



## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): CSL-Affiliated Groups (CAGs)**

### **1. *What is a CSL-Affiliated Group?***

A CSL-Affiliated Group or CAG is a status given to a group that signals a relationship between a student group at Northeastern University's Boston main campus and one of the six centers in Cultural and Spiritual Life (CSL): Asian American Center, Center for Intercultural Engagement, Center for Spirituality, Dialogue, and Service, John D. O'Bryant African American Institute, Latinx Student Cultural Center, and the LGBTQA Resource Center.

### **2. *Who can become a CSL-Affiliated Group (CAG)?***

Any student group based on the Boston main campus of Northeastern University can affiliate with a CSL Center and receive CAG status. Typically, CAGs are student groups that have, in their mission, an affinity for cultural and/or spiritual life, and thus seek to be in relationship with CSL through our six centers.

### **3. *Do I need to be a CSI-recognized organization to receive CAG status?***

No, you do not need to be recognized by the Center for Student Involvement (CSI) to receive CAG status. CSI recognition means that your student group is approved by one of two student governance bodies on the Boston campus (e.g., Student Government Association for undergraduate groups, and Graduate Student Government for graduate groups). CSI-recognized student organizations may still choose to affiliate themselves with a CSL Center if they choose.

CAG status is especially useful for emerging/newer student groups that are not yet CSI-recognized and who have a cultural and/or spiritual mission and feel an affinity towards a CSL Center. Affiliating with a CSL Center affords the student group some temporary support as they gain their footing and prepare to begin the CSI-recognition process.

### **4. *Can my student group be affiliated with more than one CSL Center?***

CSL affirms all learners of all identities and believes that the intersection of various identities produces distinct experiences for each person. So, of course, you may find your student group may have resonance with more than one CSL Center. We invite you to consider affiliation with as many centers as you like. Know that each Center may manage its affiliation process a little differently and have distinct terms of engagement.

## **5. What are the benefits of being a CAG?**

Professional staff at CSL Centers have historically supported a range of student organizations by serving as faculty advisors or program advisors and thus can be valuable resources to student leaders. Furthermore, being amongst a peer network can also be a critical growth opportunity for student leaders.

Moreover, CSL Centers offer a range of community-building, peer mentoring, and leadership development programs as well as program and meeting spaces. While CAG status does not guarantee access, it does offer priority over non-status groups.

## **6. How can my group become a CAG?**

Currently, CSL is prioritizing *non-CSI-recognized student groups* with existing relationships to a CSL center over the past year. Student leaders from these groups will receive an invitation to consider formally affiliating with a CSL Center through NU ENGAGE.

In early September, we will then reach out to *CSI-recognized student organizations* that have existing relationships with CSL centers and invite them to formally affiliate with centers and receive the CAG designation/tag through NU ENGAGE.

In October, we will open the process to new student groups that have no existing relationship with a CSL Center. Non-CSI-recognized student groups interested in CSL-affiliation must complete a [CAG Interest Form](#), meet with the Center Director, and then be invited to affiliate with the Center.

Affiliation comes with an expectation of consistent and productive engagement as outlined in each Center's Commitment Letter, which must be signed annually by student leaders representing the group.

## **7. Is CAG status a permanent designation?**

Each year, student leader transitions affect the dynamics and direction of student groups. Thus, CAG status is conferred annually by offering newly elected student leaders the agency to determine their group's continued affiliation with CSL and its centers.

Registration will typically occur in the summer each year. Once a student group is invited to affiliate, they typically sign a Commitment Letter that outlines the expectations and terms of engagement as a CAG.

For non-CSI-recognized student groups, CAG status is valid for a maximum of two academic years during which the group must demonstrate its intention to become CSI-recognized. If unsuccessful with recognition, we will work with the group's leadership to determine next steps for potential continued support.

## **8. I am a CSI-recognized CAG; what should I know?**

Being CSI-recognized means that the student organization receives full benefits on campus through CSI. This includes reserving campus space (including tabling), bringing speakers to campus, applying for funding opportunities, hosting fundraisers, etc.

CSI-recognized CAGs have an assigned Program Manager in CSI with whom they work on all their programs – on or off-campus. CSI-recognized CAGs must follow all university policies and procedures, including event registration, speaker/performer/service provider contracting processes, risk assessment, etc.

CSI-recognized CAGs may or may not have a faculty or staff advisor with the Center(s) to which they are affiliated; this is not a requirement.

## **9. I am a non-CSI-recognized CAG; what should I know?**

Non-CSI-recognized CAGs do not have a CSI Program Manager. Upon affiliation, they are assigned to a program manager (usually a professional staff member at the center) who supports their activities in a limited capacity. They also have another staff member from the Center serve as an informal advisor.

Non-CSI recognized student groups cannot reserve event space (including tabling), bring speakers to campus, apply for funding opportunities, conduct fundraisers, etc. CAG status mitigates this challenge by having the affiliated center work with the student group and support outreach and community-building activities in a limited capacity. For example, an affiliated center may book space on behalf of one of their CAGs, permit tabling at some of their signature programs, and open eligibility to apply for micro-program grants.

## **10. What is NU ENGAGE?**

The NU ENGAGE platform is powered by [Campus Groups](#) and administered at Northeastern University's Boston campus by CSI to simplify and streamline processes for student organizations. All CSI-recognized groups are eligible to access NU ENGAGE (by completing [this form](#)). Typically, CSI-recognized groups will use NU ENGAGE to complete their annual registration, reserve space, register events, initiate and complete speaker/performer/service provider contracts, access membership tools, and utilize its social media integrations.

A non-CSI-recognized student group typically would not have access to NU ENGAGE. However, a non-CSI-recognized CAG receives access to the platform through its affiliated Center. CSL uses the ENGAGE platform to streamline management of CAGs across all six centers to strengthen service excellence and better support student leaders.