



Why Does Chapter Affiliation Matter?

*Is your fellowship affiliated with InterVarsity? Chances are that it is not formally affiliated with InterVarsity if you are on the leadership team of your group and you don't know the answer to that question. No big deal? Think again. This document is to help you understand **WHY** and **HOW** to formally affiliate your campus group with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA.*

Why should we affiliate?

Affiliation with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA[®] begins with recognizing that the purpose and beliefs of your fellowship are in line with InterVarsity's national purpose and Basis of Faith. This assures students, parents, church leaders and friends that the local chapter stands for what they expect it to: sound biblical teaching, genuine communities of growing Christians who are passionate about reaching all segments of their campus with the gospel, and a heartbeat for missions.

Along with recognizing a common biblical commitment and mission, many groups affiliate with InterVarsity to take advantage of the resources we have as a national movement, such as:

- ✓ Pastoral care from staff workers
- ✓ Local and regional training camps and conferences
- ✓ 30% discount from InterVarsity Press
- ✓ 20% off all t-shirts ordered from the InterVarsity online store
- ✓ Custom-designed urban and overseas missions projects
- ✓ Access to www.StudentSoul.org (which offers articles, stories, leadership training resources, etc.)

In addition, there are some not-so-obvious benefits from being affiliated with InterVarsity. One of the most important is **continuity**. The fellowship you have nurtured to where it is today has a better chance of surviving the next turnover of student leaders if you have support to help prepare future leaders. Another benefit is **respect** from the campus administration. Many administrators look more favorably on a religious group that is affiliated with a national, reputable organization than they would on a local, independent group. Chapters also benefit from being **interdenominational**. Students and faculty from a variety of denominations find a home in our fellowships, united by a common basis of faith and a desire to nurture the faith of all students.

The framework that keeps our widespread fellowships connected is a team of gifted and dedicated staff and volunteers. Staff workers stimulate student initiative; help connect like-minded students with others from their region or around the country and coach young believers along to maturity. While these staff members are dedicated to helping all Christian witness flourish on campus, they give their best attention to groups that want their help.

Many groups use "InterVarsity" as part of their chapter name for greater name recognition with incoming students. But it is not necessary to do so (many of our oldest and largest chapters do not). If you do, it is important to remember that InterVarsity is a copyright protected name. We believe that it should be a reliable mark of the evangelical convictions and leadership quality of a group of campus Christians. So, if your group does carry the name "InterVarsity" you will certainly want to keep your affiliation up to date.

How can we do this?

Formal affiliation with InterVarsity is a simple, annual process in which the chapter's leaders review the group's guiding principles and convictions and affirm that they are in harmony with those of InterVarsity. Students often use this time to pray for their fellowship and discuss their core values and identity on campus. Those groups with faculty sponsors find it a good time to include them in the discussion of the group's activities and outreach on campus. Then they sign the Application for Chapter Affiliation, which includes our Doctrinal Basis, and return it to: **InterVarsity National Service Center, PO Box 7895, Madison WI, 53711**. The process is annual because student leaders change at least once a year.

Affiliation with InterVarsity is easy and worthwhile. The application and sample constitution are online for your convenience: <http://www.intervarsity.org/campus>.

Questions? Call our Collegiate Ministries office: (608) 443-4588.