COLUMBIA | RESIDENTIAL LIFE
FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE

ALPHA Standards of Accreditation
Fraternity & Sorority Life

Fraternity & Sorority Life
Lerner Hall 515
Reslife-fsl@columbia.edu

INTRODUCTION TO ALPHA STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION

ALPHA Standards of Accreditation is a mandatory process for all fraternities and sororities recognized at Columbia University. A successful submission every semester is required in order to stay in good standing with Fraternity and Sorority Life.

Chapters and organizations in expansion that fail to submit all ALPHA Standards requirements in a given semester may be placed on a probationary status and/or (insert).

ALPHA Standards is not merely a name, but ALPHA serves as an acronym for the core competencies of Fraternity and Sorority Life at Columbia University.

Academics
Leadership development & member education
Philanthropy & community service
Housing operations & chapter management
Activities & alumni

Each recognized fraternity and sorority at Columbia is expected to operate within each of the five core competencies.

A successful completion of ALPHA Standards every semester is indicative of a chapter building a foundation of success at the University. ALPHA Standards are evaluated on a calendar year basis, from January to December.

REVIEW AND SCORING

Submissions will be reviewed by the Fraternity and Sorority Life staff on an ongoing basis utilizing the ALPHA Standards Checklist. Determination of requirement fulfillments and level of participation will be assessed by the Fraternity and Sorority Life staff each semester. All forms and submissions associated with the ALPHA Standards of Excellence can be found at the following links:

- https://www.cc-seas.columbia.edu/reslife/fraternity_sorority/alpha
- lionhub.columbia.edu

A loss of 10 or more points within a given calendar year will result in an automatic chapter review.

SUBMISSIONS

In order to be considered for awards and receive your chapters' assessment, please submit the documents stated below. Chapters are required to follow all submission procedures detailed in this handbook. Chapters are provided with submission forms and templates to be submitted to the specified forms at the beginning of each semester, and will also be posted on the FSL website.

Final submissions for the calendar year are due by the Sunday before final exams at 11:59PM. Chapter leaders should speak to their advisor prior to the deadline if they need additional time.

Chapter Information forms will be due the second Friday of each Spring and Fall semester.

REQUEST FOR SECOND REVIEW

A chapter may request a second review of their submissions by emailing reslife-fsl@columbia.edu within 5 business days of receiving their ALPHA Standards score. To request a review, the chapter must submit a statement addressing their concern and reasoning for a second review. The Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life will review the submitted materials only. A chapter may request a second review of the awarded points if:

- They have additional information, unavailable at the time of review, that they feel can potentially change their point allocation.

They believe points were unfairly distributed.

AWARDS

Each year during the spring semester, Fraternity and Sorority Life will provide awards to chapters who have gone above and beyond in each of the core competencies of ALPHA Standards.

IGC Leader of Excellence	Awarded to a student leader from the Inter-Greek Council, Judicial Board, Order of Omega, Multicultural Greek Council, Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, or SGARB who embodies the values of Fraternity and Sorority Life at Columbia, and whose leadership made a lasting impact on the FSL community during their term. Nominees must have served in a leadership role on one of the FSL governing boards during the calendar year.
Chapters of Excellence	Awarded to the chapters earning the most ALPHA Standards points in a given year – **the maximum number of points a chapter may receive is 35 points**. *There is no limit to how many chapters can receive this prestigious award in a given calendar year.*
Most Improved Chapter of the Year	Determined by the FSL Staff, this is the chapter that has significantly improved operations, communication, and leadership in a given calendar year. Additionally, this chapter has displayed an increased focus on the ALPHA Standards pillars, committing to advancing the Fraternity and Sorority community at Columbia.

Excellence in Academics	Awarded to the IFC chapter, MGC chapter, and CUPA chapter with the highest GPA in a calendar year.
Excellence in Leadership Development	Awarded to the chapter which has exhibited the best leadership transition program and / membership education program.
Excellence in Philanthropy	Awarded to the chapter that raises, donates, and tracks the most money per active member for a non-profit philanthropic organization per member in a calendar year.
Excellence in Community Service	Awarded to the chapter that completes the highest number of community service hours per active member in a calendar year.
Excellence in Housing Operations	Awarded to the housed chapter who has exhibited the best housing operations as determined by FSL Staff.
Excellence in Community Engagement	Awarded to the chapter which exhibits excellent involvement and engagement, takes into account events throughout the year, participation in FSL or IGC programs, and social media engagement.
Excellence in Activities	Awarded to the chapter with outstanding programming in regard to academic programming, health and wellness initiatives, and/or diversity, equity, and inclusion.
Excellence in Alumni Programming	Awarded to the chapter with the most outstanding programming and/or events that includes alumni and the significance of lifelong membership.

Spring Requirements

Point	Requirement	Penalty for Lack of Completion	Description	Where/How to Submit	Due	Complete
1	The chapter submits Spring Chapter Information Form.	Out of Compliance	Spring Chapter Information Form is due by 11:59PM on the second Friday of the Spring semester via LionHub submission form.	LionHub Form	11:59 PM second Friday of Spring	
2	The chapter average GPA is at or above 3.0 for the Spring Chapter Information Form.		FSL staff will verify upon submission of the Spring Chapter Information Form. Failure to meet the minimum GPA requirement will result in an academic coaching referral.	LionHub Form	11:59 PM second Friday of Spring	
3	The chapter ensures LionHub live roster is reflecting accurate chapter membership	Out of Compliance	Spring Active Roster updates are due by 11:59PM on the second Friday of the Spring semester via the LionHub submission form. **Additionally, chapter leadership should ensure that their live roster on LionHub is displaying accurate membership throughout the semester.**	LionHub Form & LionHub Update	11:59 PM second Friday of Spring	
4	The chapter maintains an updated website/social media page that includes a link to the Columbia Residential Life - Fraternity & Sorority Life webpage.		Chapter should provide updated website link and/or social media channels on the Chapter Information Form, due by 11:59PM on the second Friday of the Spring semester via the LionHub submission form.	LionHub Form	11:59 PM second Friday of Spring	
5	The chapter submits the most updated Inter/National and Local Chapter Bylaws and Constitution. This should include information on anti-hazing policies and risk management.		The chapter must provide a digital copy of their bylaws and constitution by the second Friday of the Spring semester at 11:59PM via the LionHub submission form.	LionHub Form	11:59 PM second Friday of Spring	

6	The chapter updates the Spring New Member Roster on LionHub.	Out of Compliance	**Within 48 hours of initiation**, ensure that all new members have been invited to join your chapter roster on LionHub.	LionHub (Inviting new members to your chapter roster)	Within 48 hours of **Initiation**	
7	New Members submit Affiliation Agreements & signed Anti-Hazing statement.	Out of Compliance	**Within 48 hours of new members accepting their bid OR 48 hours prior to intake processes commencing**, new members must complete the Affiliation Agreement on LionHub with their Columbia credentials.	LionHub (Affiliation Agreement Form)	Within 48 hours of **bid acceptance OR start of intake**	
8	Chapter leadership attends annual Spring FSL Leadership Training.	Probationary Recognition (groups already on probation will be referred to J-Board)	The appropriate chapter leader(s) have attended the Spring semester leadership/Presidents' training hosted by Residential Life - Fraternity & Sorority Life. FSL staff will verify this point once the training has occurred.	N/A	Verified by FSL	
9	Chapter leadership meets with an FSL advisor at least twice in the Spring semester.		After two meetings between the chapter leadership and the FSL advisor take place in the Spring, the chapter must email their FSL advisor confirming the meetings took place.	N/A	Verified by FSL	
10	Chapter must complete 5 hours of community service per member during the Spring semester.		Spring Community Service Tracking template must be submitted by 11:59 PM on the Sunday prior to final exams in the Spring semester via the LionHub end of semester reporting form. Chapters that complete more than 5 hours per member will be considered for the Excellence in Community Service award.	Template & LionHub Form	11:59 PM last Sunday of Spring semester prior to final exams	
11	Chapter must have a debt-free operating budget with Columbia University Administration & Planning.	Out of Compliance	Chapter should work with FSL advisor to verify and pay off any debts accrued over the course of the academic year. Chapters who fail to pay off debts by 5pm on the last day of class will immediately face suspension of recognized student group privileges, including, but not limited to, space reservations, funding allocations, event registrations, or new	N/A	11:59 PM last Sunday of Spring semester prior to final exams	

			member intake until the debt is paid off.			
12	Chapter must submit a Risk Management/Crisis Plan.	Social Suspension	Complete Chapter Risk Management/Crisis Plan tailored to the programming needs of the chapter. Chapters should work with alumni advisors and Inter/National Headquarters representatives to determine appropriate plans.	LionHub Form	11:59 PM last Sunday of Spring semester prior to final exams	
13	ALL members listed on the chapters' Spring Active Member Roster must participate in a Sexual Respect educational workshop. Not all members must attend the same training.	Probationary Recognition (groups already on probation will be referred to J-Board)	Educational workshops can include topics like sexual assault, sexual harassment, consent, bystander intervention (to prevent sexual assault), healthy sexuality, alcohol and sexual assault, how to help a friend, or Student Services for Gender-Based and Sexual Misconduct policy. **All workshops must be requested at least three weeks in advance.** If the chapter has questions about a program they are interested in hosting, chapters should consult with their FSL advisor for specific approval of the training. If you plan on using a student leader who is not an SVR-trained peer educator, you must seek approval from your FSL advisor. Columbia SVR and Columbia Gender-Based Misconduct are pre-approved to host workshops. Columbia SVR Workshops can be found at http://bit.ly/ColumbiaSVRWorkshop Chapters can schedule a workshop with Gender-Based Misconduct by emailing Gender Based Misconduct. Chapters must submit an attendance tracking sheet via the LionHub Submission Form.	LionHub Form	11:59 PM last Sunday of Spring semester prior to final exams	
			TOTAL			

Fall Requirements

Point	Requirement	Penalty for Lack of Completion	Description	Where/How to Submit	Due	Complete
14	The chapter submits Fall Chapter Information Form.	Out of Compliance	Fall Chapter Information Form is due by 11:59PM the second Friday of the Fall semester via the LionHub submission form.	LionHub Form	11:59 PM second Friday of Fall	
15	The chapter average GPA is at or above 3.0 for the Fall Chapter Information Form.		FSL staff will verify upon submission of the Fall Chapter Information Form. Failure to meet the minimum GPA requirement will result in social probation and an academic coaching referral.	LionHub Form	11:59 PM second Friday of Fall	
16	The chapter ensures LionHub live roster is reflecting accurate chapter membership.	Out of Compliance	Fall Active Roster updates are due by 11:59PM on the second Friday of the Spring semester via the LionHub submission form. **Additionally, chapter leadership should ensure that their live roster on LionHub is displaying accurate membership throughout the semester.**	LionHub Form & LionHub Update	11:59 PM second Friday of Fall	
17	The chapter updates Fall New Member Roster on LionHub.	Out of Compliance	**Within 48 hours of initiation,** ensure that all new members have been invited to join your chapter roster on LionHub.	LionHub (Inviting new members to your chapter roster)	Within 48 hours of **Initiation**	
18	New Members submit Affiliation Agreements & signed Anti-Hazing statement.	Out of Compliance	**Within 48 hours of new members accepting their bid OR 48 hours prior to intake processes commencing,** new members must complete the Affiliation Agreement on LionHub with their Columbia credentials.	LionHub (Affiliation Agreement Form)	Within 48 hours of bid acceptance OR start of intake	
19	Chapter leadership attends annual Fall FSL Leadership Training.	Probationary Recognition (groups already on probation will be referred to J-Board)	The appropriate chapter leader(s) have attended the Fall semester leadership/Presidents' training hosted by Residential Life - Fraternity & Sorority Life. FSL	N/A	Verified by FSL	

			staff will verify this point once the training has occurred.			
20	Chapter leadership meets with an FSL advisor at least twice in the Fall semester.		After two meetings between the chapter leadership and the FSL advisor take place in the Fall, the chapter must email their FSL advisor confirming the meetings took place.	N/A	Verified by FSL	
21	The chapter is compliant with ALL Club Refuel requirements by the communicated deadline in the Fall semester.	Probationary Recognition (groups already on probation will be referred to J-Board)	Failure to complete ALL Club Refuel requirements will result in immediate probationary status. This includes Enough is Enough, SOKA, Adviser Meeting, Fall FSL Leadership Training/Meeting, and any other additional requirements determined necessary by Student Engagement or University policy.	N/A	Club Refuel Deadline	
22	The chapter is compliant with Enough is Enough state-mandated training.	Probationary Recognition (groups already on probation will be referred to J-Board)	Through the Club Refuel process for all Columbia University Recognized Student Groups, four (4) members of the chapter's executive board must complete the Enough is Enough training annually.	N/A	Club Refuel Deadline	
23	The chapter passes the Student Organization Knowledge Assessment (SOKA).		Through the Club Refuel process for all Columbia University Recognized Student Groups, four (4) members of the chapter's executive board must take and pass the SOKA annually.	N/A	Club Refuel Deadline	
24	The chapter completes the Club Refuel adviser meeting.	Probationary Recognition (groups already on probation will be referred to J-Board)	Through the Club Refuel process for all Columbia University Recognized Student Groups, four (4) members of the chapter's executive board must meet with their FSL Advisor.	N/A	Club Refuel Deadline	
25	Chapter must complete 5 hours of community service per member during the Fall semester.		Fall Community Service Tracking template must be submitted by 11:59PM on the Sunday prior to final exams in the Fall semester via theLionHub end of semester reporting form. Chapters that complete more than 5 hours per member will be considered for the	Template & LionHub Form	11:59 PM last Sunday of Fall semester prior to final exams	

			Excellence in Community Service award.			
26	ALL members listed on the chapters' Fall Active Member Roster must participate in a Diversity Education or Multiculturalism workshop. Not all members must attend the same training.	Probationary Recognition (groups already on probation will be referred to J-Board)	Many chapters work with Undergraduate Student Life Multicultural Affairs to complete this requirement., and the link can be found here: https://www.cc-seas.columbia.edu/OMA/diversityed/sessions **All workshops must be requested at least three weeks in advance.** If the chapter is interested in hosting a workshop outside the above resources, chapters should consult with their FSL advisor for approval. If you plan on using a student leader who is not an Under1Roof-trained peer educator, you must seek approval from your FSL advisor. Chapters must submit an attendance tracking sheet via the LionHub Submission Form. Chapters that hold exemplary workshops will be considered for the Excellence in Activities award.	LionHub Form	11:59 PM last Sunday of Fall semester prior to final exams	
			TOTAL			

Additional Requirements

Point	Requirement	Penalty for Lack of Completion	Description	Where/How to Submit	Due	Complete
27	Chapter updates Chapter Officers on LionHub.	Out of Compliance	**Within 48 hours of Chapter Officer elections, outgoing officers must update LionHub with accurate officers displayed for the upcoming term.** Failure to do so will result in the chapter becoming out of compliance.	LionHub Update	Within 48 hours of elections	
28	The chapter maintains a comprehensive general liability insurance in the minimum amount of $1,000,000.00 (one million dollars) of primary liability coverage (each occurrence), with general aggregate coverage of at least $2,000,000.00 (total). Such liability insurance shall include Columbia University, its officers, employees and agents, as an additional named insured and shall be written with an insurance carrier acceptable to the University.	Out of Compliance	Chapter must maintain a certificate of insurance liability at all times. Chapters should present a digital copy to the Assistant Director of FSL annually via email. Chapters will receive notice from the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life when the certificate of insurance is about to expire. Failure to maintain an updated insurance certificate will result in the chapter being unable to host or participate in any activity including recruitment/intake.	Email copy to Assistant Director of FSL	Upon lapse in current policy	
29	The chapter has organized and executed at least one program or event that benefits a legitimate 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of their choice.		Chapter must submit proof of the event taking place via the LionHub submission form. Chapters raising over $10 per member will be considered for the Excellence in Philanthropy award.	LionHub Form	11:59 PM last Sunday of Fall semester prior to final exams	
			TOTAL			

Suggested Eligible Programming, Events, & Initiatives

Point	Requirement	Description	Where/How to Submit	Due	Complete
30	At least 60% of the chapter membership participates in a Risk Management educational workshop which addresses insurance liability, criminal liability, and risk management to better understand the legal responsibilities of your chapter.	Chapters may work with their chapter/alumni advisor or Inter/National headquarters for this presentation. Chapters must submit attendance and what was covered in the program via the LionHub submission form.	LionHub Form	11:59PM on the Sunday prior to final exams in the Fall semester	
31	At least 60% of the chapter membership participates in a wellness educational workshop.	Wellness educational workshops can include, but are not limited to: Alcohol, Communication, Assertiveness, Contraception, Nutrition & Healthier Eating, Fitness, Sexual & Reproductive Health, Stress, Sleep, and Tobacco. **All workshops must be requested at least three weeks in advance.** Columbia Health Workshops can be found here. If the chapter has questions about a program they are interested in hosting, chapters should consult with their FSL advisor for specific approval of the training. If you plan on using a student leader who is not a Barnard Well-Woman-trained or Alice Health-trained peer educator, you must seek approval from your FSL advisor. Chapters must submit attendance and what was covered in the program via the LionHub submission form. Chapters hosting exemplary wellness workshops will be considered for the Excellence in Activities award.	LionHub Form	11:59PM on the Sunday prior to final exams in the Fall semester	
32	At least 60% of the chapter membership participates in an educational workshop offered by the Office of Title IX.	In order to schedule training from Title IX, Chapters should email them at titleix@columbia.edu. Chapters should make sure to email at least three weeks in advance of the desired training time	LionHub Form	11:59PM on the Sunday prior to final exams in the Fall semester	
33	The chapter operates with a Standards Board to address any violations or	Chapter should submit a digital copy of these policies and proof of Standards Board meetings via the LionHub submission form by the established ALPHA Standards deadline each year.	LionHub Form	11:59PM on the Sunday prior to	

	misconduct from membership.			final exams in the Fall semester	
34	The chapter has made efforts to reach out to alumni/ae members and invite alumni to at least one chapter/university event each year.	Chapter must submit proof of alumni/ae outreach via the LionHub submission form by the established ALPHA Standards deadline each year. Chapters that host exemplary alumni programming and provide details and photos of this program will be considered for the Excellence in Alumni Programming award.	LionHub Form	11:59PM on the Sunday prior to final exams in the Fall semester	
35	Chapter has members that serve on IGC, MGC, Panhellenic, IFC, J-Board, OOO or SGARB for the entirety of the ALPHA Standards year.	FSL staff will verify this point. Only individuals serving on these councils will be considered for the IGC Leader of Excellence award.	N/A	Verified by FSL	
		TOTAL			