



Departmental Student Organization (DSO) Information Sheet

What is a DSO?

According to [the Office of Student Activities](#), DSOs are extensions of a University of Arkansas department and, as such, are under the direction and oversight of that department. The department maintains ultimate responsibility for DSO finances and events, so DSOs officially represent the University of Arkansas. DSOs are *not* RSOs.

Why should I have a DSO?

DSOs benefit students in at least three ways:

1. Representing students within their department, including by offering institutional support for graduate student activities and concerns
2. Representing students on the Graduate–Professional Student Congress (GPSC)
 - Each DSO may elect one GPSC representative for every 100 DSO members
3. Providing eligibility for additional funding via the GPSC

How do I create a DSO?

Any student not already represented by a DSO can apply to create a new DSO. Applications are [submitted through HogSync](#) and require the following documents:

- A list of graduate students who will be represented by the new DSO (including names and UArk email addresses).
- The Constitution that defines how the new DSO will democratically operate.
 - There is **no** template or required format for the new DSO constitution, but [examples of current DSO constitutions](#) can be found on the GPSC website.
- The name of each member appointed by the new DSO (via a democratic process) to serve as representatives to the GPSC.

What happens next?

The [GPSC President Pro Tempore](#) will review the submitted application. At the next GPSC meeting, the Assembly will vote to approve the new DSO and its chosen representative(s).

To remain in good standing, each DSO must maintain its representation within the GPSC Assembly. All members of DSOs in good standing are eligible to apply for GPSC funding grants and awards.