the stated 1-2 year life cycle due to conditions of extension, stabilization and institutional enrollment growth.*

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