



Nurses Christian Fellowship

Student and Professional Chapters: Why Affiliate with NCF

Is your fellowship affiliated with Nurses Christian Fellowship, a division of InterVarsity? Chances are that it is not formally affiliated 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. The following information will help you understand why and how to affiliate your student or nurse group with Nurses Christian Fellowship® (NCF®) and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA®.

Affiliation with NCF begins with recognizing that the purpose and beliefs of your fellowship are in line with NCF/InterVarsity's Purpose and Doctrinal Basis. This assures students, nurses, parents, church leaders and friends that the chapter stands for: sound biblical teaching, genuinely warm communities of growing Christians who are passionate about reaching students and nurses with the gospel, a heartbeat for missions, and a respected professional nursing organization (NCF is a member of the Nursing Organizations Alliance (<http://www.nursing-alliance.org/>)).

In addition to recognizing a common biblical commitment and mission, many groups affiliate with NCF/InterVarsity to take advantage of the resources that are available, such as:

- Pastoral care and assistance from staff workers
- Local and regional conferences
- Free publications such as Campus Vitals and NCF newsletters
- Urban and overseas mission projects for students
- Networking with other chapters

There are also some not-so-obvious benefits from being affiliated with NCF/InterVarsity. One of the most important is **continuity**. Fellowships have a better chance of surviving leadership transitions if they have support to help prepare future leaders. Another benefit is **respect** from the campus administration, healthcare agencies, and nurses. Many administrators look more favorably on a group that is affiliated with a national, reputable organization than they would on a local, independent group. Chapters also benefit from being **interdenominational**. Students, faculty and nurses 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 students and nurses.

The framework that keeps our widespread fellowships connected is a team of gifted and dedicated staff and volunteers. Staff workers stimulate student and nurse initiative, help connect like-minded students and nurses with others from their region or around the country, and coach young believers along to maturity.

Many groups use "Nurses Christian Fellowship" as part of their chapter name for greater name recognition. If you use the NCF name, it is important to remember that Nurses Christian Fellowship is a copyright protected name. We believe that it should be a reliable mark of the evangelical convictions and leadership quality of a group. If your group uses the name "Nurses Christian Fellowship" or "NCF" you will certainly want to keep your affiliation up-to-date.

Formal affiliation with NCF 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 NCF/InterVarsity. Students and nurses can use this time to pray for their fellowship and discuss their core values and identity. Student groups find it a good time to include their faculty advisors as they discuss their group's activities and outreach on campus. Then they complete the NCF Student Chapter Affiliation Application, which includes the NCF Purpose and Doctrinal Basis, and return it to the NCF/InterVarsity national office in Madison, Wisconsin. Nurse chapters will complete the Nurse Chapter Affiliation Application each year and return it to the national office.

So, is your group *really* affiliated with Nurses Christian Fellowship? Finding out is easy—and worthwhile. You can find the Affiliation Applications on the NCF website at (for nurse groups) <http://www.ncf-jcn.org/nurse/application.pdf> and at (for student groups) <http://www.ncf-jcn.org/student/application.pdf> **Questions?** Call the NCF national office at 608/443-3722.