

How to Get a Campus Group Started

- 1. Identify the need**
- 2. Propose a solution**
- 3. Generate support**
- 4. Identify leaders and get faculty support**
- 5. Register with the university**
- 6. Start off on the right foot**
- 7. Become a part of our Network**

Step #1 Identify the need

Identify the need you see on your campus. Be on the lookout for instances where only one view is represented in matters of sexuality and sexual health. Is another voice (your voice) needed, and if so, why? Here are some guidelines on things to look out for:

- Does the freshman orientation program include sexual health information that ignores or disregards the value of abstinence and the real harms of casual sexual behavior? Would your campus community benefit from learning the harms of casual and libertine sexual behavior?
- What is the overwhelming message freshmen receive about the social life on campus when they arrive? Does hooking up appear to be the norm, and if so, what is communicating that message?...health services and programs, classmates, the advertisements for various student events? Be on the lookout for the messages about sex your university is sending.
- What sentiments are there towards those committed to chastity, the institution of marriage (as being between a man and a woman), and more “traditional” sexual norms? Sexual promiscuity and an “anything goes” mentality toward sexual behavior, relationships, and love are certainly represented and accepted on a majority of campuses. Is sexual integrity and “traditional” sexual norms likewise represented and accepted as valid and respectable?
- Are more traditional beliefs on sexuality dismissed as “purely religious and unreasonable”? Is there a need to communicate the legitimate reasons that intelligent young people have for choosing sexual chastity (and for believing in certain norms surrounding marriage and family)?

Step #2 Propose a solution

Once you have identified concrete needs on campus, determine the concrete ways your student organization will set about meeting those needs. What is the mission of the group and what are your goals?

Below is a sample mission statement outlining the goals for a university group. We suggest using this model (especially on secular campuses), as it allows flexibility to discuss an array of topics from multiple disciplines, thus appealing to the diverse interests of those in your campus community. It also allows room for growth and the ability for your group to respond to new related needs as they arise on campus. We use the name “Anscombe Society” in the sample below. You may use this name to show unity with other university groups that are starting across the country, or you may develop your own name.

Sample Mission Statement:

The Anscombe Society recognizes the difficulty with which many students engage questions of sexual health and behavior, sexuality, relationships, and love. There is overwhelming pressure for students to regard sex and relationships casually, and there is little understanding or support for students who do not wish to participate in the campus “hook-up” culture. Furthermore, many students make decisions about their current sexual behavior without considering its potential effects on their future marriages, families, and personal health. Our mission is to help enrich campus discussion on these matters by providing a much-needed alternative voice in support of chastity and the sexual norms surrounding it. We aim to foster discussion that is civil and sincere, and that contributes to the intellectual and personal development of our peers.

As you define your mission and goals, it will be important to outline the activities and events by which you will meet these goals. Below is a sample list of group activities. You may find that you limit yourself to the first couple activities listed below, and eventually expand as your membership grows and as interests develop.

Sample Activities:

- Campus-wide lectures
- Discussions and debates
- Presence in campus publications (submitting articles, op-eds, letters-to-the-editor)
- Collaboration with staff and administrators on improving campus programs
- Poster campaigns
- Receptions, dinners, and social activities

- Community service – giving talks to youth in the area

Step #3 Generate support

Realize that there are more students like you than you think. The overwhelming sexual culture on college campuses makes it difficult for many to make their true beliefs and commitments known. Many would rather adapt to the casual sexual culture around them than stick out as different among their friends. Freshmen in particular are concerned with making friends quickly and are more likely to engage in behaviors they view as wrong or undesirable simply in order to fit in.

Find those who see the same need as you do to voice an alternative (healthier and happier) sexual lifestyle that challenges the casual sexual norms on campus. Get them excited about the idea of starting a university student group to provide this voice. Keep a list of those you talk to who support the idea, even if they are not willing or interested in taking an active leadership role. This will serve as your first email list. You may even have students sign a petition simply stating their agreement that such a student group is needed on campus.

Step #4 Identify leaders and get faculty support

Find those who would be willing to start the student group with you. Once you have a group of 5-8 students, elect or assign officer positions and be clear about their delegated responsibilities. Freshmen and sophomores are preferable because they'll have more time to help the group get off to a good start. It will be important to determine the talents and experience of your leadership team and assign positions based on this. Recommended officer positions include:

- President: Good at motivating and delegating. Keeps in mind the big picture.
- Vice President: Also keeps in mind the big picture, while being details-oriented.
- Secretary: Very organized at note taking. Updates email list and sends announcements.
- Treasurer: Good at managing a budget and keeping track of expenses and reimbursements.
- Speakers Chair: Excellent etiquette in hosting special guests.
- Advertising Chair: Creative, good design skills, and has a good sense of how to make a message/event attractive
- Communications Chair: Excellent writing and communication skills for submitting materials to campus publications and answering interview requests
- Administrative Chair: Excellent problem-solving, communication, and people skills. Confident in working with university staff and administrators.



- Social Chair: Creative and fun. Good at gathering people together and fostering fellowship.
- Outreach Chair: Has a heart for service and good at communicating with youth.

Some schools require a faculty adviser in order to have an official university student group. Regardless of whether or not this is your school's policy, find a faculty member who would be interested in advising your student group's leaders and speaking on behalf of the group to other faculty and staff when the need arises.

Step #5 Register with the University

Student groups registered with their college or university usually receive benefits in campus funding, advertising, facility use, etc. Figure out the requirements for registering your group, and make your group official!

Step #6 Start off on the right foot

Many will be thankful for your presence on campus, whether they let you know their gratitude or not. However, because of the sensitive (and sometime contentious) nature of questions surrounding sex, marriage, and family, you will likely face some opposition. Unfortunately, there will be some students (and professors) who will misunderstand your mission and message, and who will be eager to publically criticize your commitment to “old-fashioned, judgmental, and prudish” ideals. Expect criticism and be prepared to respond to it with intelligence, confidence, and a positive attitude. You will need to clarify your mission repeatedly for those who misunderstand and misrepresent it. Be careful to keep a positive, sincere, and confident tone that never attacks others for their criticism, but rather corrects their erroneous claims. Start off on the right foot by making your group (both its leaders and its mission) attractive to others, even to those who disagree with you.

Step #7 Become a part of our Network

You will need to educate yourself with information to defend your beliefs and the mission of the group. You will also need resources and guidance on how to run your events and activities successfully. That's where we come in.

The Love and Fidelity Network is here to help educate, train, and equip college students like you with the arguments, resources, and direction you need to uphold the institution of marriage, the unique role of the family, and sexual integrity on your campus. Make use of the resources on our website, and tap into our intercollegiate network of student leaders and activists like yourself.



Draw support and encouragement from those who share your mission. We believe your leadership on campus matters, and we are here to support your courageous efforts to reform your campus culture.