

Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η Θ Ι Κ Λ Μ Ν Ξ Ο Π Ρ Σ Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω

FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE

ALPHA Standards
2019 HANDBOOK: SECTION SIX

RESIDENTIAL LIFE | FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE
Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η Θ Ι Κ Λ Μ Ν Ξ Ο Π Ρ Σ Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω

I. INTRODUCTION TO ALPHA STANDARDS

Purpose of Program

The purpose of the 5-Crown ALPHA Standards of Excellence Program is to enhance the values, beliefs and practices of fraternity and sorority chapters at Columbia University. Residential Life-Fraternity & Sorority Life seeks to reward chapters who exemplify excellence and continuously work towards offering a holistic member experience. This program may be modified at any time.

Outcome Based Model

The ALPHA Standards of Excellence is guided by the seven critical domains of growth, learning and development (GLD) as described by the University Learning Outcomes Assessment (UNiLOA). These domains are: Critical Thinking, Self-Awareness, Communication, Diversity, Citizenship, Membership & Leadership, and Relationships. The UniLOA domains “were constructed conceptually to determine what functional areas were considered critical to the full GLD of college students upon graduation. Identification of critical domains was made through two conduits, the first of which was an exhaustive review of contemporary research and literature in human development, specifically in the area of college student development, and through formal studies designed to poll higher education constituents as to what they felt was important for holistic student GLD.” - *UNiLOA Validity Report*

Each category provides an opportunity for chapters to document experiences of and opportunities for members that are in line with the domains and the values that guide Residential Life-Fraternity & Sorority Life. Additionally, chapters have the opportunity to create goals and assess their own success in meeting identified goals each year.

I. VALUE-BASED PROGRAM

Guiding Values

The ALPHA Standards of Excellence is guided by the shared values of all fraternal organizations, the Core Values of Residential Life and the Columbia University Fraternity & Sorority Statement of Shared Values.

Core Values of Residential Life

In Residential Life, the following core values guide how we develop individuals and community. Through our programs, services, and University partnerships, we strive to instill these values in all of our residential communities:

Engagement: We encourage intellectual and interpersonal connections within the residential community and beyond.

Development: We endorse healthy life balance that encompasses nurturing the mind, body, and spirit in order to maximize potential.

Responsibility: We seek to develop community members who live their values, are accountable to self and others, and reflect on the impact of their actions and behaviors. **Inclusivity:** We foster recognition of commonalities and differences across a spectrum of identities and seek the perspectives not present in our pursuit of shared understanding. **Learning:** We celebrate all experiences as opportunities for education by embracing inquiry and discourse to promote transformational growth.

Statement of Shared Values

The fraternity and sorority community at Columbia University strives to foster a holistic collegiate experience that will strengthen a commitment to life-long membership and our alma mater.

We believe that through our dedication and promotion of **social consciousness** we greatly contribute to the creation of a vibrant cultural community that emphasizes diversity, inclusiveness, and **mutual respect**. We are values based organizations and, through our actions, we embody these ideals and inspire others.

Leadership. Scholarship. Empowerment.

Values Congruence

The ALPHA Standards of Excellence is an umbrella for the guiding principles and values of fraternities and sororities at Columbia University.

ALPHA Category	Residential Life	Statement of Shared Values	UNiLOA
Academics	Learning	Scholarship	Critical Thinking
Leadership Development & Member Education	Development	Leadership	Membership & Leadership, Communication
Philanthropy & Community Service	Engagement	Social Consciousness	Citizenship
Housing Operations & Chapter Management	Responsibility	Mutual Respect	Self-Awareness, Communication
Activities & Alumni Involvement	Inclusivity	Empowerment	Diversity

Program Criteria

Fraternities and sororities have the ability to earn one to five crowns, with a minimum of three crowns **REQUIRED** to receive Full Recognition. Chapters who receive less than three crowns will be recommended for Rescission of Recognition or other serious consequences. Chapters receiving four or more crowns will qualify for various awards.

Rating System

There are **5** categories in which chapters can earn credits. The categories are:

Academics

Leadership development & member education

Philanthropy & community service

Housing operations/chapter management

Activities and alumni

I. REVIEW, SCORING, & RESULTS

Scoring of ALPHA Standards Submissions

In order to obtain three crowns, a chapter must have submitted all documents listed in the Three Crown Expectations. Chapters with housing must also complete the Housing Achievements. Should a chapter fail to complete the Three Crown Expectations (and Housing Achievements when applicable) any additional information submitted will be recorded, but not scored.

Crown(s)	Points required WITH Housing	Points required WITHOUT Housing
1	1-7	1-6
2	8-13	7-11
3	14-23	12-22
4	24-33	23-32
5	34-38	33-37

ALPHA Standards 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 link: https://www.cc-seas.columbia.edu/reslife/fraternity_sorority/alpha.

Submission

In order to be considered for awards and receive your chapters' assessment, please submit the documents stated below. Submissions are accepted by digital submission on the link above.

Chapters are required to submit paperwork to forms on Columbia's FSL site. Chapters are given links to each form at the beginning of each semester and all templates can be found on that link. **All forms must be submitted for approval by the FIRST FRIDAY OF DECEMBER BY 12PM**

Award or Loss of Privileges

Crown(s)	Loss	Award
1	Rescission of Recognition (Refer to FSL policy manual/handbook for definition)	NA

I. ALPHA STANDARDS GUIDELINES

PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS		
1	The chapter submits all appropriate documents and forms associated with recruitment and intake/new member education for spring semester.	New member Form Due: Within 48 hours of intake to FSL Anti-Hazing New Member Form Due: Within 48 hours of intake to FSL
2	The chapter submits all appropriate documents and forms associated with recruitment and intake/new member education for fall semester.	New member Form Due: Within 48 hours of intake to FSL Anti-Hazing New Member Form Due: Within 48 hours of intake to FSL
3	The chapter submits Chapter Information Form for spring semester.	Chapter Information Form Due: The First Friday EACH Semester
4	The chapter submits Chapter Information Form for fall semester.	Chapter Information Form Due: The First Friday EACH Semester
5	The chapter submits Chapter Officer Report	Chapter Officer Report Form Due: Within 72 hours of elections to FSL. If elections fall after ALPHA Standards submission, proof of elections timeline is needed. This must be resubmitted if officers go abroad, graduate, etc.
6	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	The chapter should present a certificate of insurance to the University as evidence of such coverage, and the University must receive notice of any change, cancellation, or renewal of the policy. The chapter can get this certificate, if they do not have it already, by working with their contact from their national headquarters.

	shall be written with an insurance carrier acceptable to the University.	Chapter must maintain deadlines of expiration and not allow certificate to expire.		
7	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.	These are official documents from your chapter. You can usually locate your updated International Bylaws or Constitution on your fraternity or sorority's webpage, or by contacting a representative from your headquarters.		
8	The chapter leadership meets with a fraternity/sorority advisor from Fraternity and Sorority Life at least twice a semester.	You may obtain written confirmation (letter or email) from your advisor verifying this point.		
9	The chapter has at least one volunteer advisor from their Inter/National organization or alumni membership. Advisor has met with FSL advisor at least once each academic year.	You may obtain written confirmation (letter or email) from your FSL advisor or sign-in sheet from FSL sanctioned advisor meetings verifying this point.		

EDUCATION

10	The chapter participates in a General Fraternity Insurance Coverage and Risk Management educational workshop which addresses insurance liability, criminal liability, and risk management to better understand the legal responsibilities of your chapter. (80% of your chapter based on sizes from the full academic year).	Your chapter can work with: Your Alumni Advisor		
11	The chapter participates in a Diversity Education or Multiculturalism workshop (80% of your chapter based on sizes from the full academic year). Fraternity and Sorority Life recommends using the specific FSL multiculturalism presentation that may be requested by your advisor. If you are interested in working with another organization for this workshop, you can consult with your advisor.	Your chapter can work with: Your Fraternity and Sorority Life Advisor <i>This is a priority choice. Requests must be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance.</i>		
12	The chapter participates in a Sexual Violence educational workshop (80% of your chapter based on sizes from the full academic year). This educational	<i>Some resources for workshops are:</i> Sexual Violence Response Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center and Men's Peer Education		

	workshop 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.	Phone: 212.854.3500, Workshop Request Form Student Services for Gender-Based & Sexual Misconduct Phone: 212.854.1717, Website The Office of Equal Opportunity & Affirmative Action Phone: 212.854.5511 Website <i>Requests must be submitted at least 3 weeks in advance. If possible, make your request within the first month of each semester. You must book a space to host the workshop.</i>		
13	The chapter participates in a wellness educational workshop (80% of your chapter based on sizes from the full academic year). Wellness can include (but is not limited to: Alcohol, Communication, Assertiveness, Contraception, Nutrition & Healthier Eating, Fitness, Sexual & Reproductive Health, Stress, Sleep, and Tobacco.	<i>Your chapter can work with:</i> Alice! Health Promotion (Columbia Health) Phone: 212.854.5453, Workshop Request Form <i>Requests must be submitted at least 3 weeks in advance. If possible, make your request within the first month of each semester. You must book a space to host the workshop.</i>		
14	The chapter participates in a Fire Prevention educational workshop (80% of your chapter based on sizes from the full academic year). This is ONLY for the fraternities and sororities that occupy University owned brownstones.	<i>Your chapter can work with:</i> Facilities Operations Phone: 212.854.8518 Website <i>Requests must be submitted at least 3 weeks in advance. If possible, make your request within the first month of each semester. You must book a space to host the workshop.</i>		

ACADEMICS

15	The overall chapter average GPA is at or above a 3.0 for both the Fall and Spring semesters.	Chapters may submit a roster of self-reported GPA's with the average calculated. Chapter rosters must include the self-reported GPA of every member.		
16	The chapter provides incentives and recognition for academic achievement.	The chapter should submit some written documentation of incentives for academic achievement. This may be a written note from the Scholarship Chair on your e-board explaining rituals or meeting traditions that honor high achievers. Other chapters have submitted highlighted portions of their chapter handbook.		

17	Submit a short statement (at least 300 words) that lists at least three accomplishments your chapter has achieved in this category.	Your summary might include new programs or efforts made in your chapter (ie. A new “study hour” initiative, library days, or improvement of chapter GPA)		
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LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & MEMBER EDUCATION

18	The appropriate chapter leaders have attended the spring semester Greek Leadership Trainings hosted by Residential Life-Fraternity & Sorority Life (Greek Leader, Round Tables, etc.).	Chapters should obtain a confirmation letter from your FSL Advisor or a copy of the sign-in sheet.		
19	The appropriate chapter leaders have attended the Fall semester leadership training hosted by Residential Life-Fraternity & Sorority Life.	Chapters should obtain a confirmation letter from your FSL Advisor or a copy of the sign-in sheet.		
20	The chapter has 80 % or more of all new members (from most recent spring and fall new member classes) in attendance at the annual New Member Summit.	Chapters should obtain a confirmation letter from the IGC.		
21	Submit a short statement (at least 300 words) that lists at least three accomplishments your chapter has achieved in this category, leadership development and member education.	Your summary might include new programs or efforts made in your chapter (ie. A leadership workshop, a new member driven event, etc.)		

PHILANTHROPY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

22	Chapter has completed 5 hours of service per member for the Spring semester. <i>Hours will be calculated using total hours served by ALL members divided by number of members in chapter.</i>	An attendance sheet with names and UNI’s for each community service event and/or an email from the facilitator of community service events confirming members completed 5 hours or more of community service.		
23	Chapter has completed 5 hours of service per member for the Fall semester. <i>Hours will be calculated using total hours served by ALL members divided by number of members in chapter.</i>	An attendance sheet with names and UNI’s for each community service event and/or an email from the facilitator of community service events confirming members completed 5 hours or more of community service.		
24	The chapter has raised at least \$5 per member throughout the year. <i>Per member will be defined as the number of members at the time of event if one event or average of the year if multiple events.</i>	Chapters should submit information about their philanthropy efforts throughout year (name of event(s), dates, benefiting organization, and amount raised).		
25	The chapter has organized and executed a program or event once this year that benefits an organization of their choice. The idea is to raise awareness and funds	In previous years, chapters have submitted a flyer, email, and/or letter from the organization stating the amount of funds raised for the organization as		

	for the organization. Chosen organization must be legitimate 501C3 incorporated group (e.g. Relay for Life; St. Jude's, Susan G. Komen, etc). Chapters raising \$60 or more for charity per member may qualify for the Achievement in Philanthropy Award.	documentation of meeting this requirement.		
26	Submit a short statement (at least 300 words) that lists at least three accomplishments your chapter has achieved in this category.	Your summary might include new programs or efforts made in your chapter (ie. fundraising a goal amount for philanthropy, exceeding community service efforts from the previous semester, etc.)		

CHAPTER MANAGEMENT

27	The chapter operates with a Standards Board to address any violations or misconduct from membership.	Highlighted sections of your chapter constitution outlining the nomination process and judicial procedures of the standards board should be included in your binder to fulfill this ALPHA Standard.		
28	The chapter maintains an updated website that is linked to the FSL page on the Student Affairs- Residential Life website.	An active website link.		
29	The chapter has hosted transitioning for incoming and outgoing officers that incorporates goal setting and outlines position duties/responsibilities.	A calendar of events highlighting new officer training dates can be submitted as proof of fulfilling this ALPHA Standard. Other chapters have submitted sections of their new officer training manual or emails demonstrating that new officer training took place.		
30	The chapter has attended and participated in all appropriate InterGreek Council meetings for the year.	This will be verified by the IGC.		
31	The chapter has attended and participated in all appropriate Governing Council meetings (IFC/MGC/PHC) for the year.	This will be verified by the specific governing council.		
32	The chapter has at least one member attend regional and/or national meetings, conferences, conventions, and trainings hosted by the Inter/National organization.	Proof of attendance (e.g. an email confirming attendance, travel itinerary, registration confirmation, etc.)		
33	Submit a short statement (at least 300 words) that lists at least three accomplishments your chapter has achieved in this category.	Your summary might include new programs or efforts made in your chapter (ie. a new house program, positive additions to the house rules, etc.)		

ACTIVITIES & ALUMNI

34	The chapter has 60% or more of members involved in another recognized Columbia University student organization during the year. Chapters who achieve this may qualify for the Achievement in Campus Involvement Award.	Submit a chapter roster listing the involvement of each member, including their executive officer positions.		
35	The chapter has members holding executive officer positions in recognized student organizations (outside of the Greek organization).			
36	The chapter has collaborated and planned at least one event this year with another organization on campus or fraternity/sorority outside the chapter's Council. Example: educational program, leadership workshop, or another values-based event of your choice.	In previous years, chapters have submitted a flyer, photo, space confirmation and/or email verifying co-sponsorship of events.		
37	The chapter has made efforts to reach out to alumni members and invite alumni to at least one chapter/university event each year.	In previous years, chapters have submitted a letter/email or some form of correspondence and response to and from alumni.		
38	Submit a short statement (at least 300 words) that lists at least three accomplishments your chapter has achieved in this category.	Your summary might include new programs or efforts made in your chapter (ie. a new alumni event, incentives for chapter members to join Columbia organizations, etc.)		

JUDICIAL: THESE POINTS ARE ONLY DEDUCTION POINTS.

39	Chapter was found responsible for violating a Columbia University, Guide to Living, and/or Fraternity and Sorority Life policy	Chapter will lose one point for each hearing they were found responsible from Judicial Board. This will be verified by the Judicial Board.		
40	Chapter status was changed to housing/social probation or another lower level status on judicial sanction.	Chapter will lose 3 points each time their status changes. This will be verified by Judicial Board.		
41	Chapter status was changed to social suspension or any higher level status on judicial sanction.	Chapter will lose 5 points each time their status changes. This will be verified by Judicial Board.		

BONUS: THESE POINTS ARE ADDITIONAL POINTS THAT CAN BE ADDED TO LOST OR DEDUCTED POINTS.

43	The chapter has had 60% or more of members participate in at least one InterGreek Council sponsored philanthropic or service event this year.	Chapters should obtain a confirmation letter from the IGC Philanthropy Chair.		
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44	Chapter has participated in a council specific (IFC/Panhellenic/MGC) initiative in the spring semester.	This will be verified by the specific governing council.		
45	Chapter has participated in a council specific (IFC/Panhellenic/MGC) initiative in the fall semester.	This will be verified by the specific governing council.		
46	Chapter has members on InterGreek Council and/or Judicial Board for entirety of 2018 year.	Chapter will receive 1 point in total.		