

NC State University

Standards Program for Fraternities and Sororities

Brief Summary



NC STATE UNIVERSITY

FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE

Mission Statement:

There is a common set of principles to which all fraternities and sororities ascribe. The Standards Program at NC State aims to challenge the Fraternity and Sorority Community membership to live up to those highest principles and ideals upon which our respective organizations were founded. Knowing that individual members' and chapters' actions reflect on all fraternities and sororities at NC State and nationwide, our community can only be as strong as its weakest link. The Standards Program will challenge the NC State fraternity and sorority members to have integrity – steadfast adherence to the oath we took as we made a lifelong commitment to our respective fraternity/sorority. By providing a set of standards that reflect these common principles, the Standards Program provides fraternity and sorority members at NC State a level of accountability, with an opportunity to seek distinction. In the end, the goal of the Standards Program is simple. As members of fraternities and sororities, we should be better for our affiliation, the campus improved for our involvement, and the greater community enhanced for our contribution.

Our Fraternity and Sorority Community Shared Principles and Standards:

I. Academic Achievement

Each fraternity and sorority shall have:

- A. An Academic Chair
- B. An Academic Advisor
- C. Developed an academic support program that challenges members and potential members to strive for academic success, provides scholastic support, and recognizes both improvement and excellence in academic performance. A copy of the implemented academic support program for members should be submitted annually.
- D. Understanding that you are what you recruit. Accepting members who are above average academically, or who exceed admission standards, often sets those individuals up for academic success and ultimately sets the chapter up for exemplary chapter grades.
 1. It is suggested New Members with a High School weighted GPA below a 3.5 should not be offered bids. New Members with an existing college GPA below a 2.5 should be offered membership with caution. Fraternity and Sorority Life only supports extending membership to students full time enrolled and matriculated into a degree seeking program. (Chapters that fail to exercise these cautions with more than one new member annually, will see a reflection in their assessment of this standard.)
 2. A Chapter's New Member GPA, as reported by the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life each semester, should meet or exceed their same sex average. The minimum acceptable GPA is 0.10 below that average.
- E. Sororities should meet or exceed the all women's GPA each semester. Fraternities should meet or exceed the all men's GPA each semester. If a chapter's grades fall below that benchmark, the chapter should demonstrate a continued improvement by 0.05 each semester. (Mid-year assessment will reflect Spring to Fall while end of the year assessment will reflect Spring to Spring). Chapters may ask to be compared to the sex and race of their peer group for this assessment.

II. Alumni/Graduate Chapter Engagement

- A. Each chapter shall have a chapter advisor who either lives or works within the local area, and who has the support of the inter/national organization. This chapter advisor should remain close to the daily operations of the fraternity/sorority, and be of support and assistance to chapter officers and serve as a liaison between the fraternity/sorority and the University.
- B. Chapters will be asked to annually publish (electronic or paper) an alumni newsletter, co-sponsor an event with a local graduate/alumni chapter, or host a minimum of one program that involves alumni or graduate members. The University will assist in identifying addresses of alumni if needed.
- C. Submit annually, a plan to cultivate alumni engagement. Your plan should address levels of alumni, if relevant, by generation. This plan should be submitted by March 1.

III. Campus Leadership and Involvement

- A. Each chapter is asked to participate in the following activities each year to accomplish this goal: (standards are grandfathered in each year until highest percentage is reached)
 - 1. 200% of the chapter must cumulatively attend four all-campus events annually, preferably two each semester. Events must represent one of each of the following four areas: Campus Spirit and Traditions, Career and Academic Enhancement, Campus Life, and Well-Being. Any event requiring participation of chapters to meet council obligations are excluded. Organization meetings or events primarily sponsored by chapters or councils do not fulfill this standard.
 - 2. 75% of the chapter membership must participate in one organization outside of their Greek-letter organization. Chapters may also report members serving in leadership roles, for distinction only.
- B. Chapter may sponsor non-educational programs intentionally open to the campus and file evaluations of those programs for distinction only.

IV. Council Involvement

- A. Chapters must be recognized by a governing council and maintain good standing.
- B. 200% of the chapter must cumulatively attend a minimum of four events, one with each council and/or a chapter from each council. Events can be attended or co-sponsored. Events involving alcohol or recruitment/intake do not qualify.

V. Educational and Learning

Each chapter will be asked to engage in at least three programs/workshops a semester (six total). *After each program has been completed, the fraternity/sorority will be responsible for filling out a program evaluation form. Three program evaluation forms are due no later than December 1st and the remaining three are due no later than May 1st of each academic year.*

- A. Chapters educational programs must encompass two of the following topics: *Healthy Relationships, Alcohol and Other Drugs, Mental Health, Values Alignment, or Accountability.*
- B. Chapter members must complete *Hazing 101* in their first semester of membership
- C. Chapters must participate in at least one *EPIC* program each year and must complete all three programs covering each of the following topics by the end of the third year: *Sexual Assault Prevention, Brave and Bold Dialogues, Alcohol and Other Drugs.*

VI. Financial Stewardship

- A. Every chapter is asked to submit documentation of/or a chapter budget that is approved by their chapter advisor in projected, mid year and end of the year reports.
- B. Chapters are asked to maintain good financial standing with their respective council, the university, and housing agencies, if applicable, by paying dues and bills in a timely manner.
- C. Chapters may file evaluations of fundraisers hosted to supplement chapter finances for distinction only.

VII. Leadership Training

- A. Leadership Development within your organization
 - 1. Officer Transitions – plan a retreat/meeting time for newly elected officers to be properly transitioned by outgoing officers. Chapter advisor, Graduate Chapter, or National/Regional Consultant involvement.
 - 2. At least one person from your chapter should attend a leadership program and/or business meeting sponsored by your national/regional organization
 - 3. The executive board of each chapter should prepare goals that move the chapter towards excellence as defined by their organization standards and that satisfy all areas of the Standards Program
- B. Leadership development via Fraternity and Sorority Life and other campus resources
 - 1. Chapter President attends the Department's Leaders Retreat (proxy = conditional)
 - 2. Chapter President should attend 70% of monthly presidents' roundtables.
 - 3. No less than 5% of your membership should register for and attend a Leadership Development Series workshop of their choice, coordinated by the Center for Student Leadership, Ethics and Public Service.
 - 4. Encourage members to enroll in USC 298, a Greek Leadership course aimed at Emerging Leaders, offered by Fraternity and Sorority Life for 2 academic credits.
 - 5. Nominate qualifying members for Order of Omega
 - 6. Encourage membership to take advantage of other leadership training opportunities offered by the campus or fraternal community such as Emerging Leaders, UIFL, LeaderShape, NBGLC, AFLV, etc.

VIII. Membership Development

- A. *Comply with the Department procedures for membership selection*
- B. *Submit and maintain an up to date membership roster with the Department. New members must be added in accordance with the Membership Guidelines timeframe. All members to be removed from the roster must be submitted to the Department on the appropriate form no later than November 1st and April 15th each year. Members may only be added or removed using the Department Membership Roster Addition and Membership Roster Change of Status Forms or the Verification of New Members Forms located on the Fraternity and Sorority Life website.*
- C. *Submit to the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life, a program evaluation form for any brotherhood/sisterhood events held. Forms must be submitted by December 1st and May 1st of each semester. Semester-long events, such as intramural or step teams, only need to be submitted once.*
- D. *Submit to the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life, a written retention plan for maintaining relevance to members throughout their lifelong affiliation. Plans are due by September 1st each year. Revised plans may be submitted by February 1st.*
- E. *Demonstrate a minimum 85% New Member Initiation Rate.*

IX. Outreach and Civic Engagement

- A. *Serve the Community.*
 1. *Engage in a minimum of one community service project in which you give your time to a worthwhile cause each semester. If co-sponsored with another chapter, this event may satisfy part of the council involvement standard.*
 2. *Each semester, the chapter must cumulatively acquire an average of 12 service hours per member, with >75% of the membership actively volunteering. Working or attending a philanthropy event does not count toward service hours.*
- B. *Give.*
 1. *Initiate and implement a minimum of one philanthropic event in which >75% of your members raise money or goods to donate to a worthwhile cause each year. This project can be your national philanthropy, if applicable. Chapters are encouraged to develop goals for funds raised on a per member basis. (i.e. \$200.00 /member x 25 members = \$5,000.00 or 10# food/member x 50 members = 500# of food). Evidence of donations are required.*
 2. *Each organization is also asked to participate in at least one philanthropy project of another organization, preferably one from each council. While donations are also appropriate, they do not discount the value of your active participation.*
- C. *Raise Awareness.*
 1. *Chapters are encouraged to demonstrate care for others by increasing awareness for causes, particularly those aligned with national efforts. Examples include: creating a public or digital campaign, hosting an event, passing out information on campus, to educate the community on important causes and how they can provide support.*
- D. *Engage in Civic Action.*
 1. *Assist members in recognizing their responsibility, as part of the larger community, to actively address social conditions through mutually beneficial and reciprocal relationships with community partners. Offer opportunities and programs that deepen students' awareness and understanding of social and political issues and challenges members to develop a framework for responsible citizenship.*

X. Responsibility, Health and Safety

- A. *All fraternities and sororities shall comply with the risk management policies as set forth by their inter/national organization.*
- B. *As registered student organizations, chapters are subject to the Code of Student Conduct. Additionally, all social events with alcohol are subject to RUL 11.56.01- Rule for NC State University Fraternities and Sororities Hosting Social Events.*
- C. *The Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life will coordinate a minimum of one session on responsibility, health and safety each semester. Each chapter is responsible for ensuring the correct number of applicable officers attend one of the meetings. Number of attendees is relative to chapter size as published on the previous semester grade report. (see table).*

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|--------|---|
| <8 | 2 |
| 8-24 | 3 |
| 25-50 | 4 |
| 51-100 | 5 |
| >100 | 6 |
- D. *In the same semester a chapter takes new members, there should be education for new members that is geared toward alcohol and other drug prevention.*
- E. *Chapters may file education program evaluations, which specifically address responsibility, health and safety issues such as interpersonal violence prevention, suicide prevention, bystander intervention, fire safety, etc. (for distinction only)*
- F. *Chapters should encourage members to apply to serve as Certified Peer Educators for Fraternity and Sorority Life prevention efforts. (for distinction only)*