Fraternity and Sorority Student Life Standards of Excellence 2017

Fraternity and Sorority Student Life (FSSL) has created a new initiative called the Standards of Excellence. Simply put, the Standards of Excellence are set of common community standards, which all our diverse chapters should aspire to achieve. Chapters are encouraged to use the standards listed under each category as a best practices guide to aid in planning, goal setting and general chapter operations. FSSL will recognize those chapters that demonstrate excellence in meeting these standards.

The Standards of Excellence are organized under the following categories:

- Academic Achievement
- Commitment to Founding Values
- Leadership and Member Development
- Risk Management & Social Responsibilities
- Recruitment and Education of New Members
- Community Service and Volunteerism Programming
- Stakeholder Relations

Each category has been given a specific number of points, which is the sum of all possible points for the standards in that category. Chapters will receive points for each standard they accomplish and document. Organizations will be given recognition based on achievement of 75% percent of the total possible points for each category.

The evaluation period for recognition will be the 2017 calendar year. Any activity, program, etc. which occurs during 2017 can be counted toward the standards. Standards of Excellence applications will be due December 1st at 5pm on Orgsync, and FSSL will host a Fraternity and Sorority Student Life Recognition Ceremony at the beginning of the 2018 Spring semester.

We are thankful for your participation in this initiative, and we hope these standards will serve as a helpful guide to point your chapter toward excellence.
Academic Achievement

☐ Chapter submits a detailed Academic Plan, which will include at least the following:
  ▪ Five measurable academic related goals the chapter hopes to reach over the course of the semester
  ▪ Workshops on academic topics for new members and members
  ▪ Provisions to assist members who fall below the chapter or council’s established minimum GPA standard
  ▪ A plan for how the chapter will regularly disseminate information on free tutoring services and other free academic resources available on campus.

  Documentation: Provide Academic Plan

☐ Chapter provides recognition to members/new members who perform well academically.

  Documentation: Provide an agenda the actual recognition banquet or have graduate advisor/chapter advisor sign a document verifying the recognition given.

☐ Initiated member grade point average of a 3.0 or higher.

  Documentation: Greek Life Adviser will provide

☐ New member/line/pledge class grade point average of a 3.0 or higher.

  Documentation: Greek Life Adviser will provide

☐ Chapter provides education on Academic Misconduct to their membership. You may contact Brea Clarke to set up a presentation for your chapter at breea@ou.edu or 405-325-3224

  Documentation: Provide sign in sheet with signatures and make sure the presenter signs the bottom stating these members were present at the event.
Commitment to Founding Values

☐ Recruitment is based on the founding values/principles of the fraternity/sorority. A report of how the chapter plans on being congruent with these values is submitted before the beginning of the recruitment process and a written report of how the chapter followed this plan (a reflection piece) is submitted 3 weeks prior to the end of the semester.

*Documentation: Write a pre and post recruitment report. Specifications of the report (i.e. length, content, etc.) will be designated by the Greek Life Adviser. This should be completed by a recruitment team member.*

☐ Chapter activities show direct correlation on why and how their activities match the founding values or mission of the chapter.

*Documentation: Provide a report stating how activities correlate with founding values. Specifications of the report (i.e. length, content, etc.) will be designated by the Greek Life Adviser.*

☐ Marketing materials (flyers, shirts, websites, social media, etc.) and event publicity are appropriate and represent the chapter’s values.

*Documentation: Submit all marketing materials*

☐ Chapter keeps roster information up to date with the Student Life Office as well as with their national fraternity/sorority.

*Documentation: Greek Life Adviser will provide*

☐ Chapter is in good standing with their national fraternity/sorority.

*Documentation: Greek Life Adviser will request*
Leadership and Member Development

☐ Chapter implements an officer transition plan to ensure that new officers receive all of the information they need to be an effective officer. This plan must include meetings between past and new officers.

_Documentation:_ Provide agendas of transition meetings

☐ Chapter has elections in November/December to transition the new officers well.

_Documentation:_ Provide election calendar

☐ Chapter President attends the annual FSSL Retreat.

_Documentation:_ Greek Life Adviser will provide

☐ Chapter President hosts an annual retreat/meeting in which members set goals for the coming year.

_Documentation:_ Provide agenda of annual retreat

☐ Chapter has at least one member attend a Greek Ally training session.

_Documentation:_ Submit name to Greek life adviser and they will verify attendance

☐ Chapter will co-program at least one program per year with a non-Greek student organization

☐ Chapter will co-program at least one program with a chapter from a different Greek council (IFC, MGC, NPHC, IGC, PAN).

_Documentation:_ Provide marketing materials of event which must state all groups that are hosting the event
Risk Management & Social Responsibilities

☐ 100% of new membership attends workshops from the following topics:
  - Alcohol/drug abuse
  - Sexual assault prevention
  - Hazing

*Documentation: Greek Life Adviser will provide*

☐ 50% of membership attends workshops or hosts a speaker on at least one of the following topics:
  - Eating disorders
  - Mental health and/or disability issues
  - Responsible decision-making
  - Safebreak programming

*Documentation: provide sign in sheets with chapter members names that attended and make sure the presenter signs the bottom stating these members were present at the event*

☐ Chapter publishes and enforces a written alcohol management plan, which includes at least the following:
  - how the chapter will comply with the University alcohol policy
  - how the chapter will address members with potential drinking problems
  - how chapters will prevent underage drinking
  - how chapters will manage alcohol consumption at chapter-sponsored events.

*Documentation: Submit alcohol management plan. All four points above must be clearly addressed as part of the larger alcohol management plan. Include a cover letter stating when this information was presented to the chapter, and how it is made available to active members.*

☐ Chapter has a crisis management plan established which includes at least the following:
  - A designated chapter spokesperson who will inform University and other agencies of a crisis.
  - Communication system to contact members in case of emergency
  - A plan of action in case of fire, severe weather, medical emergency, member death.
  - Present plan to chapter at the beginning of each semester

*Document: Submit crisis management plan. All four points above must be clearly addressed as part of the larger crisis management plan. Include a cover letter stating when this information was presented to the chapter, and how it is made available to active members.*
Recruitment and Education of New Members

- Chapter will submit a complete New Member Education program before intake/recruitment of new members each semester. This plan should include at least the following:
  - detailed week by week curriculum and plan of activities
  - academic standards and an academic assistance plan for new members.
  - sexual assault prevention education included in the curriculum (Step In Speak Out program)
  - hazing prevention education included in the curriculum
  - alcohol education included in curriculum
  - education for new members on the OU Co-curricular policy (maximum of 15 hours per week of extracurricular activities, including study hall).

  Documentation: Submit New Member program. Application for Premiere Pledge Program will include this information and can be used as documentation for this section.

- At least 80% of the new member class will initiate into full membership.

  Documentation: Greek Life Adviser will provide

- Chapter provides education (Student Success Series) to their new members/pledges/line within their first semester of their becoming affiliated with the chapter (strongly encouraged to take place before the first mid terms) on proper study habits, time management skills and tutoring placement/availability.

  Documentation: Provide sign in sheet with new members signatures and make sure the presenter signs the bottom stating these members were present at the event

- The new member education program will last no longer than the maximum number of weeks set by the national organization (i.e. new members will be initiated within a certain number of weeks from the date of signing the Bid Card).

  Documentation: Provide a calendar showing the length of program

- All Recruitment Events hosted by the chapter are properly registered with FSSL and are in compliance with FSSL/Council Recruitment policy.

  Documentation: Greek Life Adviser will provide

- Chapter is in full compliance with the FSSL/Council Recruitment Policy, having no violations within the past calendar year, and participates fully in the formal recruitment process (including attending all recruitment meetings).

  Documentation: Greek Life Adviser will provide
Community Service and Volunteerism Programming

- At least 60% of chapter participates in at least one group service project per semester organized primarily by the chapter.
  
  **Documentation:** Provide a brief description of the project and submit a sign in sheet

- At least 25% of chapter is committed to an ongoing (weekly or every other week) service project.
  
  **Documentation:** Submit members ongoing service projects in an excel sheet or word document (make sure to list the organization by each members name)

- At least 90% of chapter completes at least 15 hours of community service each semester.
  
  **Documentation:** Submit chapter members community service in an excel sheet or word document (make sure to list the community service project by each members name).

- Chapter provides an education program to its members about the chapter’s philanthropy project. In addition, information is available for members and participants at their philanthropy events to show where the money raised is going and how it will make an impact.
  
  **Documentation:** Submit education materials given to chapter members and participants of philanthropy events. State when information was presented to chapter and how the information remains available to chapter and community partners (i.e. website, new member handouts, etc.)

- Chapter co-programs at least one group service/philanthropy project with another campus organization (the intent is to combine existing programs rather than to create new programs).
  
  **Documentation:** Submit marketing materials showing all groups that are hosting the event
Key Stakeholder Relations

☐ Chapter hosts alumni members to provide education on career options, life-long membership, and/or other topics related to life after college.

  Documentation: Provide documentation of event with alumni signing to verify the event

☐ Chapter distributes an electronic and/or printed newsletter at least once per semester to alumni/ae and parents describing current activities of the chapter.

  Documentation: Submit newsletter or cc the Greek Life Adviser to the email

☐ Chapter actively utilized social media (specifically facebook and twitter) to positively promote chapter and community events/activities.

  Documentation: Provide Name of twitter/facebook account and list of “administrators” on the account.

☐ At least 25% of chapter attends each of the Greek Community Forums (2 per year).

  Documentation: Greek Life Adviser will provide

☐ Chapter has at least three active alumnae advisors. It is recommended that advisors have frequent contact with the officers and chapter.

  Documentation: submit advising team name, phone, address and email address

☐ Chapter President will meet with FSSL advisor at least twice per semester.

  Documentation: Verified by Greek Life advisor.

☐ Chapter hosts one faculty/staff event each year to give members the opportunity to build relations with those outside their community and to honor the faculty/staff member.

  Documentation: Provide description of event.