

Recruiting Students and an Advisor to Start a NAMI on Campus Club

TIPS FOR STUDENTS

In order to get approval from NAMI for your NAMI on Campus club, at least five student members and an advisor are required. Your membership list and advisor contact information should be submitted to NAMI during the approval process. Your school may have additional membership and advisor requirements so make sure to understand those as well.

How to Recruit an Advisor

An advisor can typically be any staff, faculty or administrator at your college. Ideally, an advisor for a NAMI on Campus club should share an interest in mental health. The role of advisors varies by school but usually they are responsible for providing counsel and guidance to the club, understanding and sharing policies that impact the club, facilitating the development of the club and providing continuity with the past activities of the club. To find an advisor for your club, consider these options:

- Reach out to staff, faculty or administrators involved with psychology, psychiatry, counseling, pre-med, nursing, social work, neuroscience degree programs or other related programs.
- Consider contacting staff members who work at your college's disability resource center, health center or academic advising office to see if any of them would be interested in serving as an advisor.
- Contact your NAMI State Organization and NAMI Affiliate to see if any NAMI members work at your college and would be interested in being an advisor for a NAMI on Campus club.

How to Recruit Students

You will need to at least recruit five students to help you start your NAMI on Campus club. These students can help with the startup process and also fill officer positions for the club. Here are some easy ways to find interested students, before and after you have started the club:

- Ask close friends you trust to help start a NAMI on Campus club and support your efforts. Usually, friends are more than happy for the chance to be helpful.
- Contact directors and professors in degree programs that focus on mental health like psychology, psychiatry, pre-med, neuroscience, nursing, social work and other related fields. They can easily email students in these programs, make announcements in their classes and post promotional materials in their classrooms to help recruit club members. Students who are studying mental health usually have a personal interest in the issue and are happy to get involved in a club.
- Ask your school newspaper to publish an article about the importance of student mental health that mentions your interest in starting a NAMI on Campus club.
- Post promotional materials at campus-wide events, the student health center, the disability resource center and other offices where students with mental health needs may be.
- Reach out to sororities and fraternities. Members of these organizations usually are required to complete volunteer hours and jump at the chance to be involved in a good cause.

Use the [NAMI on Campus promotional materials](#) to help promote your club to students.