

Kappa Alpha Order



Police called to KA party

Lexington police respond to noise disturbances at a residence of KA members.



Unofficial rush party

Kappa Alpha members host a party above capacity limits.



Tip received

An anonymous tip sent to UK provides details about the Sept. 11 party.



Conduct office involved

UK's Office of Student Conduct sends their first email about the COVID-19 violations to KA.



Kappa Alpha report

As requested by the OSC, KA's president submits a report of the alleged events.



Conduct hearing

Representatives from the OSC and KA meet for an interview about the allegations.



Case outcome

OSC emails KA to notify them that they were found responsible for four violations of the conduct code.



Probation ends

Provided KA completes their restorative action plan, their probation ends.

Kappa Alpha Order

Kappa Alpha Order is the sixth fraternity on disciplinary probation, with their penalty lasting until May 8, 2023.

Kappa Alpha violated the Code of Student Conduct in four ways by hosting an over capacity bid day event where new members were instructed to drink, according to documents from KA's conduct investigation.

Although KA was eventually put on probation for repeated parties, the initial tip submitted to UK on Sept. 22 described an undated event at an alleged unofficial Kappa Alpha house.

“ Once at the house new members were taken to the basement and handed a bottle of vodka that they were told to finish as group of brothers. It is unclear how big the bottle was,” the tip said. “There were 23 new members there to consume it. Further it was shared that supposedly it was optional to drink no one was "forced" (sic) to drink it.”

According to the tip, new members were welcomed to the fraternity after they finished the alcohol by “a large number of members.” Drinking continued for the remainder of the party.

“One new member who over consumed was also taken to the hospital around 6pm (sic) that night for over consumption of alcohol,” the tip claimed. The tip also alleged a gathering on Sept. 11 where active members had alcohol available for rushers to drink, a gathering later confirmed by the chapter president – though he denied that alcohol was provided.

The Office of Student Conduct emailed Kappa Alpha on the same day the tip was received requesting an event summary checklist. The summary sent back to OSC by the chapter president was fewer than 200 words, compared to reports of three to six pages submitted by other fraternities.

In the summary, the president claimed there was no official event on Sept. 11. He said the event on Sept. 12 was a hangout organized by members, but that no alcohol was provided and he was told COVID-19 guidelines were followed.

“One of the new members was taken to the hospital after drinking too much on his own free will given that there was no provided alcohol,” the president said in his report, before saying his knowledge of the gathering was secondhand from active members.

According to dispatch records from Lexington police, multiple calls were made about the Sept. 12 gathering about a “college party ongoing / drinking / no mask.” The incident was filed as a noise disturbance.

Police also responded to a report of “terroristic threat/menacing” at the Golfview address associated with Kappa Alpha on Sept. According to dispatch records, the complainant said another person threatened him and accused him of trying to fight him.

However, the complainant was too intoxicated to communicate well with the dispatch officer and “advised to call back when sober.”

Police records show that the Golfview address was reported for a noise disturbance on Oct. 22, 2020.

According to a January email between Kappa Alpha and the Office of Student Conduct, Kappa Alpha Order hosted at least three other gatherings at off campus locations, including a watch party for a football game where alcohol was again provided.

At one of the parties on Golfview, “people were handcuffed together and required to drink a bottle of liquor. No one wearing masks and police responded.”

Lexington police responded to an additional gathering at an East Maxwell address connected to the fraternity in reference to a noise disturbance.

“Broken glass and broken furniture was observed laying in the yard. A fire extinguisher had been expelled and several windows were broken,” the incident summary states. Residents refused to open the door for police.

Dispatch records show that police were called due to those at the Maxwell address were throwing furniture into the street, some of which struck a neighbor’s vehicle.

“The car was hit as a result of the disorder,” dispatch records say. Callers also reported that cars in front of the Maxwell address were blocking the sidewalk.

Kappa Alpha was already on interim measures because of the Sept. 11 party, but new member activities continued despite instructions from the university to “1. cease new member operations, and 2. not to host any in-person events and/or events with alcohol.” Both continued.

According to an email sent to Kappa Alpha from the OSC, the conduct investigation revealed that the chapter president did not pass on those instructions to the fraternity’s new member coordinator.

This infraction contribution to the “failure to comply” citation received by the fraternity along with the alcohol and COVID-19 protocol violations faced by other fraternities.

Because of the incidents where police were called, Kappa Alpha was under investigation for damage to property but was found not responsible.

Kappa Alpha’s conduct hearing was held on Jan. 29, 2022 and concluded that the recruitment chair of the fraternity had invited guests to the bid day party where alcohol was present.

“This party also exceeded the number of people permitted at an event, per the Covid-19 Health and Safety Guidelines,” said the email notifying Kappa Alpha of the outcome of their conduct investigation. Because the party was held at a house associated with active members of Kappa Alpha Order, the fraternity was found responsible for the event.

Kappa Alpha’s extended probation was caused by the fraternity’s failure to complete an earlier restorative action plan for unrelated violations of the Code of Student Conduct.

“Due to a change in fraternity leadership, and lack of communication between the outgoing and incoming presidents, the chapter requested an extension for these items on January 30, 2020,” said an incident reporting form submitted by the Office of Student Conduct.

The original deadline for the restorative action items was Dec. 12, 2019. According to case notes from the OSC, the chapter president was under the impression those items had already been completed.

The president said communication issues led to a poor officer transition period and that the fraternity did not realize their restorative items were not completed until spring 2020.

“[Redacted] explained that the chapter's No. 8 (Risk Manager) had not been performing well in his role. [Redacted] explained that the person in the role had run unopposed and did not have the respect of the chapter, which lead to the chapter not really abiding by his directives,” say the case notes of Mike Brown, the OSC's acting director.

According to the case notes, fraternity members felt Kappa Alpha's internal judicial board “was ineffective due to the board mostly utilizing fines in order to hold members accountable.”

The Office of Student Conduct suggested a new deadline of March 10, 2020 for the restorative action plan and recommended a meeting between Brown and the chapter president.

According to emails between Brown and the chapter president, the meeting was rescheduled multiple times and no representative from Kappa Alpha showed up to the eventual meeting time.

Kappa Alpha then failed to meet the extended deadline of March 10, leading to the “abuse of process” citation. The fraternity has not responded to the Kernel's request for comment.