

George Mason University

Fraternity and Sorority Life Standards of Excellence

Background

The Fraternity and Sorority community at George Mason University holds high the community standards of Scholarship, Leadership & Engagement, Chapter Management & Self Governance, and Responsible Social Conduct. Through the Standards of Excellence fraternities and sororities are evaluated in order to remain recognized organizations in good standing and be eligible for university awards, services, and goods. Each standard puts forth minimum expectations for fraternities and sororities to abide by and exceed. The Standards of Excellence also serves to recognize organizations for their commitment to our community standards and exemplary service to the University

Each calendar year, chapters are required to submit documentation how they meet the standards outlined the Standards of Excellence. Fraternity and Sorority Life will review and score the submitted documentation and the Standards of Excellence as the foundation for SOE awards.

SOE Scoring

Points awarded for the standards reflect a comprehensive picture of a fraternity or sorority chapter. Fraternity and Sorority Life staff will utilize the following point system to score a chapter's submissions.

- 0 - Chapter did not prove they met the standard
- 1 - Chapter partially met the standard/ proof was questionable
- 2 - Chapter fully met the standard and provided proof

NOTE: Points will NOT be awarded for any standards that were met as a result of requirements from a sanction (i.e. community service hours, education session, etc.).

Timeline

The Standards of Excellence is a year-long assessment and recognition tool for the Mason fraternity and sorority community. The chapter is responsible to collect documentation to prove they have met the standards; except where information in the SOE indicates that it will be provided by FSL.

Sunday January 5th, 2025 is the deadline to submit documentation for the Standards of Excellence through Blackboard.

- Chapters who do not meet the deadline will automatically be placed on probation until all the Standards have been submitted.
 - Probation includes no intramural participation, no room reservations, no access to SFB funds, and no participation in any on-campus events as a chapter.
- Turning the SOE in late will result in the chapter being ineligible for Standard of Excellence awards and for a Fraternity and Sorority Life Bench
- **Chapters that fail to complete the Standards of Excellence by the end of the semester may lose their status as a Registered Student Organization**

Recognition of Achievements

The standards reflect a tremendous amount of work on the part of chapter members, leaders, advisors and inter/national staff and volunteers. Chapters that meet these standards will be recognized at the Fraternity and Sorority Life Awards Ceremony each spring. The following points breakdown signifies the corresponding award that will be rewarded:

Overall Standards Achievement

Points	Status
90% of total points:	Chapter of Excellence
80% of total points:	Chapter of Achievement
70% of total points:	Chapter of Promise
50% of total points:	Probationary Chapter
Less than 50%:	Underperforming (Not in good standing)

Functional Area Achievement (i.e. Scholarship, Chapter Management, etc.)

- 80% of total points in any given area.

Standard I: Scholarship

The educational mission of Mason is the key component to a strong fraternity and sorority community. It is expected that one of the main goals of fraternities and sororities should be to promote academic achievement. Chapters should provide an environment that facilitates studying and promotes academic achievement.

Minimum Standards

- I. The chapter has an active officer whose responsibility is the scholastic enhancement of the chapter members. Such a position has a written job description, including specific responsibilities and duties.
- II. The Chapter achieved at least a 2.5 term GPA for the Spring & Fall Semesters
- III. The Chapter New Member class achieved at least a 2.5 Term GPA in each term new members were taken
- IV. The chapter has a minimum GPA standard to hold a chapter executive board position.

Merit/Achievement Standards

- I. The chapter establishes and maintains a detailed academic/scholarship program that includes:
 - a. Academic and scholastic programming (beyond study hours) during each semester for the entire chapter.
 - b. Minimum GPA requirements for all chapter members, including new members, and officers that reflect the FSL Community standard (2.5) or higher.
 - c. A written process that describes the consequences, potential sanctions, and review of process for members who do not meet the academic standards set by the chapter and/or organization.
 - d. A written process that describes the methods of recognition in place for members who do meet the academic standards set by the chapter and/or organization.
- II. The chapter GPA was at or above either the All-Men's GPA for fraternities or the All-Women's GPA for Sororities for the Spring and Fall Semesters
- III. The Chapter sponsors, co-sponsors, or attends at least two (2) academic enrichment program each year. Examples include: time management, campus academic resources, study skills, note taking strategies, etc.
- IV. The chapter has a program in place that promotes student/teaching faculty relations. This program could include:
 - a. An invited speaker (teaching faculty member) to address the chapter
 - b. Discussions led by a teaching faculty member
 - c. Social interaction for member of the chapter and members of the teaching faculty

Bonus Standards

- I. The chapter has members who hold membership in one or more collegiate academic honor societies on campus.
 - a. For a list of collegiate academic honor societies visit the following links:
 - i. http://www.achsnatl.org/quick_link.asp
 - ii. Order of Omega is not considered an academic honor society
- II. The chapter has a cumulative GPA at or above a 3.0 in both semesters.

Standard II: Leadership & Engagement

Fraternities and sororities are structured as sub-organizations within the larger campus community. Involvement in campus life outside of fraternity and sorority life is highly encouraged. Involvement and engagement helps chapters fulfill their mission and gives members the opportunity to learn from new experiences. One of the cornerstones of community involvement is allowing sorority and fraternity members to make use of their various talents and passions. Chapters embody this important component of our community by raising funds for charity, donating their time and by raising social awareness. These efforts are done to improve our communities both within and outside of the Mason campus.

Minimum Standards

- I. The Chapter will have at a minimum 10% of its membership involved in another student organization (non-FSL related)
- II. The chapter sends required parties to regional/national leadership development activities and conferences each year.
- III. The chapter has an active officer whose responsibility is the development of philanthropic, service, and community awareness events for the chapter to coordinate and participate in. Such a position has a written job description, including specific responsibilities and duties.
- IV. The chapter completes an average of 5 hours of community service per member each year
 - a. All service hours must be submitted through [Mason360](#)
- V. The Chapter sponsors or co-sponsors at least one (1) event each year that is designed to raise money or goods (Philanthropic) for a community agency
- VI. The chapter sponsors or co-sponsors at least one (1) event each year that is designed to benefit a community service or agency through volunteer hours and hand-on work (community service)
- VII. The chapter employs a public relations/marketing plan in order to communicate with the Mason community and surrounding communities about its programs, initiatives, achievements, etc.
 - a. Public relations/marketing plans should be inclusive of multiple communication strategies (not only social media) and outlines related timelines and processes.

Merit/Achievement Standards

- I. The chapter co-sponsors at least one (1) event/program with a non-FSL student organization each year.
- II. The chapter will have at a minimum, 50% of its membership involved in another student organizations (non-FSL related)
- III. The chapter had members in elected/appointed leadership positions in other student organizations or campus leadership positions
- IV. The chapter completes an average of 10 hours of community service per member each year
- V. The chapter invites and has participation from non-affiliated students/organizations in their philanthropic and service events at least one (1) time per year.
- VI. The chapter participates in at least two (2) other organization's community service/philanthropic/awareness events each year.
- VII. The chapter sends more than the required parties to regional/national leadership development activities and conference each year.
- VIII. The chapter's philanthropic efforts do not exceed a Cost per Dollar Raised of 25% (i.e. 25 cents per dollar raised).

Bonus Standards

- I. The chapter sponsors members attending leadership conference/workshops that are in addition to those required by your inter/national organization or those hosted by FSL/Student Involvement. (ex. UIFI, Leadership, Campus sponsored leadership program, etc.).
- II. The chapter completes an average of 15 hours of community service per member each year

Standard III: Chapter Management

In order to maintain a solid base of operation, each chapter should responsibly conduct its internal affairs. Mason values the autonomy of the undergraduate officers in their decision-making skills that affect chapters now and in the future. However, as organizations that are guests at Mason and that also represent an Inter/National entity, each chapter should fulfill certain obligations. One of the central goals of the fraternity and sorority community is to further the development of its members. In order to achieve this, we must commit to promoting the leadership potential of members in all stages of their Mason experience. These highly educated and responsible leaders set an example through their efforts.

Minimum Standards

- I. The chapter constitution and/or by-laws are reviewed and/or updated annually with a copy submitted to FSL and SI
- II. Chapter maintains a minimum number of members as determined by their respective governing council:
 - a. Interfraternity Council (IFC) – 15 members
 - b. Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) – 4 members
 - c. National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) – 4 members
 - d. College Panhellenic Council (CPH) – 15 members
- III. The chapter has an active office or chapter representative whose responsibility is the development of recruitment/intake education processes, administration, and events. Such a position has a written job description, including specific responsibilities and duties.
- IV. The chapter submits all required paperwork and attends all required meetings/retreats/workshops.
- V. The chapter has a written new member education/intake education program which is submitted to FSL and provided to students at the beginning of the new member process.
- VI. 100% of new members attend and complete the FSL New Member Education – Bystander Intervention Workshop during the semester the chapter has new members.
- VII. New Member Educator/Membership Intake Coordinator attends a New Member Educator/Intake Coordinator Workshop hosted by Fraternity and Sorority Life prior to the start of the chapter's new member process/intake process.
- VIII. The chapter has 60% of membership attend at least two (2) member development programs each year. Programs may be hosted or co-hosted by the chapter or hosted by another organization/group. (Examples include, career readiness, leadership development, etc.)
- IX. The chapter has 60% of membership attend a diversity/equity/inclusion focused program each year. Program may be hosted or co-hosted by the chapter or hosted by another organization/group. (Examples include gender identity, implicit bias training, LGBTQ+ awareness/ally training, race/ethnicity, etc.)

Merit/Achievement Standards

- I. The chapter has a defined officer transition program for its new executive officers to ensure organizational continuity, goal setting, and education.
 - a. An officer installation/swearing-in ceremony is not an officer transition program
- II. The chapter has an active and functioning internal standards /conduct process and procedures to hold members accountable to organizational policies and expectations.
- III. The chapter retains a least 75% of its new members from bidding/selection through initiation.

- IV. The chapter will develop goals each year and communicate them to the chapter advisor, inter/national staff and volunteers, and FSL.
- V. The chapter sponsors or co-sponsors an alumni/ae program each year which enables active members to connect with the organization's alumni/ae. (60% of membership in attendance)
- VI. The chapter co-sponsors a member development program with a chapter from another council. (Examples include, career readiness, leadership development, etc.)

Bonus Standards

- I. The chapter sponsors or co-sponsors a family program each year which enables the chapter to connect with the families of its members. (60% of membership in attendance)
- II. The chapter has been recognized on the regional or inter/national level for achievements during the year
- III. The chapter retains 100% of its new members from bidding/selection through initiation.

Standard IV: Responsible Social Conduct

The fraternity and sorority community at Mason strives to provide a responsible and safe environment for its members and commits to participating in programs and events that promote healthy behavior and responsible decision making. Proactive risk management policies and education is the key to generating positive behaviors.

Minimum Standards

- I. The chapter has an active officer whose responsibility is the development of programs and services for members surrounding risk reduction, responsible decision making, healthy behaviors, and risk policies. Such as position has a written job description, including specific responsibilities and duties
- II. The chapter has in place a written crisis management plan that each member is educated on and is submitted to FSL annually. The plan should at least include the following components:
 - Contact information for chapter leadership, advisors, and inter/national representatives
 - Chapter management plan including order of succession
 - Media relations plan including who can speak to the media under which circumstances
 - Process to follow in case of a death or serious illness/accident to member(s)
 - Process to follow in the case of a natural/national/regional disaster
- III. The chapter is not charged with and found responsible for any violations of council, inter/national, and university policies; as well as local, state, or federal law
- IV. The chapter has 100% of membership attend a Patriots Against Hazing Workshop each year.
- V. The chapter has 75% of membership attend at least one (1) alcohol and other drug education program/workshop each year.
 - Only programs/workshops that are presented by university departments, inter/national organizations, or off-campus subject matter experts or have been created by inter/national organizations to be presented by members will be considered.
- VI. The chapter has 75% of membership attend at least one (1) sexual misconduct and relationship violence prevention/education program/workshop each year.
 - Only programs/workshops that are presented by university departments, inter/national organizations, or off-campus subject matter experts or have been created by inter/national organizations to be presented by members will be considered.
- VII. Social Chair/Risk Manager attends a Social Event Management Workshop each semester hosted by Fraternity and Sorority Life prior to hosting any social events
- VIII. 100% of new members attend the Patriots Against Hazing New Member Workshops during the semester the chapter has new members

Merit/Achievement Standards

- I. The chapter has 70% of membership attend at least one (1) health and wellness program/workshop each year. Only programs/workshops that are presented by university departments, inter/national organizations, or off-campus subject matter experts or have been created by inter/national organizations to be presented by members will be considered.
 - a. Examples of applicable programs are: nutrition, exercise, mental health, balance, strengths, etc.
- II. The chapter hosts or co-hosts at least two (2) alcohol-free social event each year. Events submitted for this standard must be a social specific event. Philanthropic, service, and educational programs do not will not be accepted for this standard.

Bonus Standards

- I. The chapter has operated without being charged and found responsible for violations of the Code of Student Conduct for two (2) consecutive years.