



# UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Affairs  
*Greek Life*

## Standards of Excellence Program

*For the Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council,  
National Pan-Hellenic Council, & Panhellenic Council*

**2025**

Implemented: April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

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## **Mission Statement/Purpose**

The purpose of the Greek Life Office’s Standards of Excellence (SOE) is to accomplish three fundamental objectives:

1. To compile and present everything your chapter has done over the past calendar year,
2. To ensure your chapter is meeting expectations,
3. And to measure the impact of the fraternity/sorority community.

These objectives help to assess and reward the progress that your chapter has accomplished this year and identify areas where your chapter can improve in the future.

The Standards of Excellence program is intended to enhance the sorority and fraternity experience of our members and to aid in the overall learning. The standards directly align with the Division of Student Affairs Essential Skills and the Greek Life Office Student Learning Outcomes. Each standard will correspond to a specific essential skill or learning outcome.

## **Instructions**

### **Timeline**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
January 15 <sup>th</sup> – February 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2025	First Check-In Meeting with GLO Staff
April 7 <sup>th</sup> – April 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Second Check-In Meeting with GLO Staff
April 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2025	2025 Standards of Excellence packet released
August 25 <sup>th</sup> – September 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Third Check-In Meeting with GLO Staff
Wednesday, October 15 <sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm	Standards of Excellence and Awards Due
Sunday, November 9 <sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm (Tate Grand Hall)	2025 Greek Awards Ceremony
November 10 <sup>th</sup> – December 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2025	Transition Check-In Meeting with GLO Staff

### **Submission Instructions**

Each chapter should utilize the Google Drive folder that has been shared with them by the Greek Life Office. It is recommended that the chapter create subfolders within the Standards of Excellence folder for each section of the SOE. Those folders can be used to store documentation for the standards until the official submission process.

The submission process for both the Standards of Excellence and Awards process will be shared with chapters prior to the beginning of the fall semester.

### **Helpful Tips**

1. Utilize chapter feedback forms from the previous year to create intentional goals for the current year.
2. Delegate, delegate, delegate! The Standards of Excellence program is not intended to be worked on solely by the chapter president. We recommended delegating each section to an office that corresponds with their position or responsibilities in the chapter.
3. Waiting until the submission deadline to pull documentation will be difficult. It is helpful to utilize the Google Drive folder or another storage method throughout the year to store relevant documentation until it is time to submit.
4. Involve your chapter advisors! They can help with tracking, accountability, and planning for your Standards of Excellence submission.
5. Awards are open to every member of our community (unless the eligibility says otherwise)! Think critically about members you can nominate for awards, or ask your chapter advisors to help with the nomination process. If your chapter has a nomination committee, they may be helpful with this process as well!

## **Section One: Administrative Affairs**

Administrative affairs are vital to the success of our community. Through effective chapter management and communication with our Greek Life Office, our fraternities and sororities can be viable and integral partners with the University, national headquarters, and our surrounding community.

In order to maintain good standing and official recognition as a fraternity or sorority at the University of Georgia, a fraternity or sorority must:

### **Requirements**

1. Chapters must be recognized OR actively seeking recognition and maintain good standing in a governing council of the Greek Life Office (GLO) at the University of Georgia.
  - *NPC groups must be recognized or actively seeking recognition by Panhellenic.*
  - *NIC groups must be recognized or actively seeking recognition by the Interfraternity Council.*
  - *NPHC groups must be recognized by the National Pan-Hellenic Council.*
  - *Membership to the Multicultural Greek Council is open to all fraternities and sororities regardless of national affiliation, should the local chapter meet the council requirements for membership.*
2. Register annually with Engagement Leadership & Service as a student organization and comply with the requirements of state law and the rules, regulations, and policies of the University and the Board of Regents.
3. Maintain at least six (6) members who are enrolled as undergraduate students at the University of Georgia. The Greek Life Office, at the discretion of the Director, may grant an exception to this requirement for the following circumstances:
  - The group has the full support of a governing council partnered with a national organization.
  - The group is actively pursuing efforts to rebuild its membership, or
  - The founding purpose of the group is specific to an underrepresented population on campus.
  - Chapters must be compliant with Greek Life Office Community Standards in order to be eligible for an exception to be granted.
4. Chapters must be represented at all annual Greek Life Office meetings/signature programs (Greek Leaders Retreat, Beginning of the Year Meeting, and Advisor Meetings).
5. Chapters must submit at least one press release or story idea related to chapter events and news to the Greek Life Office Communications Assistant each semester (glocomm@uga.edu).
6. The assessment of council dues, grade reports, and compilation of statistics all depend upon accurate chapter rosters. Chapters must maintain an up-to-date membership roster with the Greek Life Office and confirm the accuracy of the roster with the office at least four times an academic year.
7. Chapters must also submit and maintain up-to-date contact information for chapter officers and advisors to the Greek Life Office. Updates should be submitted no later than 2 weeks after the first day of classes each semester. If elections are held mid-semester, updates should be completed for new officers within one week of elections.

## **Section Two: Academics**

Our fraternities and sororities must be committed to the ideal of academic achievement and success. Chapters must affirm that scholarship is one of the most important aspects of their member's collegiate experience.

The following requirements are established to further scholastic achievement among individual members of our chapters:

### **Requirements:**

1. Maintain at minimum a 2.7 semester cumulative G.P.A. for the fall and spring academic term.
  - Sororities should meet or exceed the all-women's GPA each semester. Fraternities should meet or exceed all men's GPA each semester. If a chapter's grades fall below the respective benchmark GPA the chapter should demonstrate a continued improvement by 0.05 each semester. The Greek Life Office staff will conduct mid-year assessments of chapters working to improve academic performance. Chapters may ask to be compared to the sex and race of their peer group for this assessment.
2. Maintain at a minimum a 2.8 semester cumulative G.P.A. for your new member class during their process.
3. Provide a copy of the chapter's scholarship program. The program should outline ways it challenges members and new members to display a commitment to academic excellence, provides scholastic support, and recognizes both improvement and excellence in academic performance.
  - *Note: for this standard, scholarship should be defined as academics versus financial scholarships.*

### **Recognition/Awards:**

- Jere W. Morehead Award for Academic Excellence
  - This award recognizes one chapter from all 4 councils with the highest GPA from the previous Fall and recent Spring semesters.
- Outstanding Scholarship Program
  - This award recognizes chapters based on their scholarship program that is submitted to the office, which informs members/new members about academic resources on campus, encourages meetings with professors or TA's, includes academic programming, study skill presentations, etc.
- Most Improved Academic Performance
  - This award recognizes chapters that have made significant improvements to their chapter's GPA from the previous Fall and recent Spring and Fall semesters.

## Section Three: Service & Philanthropy

Our fraternities and sororities value the impact that they can make through service and philanthropy efforts. Individual members of chapters are encouraged to demonstrate selfless service and embrace the opportunity to give back to the community through their chapter. Through service and philanthropic initiatives, members gain a deeper understanding of their individual value system and develop a sense of civic responsibility. Chapters are encouraged to exceed the minimum requirements defined by UGA's Greek Life Office. Active members, as well as new members, are encouraged to participate in service activities; chapters should not have new members be responsible for more than their share of service efforts.

Service projects identify issues within the community and address them through direct, hands-on interventions, activities, or programs. Examples of service projects include tutoring children, serving food at a soup kitchen, and/or building a Habitat for Humanity house. More ideas can be found with the staff in Engagement, Leadership, & Service, <https://els.uga.edu/service/>.

Philanthropic projects gather resources and raise the awareness needed to address an issue within the community. Examples of philanthropic projects include raising money for a specific community service need, conducting a clothing or canned food drive, coordinating the collection of school supplies for children, tabling, and distributing information on campus, letter writing, or a public/digital campaign for a specific cause.

### **Requirements:**

#### **Service**

1. Chapters coordinate a minimum of one community service project per semester in which members and invited guests give their time to a worthwhile event.
  - *If this project is co-sponsored by another chapter, this event may satisfy part of the council involvement standard.*
2. Each chapter is required to participate in at least one service project of another chapter, preferably one from a different council, during the academic year.
  - *Greek Day of Service will not count.*
3. Chapters must maintain 5 hours of community service per member per semester with a total of at least 75% of the membership actively volunteering throughout the year.
  - *Working or attending a philanthropy event does not count towards service hours.*
  - *Service hours may not be awarded for the donation of goods or money.*

#### **Philanthropy**

1. Initiate and implement a minimum of one philanthropic event in which more than 75% of members raise money or goods to donate towards a worthwhile cause each year.
  - *This project can benefit the chapter's national philanthropy, if applicable. Chapters are encouraged to develop goals for funds raised on a per-member basis. Evidence of donations is required in the submission.*
2. Each chapter is required to participate in/support at least one philanthropy event of another chapter, preferably one from a different council, during the academic year.

### **Recognition/Awards:**

- Outstanding Service Award
  - This award recognizes chapters that have hosted programs to help foster the service-mindedness of members. Service events identify a need for the community and help to address that need through the donation of time and talents.
- Outstanding Philanthropic Award
  - This award recognizes chapters that create opportunities to increase financial support and awareness to address a need or issue within the community.

## **Section Four: Alumni Relations & Involvement**

Many fraternities and sororities attribute the rich history of their chapters generally to their alumni. Alumni serve critical roles such as advisors, members of house corporations, and financial contributors. It is important to maintain a positive relationship with alumni to further the principles of brotherhood/sisterhood within our chapters.

The following requirements are established to further brotherhood/sisterhood by maintaining existing relationships with alumni, implementing programs to establish or rebuild relationships with other alumni:

### **Requirements:**

1. Actively involved or engaged alumni serving in advisory roles are key ingredients for successful chapters. As such, each chapter shall have a chapter advisor working with them routinely and providing support to the executive board of the chapter. This advisor should remain close to the daily operations of the chapter and be of support and assistance to chapter officers and serve as a liaison between the chapter and the University. The roster of the alumni advisory board, or primary advisor contact, must be submitted to the Greek Life Office annually.
2. Chapters are to publish (electronic or hard copy) an alumni newsletter or communication once a semester.
3. Chapters must host or co-sponsor an event annually with a local alumni/graduate chapter or host a minimum of one program that is primarily geared toward the audience of alumni or graduate members.

### **Recognition/Awards:**

- Outstanding Alumni/Graduate Chapter Relationships
  - This award recognizes chapters for their consistent efforts and programming to remain connected to members with alumni/alumnae status.
- Outstanding Chapter Advisor
  - This award recognizes the efforts of volunteers from all 4 Councils to support chapters in a variety of capacities but all with the common goal of seeing them succeed.

## **Section Five: Council Involvement**

Belonging to the Greek community here at UGA means that we share similar values and goals in our chapters and for individual members. We are proud to be able to recognize four governing councils under our office to create, promote, and foster a learning community for all of our students.

### **Requirements:**

1. Chapters will co-sponsor an event/program with at least one chapter from their respective council annually.
  - *This could be a community service project or an educational speaker/workshop.*
  - *Events involving alcohol or recruitment/intake do not qualify.*
2. Chapters will co-sponsor an event/program with at least one chapter from a different council annually.
  - *This could be a community service project or an educational speaker/workshop.*
  - *Events involving alcohol or recruitment/intake do not qualify.*
3. Chapters demonstrate support of Greek Life Office events with representation at a minimum of one event per semester.
4. Chapters demonstrate support for individuals seeking leadership positions within their respective council. (i.e., council executive board positions, Gamma Chi, Junior Panhellenic, IFC Clerks, etc.)

### **Recognition/Awards:**

- Outstanding Council Involvement
  - This award recognizes chapters that have maintained good standing within their respective governing councils and demonstrate active involvement with the three remaining councils other than their own.

## **Section Six: Health & Wellbeing**

The Greek Life Office at UGA supports a quality social life that enhances a positive living and learning environment prioritizing health, safety, and wellbeing of our members. With the support of the office, we want to help our chapters achieve a positive and healthy experience in all aspects of a member's life: physical, financial, career, social and community (Gallup).

### **Requirements:**

1. All fraternities and sororities shall comply with the risk management policies set forth by their inter/national organization, the University of Georgia Code of Conduct, and the Greek Life Office Policy on Social Event Responsibility.
2. Chapters must register all social events with alcohol through the Greek Life Office in a timely manner.
3. The Greek Life Office will coordinate a minimum of one session on responsibility, health, and safety each semester. Each chapter is responsible for ensuring representation at the scheduled sessions.

<b>Chapter Size</b>	<b>Officers in Attendance</b>
< 8	2
8-24	3
25-50	4
51-100	5
100-180	6
≥ 181	8

4. During the new member education process for the chapter, the chapter's officers should coordinate educational programming either through their respective inter/national organization or UGA campus resources programming geared towards alcohol and other drug prevention education.

### **Recognition/Awards:**

- Outstanding Health & Wellness Programming Award
  - This award recognizes chapters' efforts in providing educational programming to members and the community around the 5 elements of Wellbeing as defined by Gallup, physical, financial, career, social, and community wellbeing. Chapters will file education program evaluations, which specifically address those 5 areas.

## **Section Seven: Membership Development**

Membership development is the purpose of our community. For our chapters to survive, they must continually recruit new members and provide ongoing development for their active members leading up to graduation. It is up to each chapter to enhance their experience for new/prospective members and current members by providing ongoing membership education and utilizing their values bestowed during their ritual.

### **Requirements:**

1. Each chapter must abide by the University's initiation/intake window; new members must be initiated within 6 weeks of beginning their process.
2. Each chapter must submit all required membership intake/new member education paperwork, including the New Member Education Program, Anti-Hazing Compliance Form, and chapter officer hazing prevention modules two weeks prior to membership intake/new member education.
3. The development of brotherhood and sisterhood within a chapter is a critical element of healthy membership experiences. Chapters should develop events for the sole purpose of members connecting and spending time with other members. Chapters must intentionally create two events a semester, outside of chapter meetings, that are either for members only or members and their families, with a majority of the membership participating.
4. Developing a membership experience that carries through a member's time as an undergraduate and into their life as an alumnus is an indicator of a successful chapter. To this end, chapters should develop retention efforts focused on the engagement of seniors. Chapters could also focus on how to prepare graduating members for active roles in Graduate or Alumni Chapters.
5. Chapters should be able to demonstrate an 85% initiation rate for new members.

## **Section Eight: Educational Programming**

To continue to enhance the members' experience of your chapter as well as those around you, chapters must explore opportunities to allow members to develop a better understanding of a specific topic. Educational programs could be delivered on the following topics: Accountability, Alcohol Education, Brotherhood, Sisterhood, Siblinghood, Bystander Intervention, Chapter/Executive Board Strategic Planning, Drug Education, Hazing Prevention, Leadership, Officer Transitions, Recruitment/Membership Intake, or other areas deemed necessary to your chapter or community.

### **Requirements:**

1. Chapters should coordinate or participate in at least three programs/workshops a semester (six annually).
  - *Programs may occur during chapter meetings or be open to the campus population.*
  - *If a chapter co-sponsors an educational program with another chapter, that program may be eligible to cover both educational programming and council involvement standards, thus allowing chapters to collaborate and not create duplicate programming requirements.*
  - *Chapter sponsored/co-sponsored programs should have >50% of the chapter members present to qualify. Educational programs should encompass at least two of the following topical areas: healthy relationships, diversity and inclusion, alcohol and other drugs, mental health, values alignment, professional development, and academic achievement or performance.*
2. All new members are required to complete required modules as specified by the Greek Life Office within their first two weeks of membership.
3. All new members are required to complete the council membership card within their first two weeks of membership. Chapter Officers are required to repeat the program on an annual basis, no later than September 30th.
4. All members are required to complete the Anti-Hazing and NDAH form on an annual basis, within two weeks of the start of the fall semester.

### **Recognition/Awards:**

- Outstanding Chapter Programming Award
  - This award recognizes the outstanding educational programming efforts of chapters to address the chapter's particular needs or the needs of the community through an innovative, engaging, and interactive format.
- Enhancing Cultural Competence, Inclusivity & Community Award
  - This award recognizes a chapter that has exhibited excellence in promoting efforts that enhance knowledge of diversity, inclusion, community development, and cultural competence at UGA. Recipients demonstrate a commitment to both learning and contributing to the knowledge of others on the importance of diversity and inclusion. Supporting activities that promote inclusion and respect for diverse racial, cultural, and ethnic differences while seeking to strengthen inclusion and community at UGA.

## **Section Nine: Campus Community, Leadership & Involvement**

The fraternity and sorority community consists of approximately 9,500 students, which is approximately 30% of the University of Georgia's undergraduate population. It is vital for the success of the community that we continue to build a cohesive relationship and remain partners in all endeavors.

### **Requirements:**

1. Connection to the broader UGA community is important not only for the success of Greek Life but for the individual members within Greek Life to have a holistic UGA experience. Chapters should participate in the following activities each year:
  - a. 75% of the chapter's membership must attend **two** all-campus events, preferably one each semester. Events must represent one of the following four areas: Campus Pride and Traditions, Career and Academic Enhancement, Campus Life, and Diversity and Inclusion. Any event requiring the participation of chapters to meet council obligations is excluded.
    - *Chapter meetings or events primarily sponsored by chapters or councils do not fulfill this standard.*
  - b. 75% of the chapter's membership must participate in one student organization outside of their specific Greek-letter chapter. These affiliations should be properly tracked and accounted for by chapter leadership and reported to the Greek Life Office through the Involvement Network.

### **Recognition/Awards:**

- Outstanding Campus Community, Leadership & Involvement
  - This award recognizes chapters who contribute to the University's motto "to teach, to serve, and to inquire into the nature of things" by hosting educational programs open to the campus community, members are actively involved in student organizations outside of Greek Life, including but not limited to those who hold leadership positions within outside student organizations.

## **Individual Awards**

- **John Bateman Award**
  - This award is designed to recognize the same commitment and dedication that its namesake continues to show the Greek community. Recipients of this award support the idea of fraternity and sorority being more than Greek letters and focus on community, relationship building, and using those relationships to advance the positive impact fraternities and sororities have at UGA, and beyond.
  
- **Outstanding Chapter President Award**
  - This award is designed to recognize Chapter Presidents whose leadership has contributed to the growth of the chapter and who excel as leaders while involved in the greater community. Recipients must display leadership that embodies the pillars of the UGA Arch – Wisdom, Justice, and Moderation.
  
- **Outstanding Dedication Award**
  - This award is designed to recognize the highest standards of purpose and performance in their chapter throughout their entire collegiate experience. Recipients show dedication to their organization and commitment to their responsibilities as members, illustrating that they truly understand the importance of leaving a positive legacy for future members and work beyond the constraints of leadership titles to advance the work of their organization and its contribution to the Greek community.
    - *Nominees must be 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year students with preference given to 4<sup>th</sup> year students.*