



COLUMBIA | RESIDENTIAL LIFE FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE

ALPHA Standards of Accreditation
for Fraternity & Sorority Life

Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life
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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

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.

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.

SUBMISSIONS

In order to be considered for awards and receive your chapters' assessment, please submit the documents stated below. Chapters are required follow all submission procedures detailed in this handbook. Chapters are given links and templates to the specified forms at the beginning of each semester and will also be posted on the FSL website. **Final submissions are due by the last Monday in December. Chapter leaders should speak to their advisor BEFORE the deadline if they need additional time.**

REQUEST FOR SECOND REVIEW

A chapter may request a second review of their submissions by emailing fsl-reslife@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

IGC Leader of Excellence	Awarded to a student leader from Inter-Greek Council, Judicial Board, Order of Omega, Multicultural Greek Council, Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, or SGARB
Chapter of Excellence	Awarded to the chapter earning the most ALPHA Standards points in a given year – the maximum number of points a chapter may receive is 34 points
Most improved Chapter of the Year	Determined by the FSL Staff, this is the chapter who has improved operations the most in a given academic year
Panhellenic Chapter of Excellence	Awarded to the Panhellenic chapter earning the most ALPHA Standards points in a given year – the maximum number of points a chapter may receive is 34 points
Interfraternity Chapter of Excellence	Awarded to the IFC chapter earning the most ALPHA Standards points in a given year – the maximum number of points a chapter may receive is 34 points
Multicultural Chapter of Excellence	Awarded to the MGC chapter earning the most ALPHA Standards points in a given year – the maximum number of points a chapter may receive is 34 points
Excellence in Academics	Awarded to the fraternity chapter and sorority chapter with the highest GPA
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 which raises the most money for a non-profit organization per member
Excellence in Community Service	Awarded to the chapter which completes the highest number of community service hours per member
Excellence in Housing Operations	Awarded to the housed chapter who has exhibited the best housing operations as determined by FSL Staff
Excellence in Chapter Management	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 the most outstanding programming with regard to health & wellness and / or DEI
Excellence in Alumni Programming	Awarded to the chapter with the most outstanding programming that includes alumni

Spring Requirements

Point	Requirement	Penalty for Lack of Completion	Description	Template	Due	Complete
1	The chapter submits Spring Chapter Information Form.	Out of Compliance	Complete Spring Chapter Information Form is due by 9am on the first Monday of the Spring semester via the submission form linked above.	Yes	9am first Monday 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 an academic coaching referral.		9am first Monday of Spring	
3	The chapter submits Spring Active Roster.	Out of Compliance	Complete Spring Active Roster must use the provided template and is due by 9am on the first Monday of the Spring semester via the submission form linked above.	Yes	9am first Monday 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 upload a document (pdf) with the working website or public social media link by 9am on the first Monday of the Spring semester via the submission form linked above.		9am first Monday of Spring	
5	The chapter submits the most updated Inter/National and Local Chapter Bylaws and		Chapter must submit a digital copy of these policies by 9am on the first Monday of the Spring semester via the submission form linked above.		9am first Monday of Spring	

	Constitution. This should include information on anti-hazing policies and risk management.					
6	The chapter submits Spring New Member Roster.	Out of Compliance	Complete Spring New Member Roster must use the provided template and is due within 48 hours of bid acceptance (communicated through the Spring Chapter Information Form) via the submission form linked above.	Yes	Within 48 hours of bid acceptance	
7	The chapter submits signed Spring New Member Anti-Hazing Forms.	Out of Compliance	Complete Spring New Member Roster must use the provided template and is due within 48 hours of bid acceptance (communicated through the Spring Chapter Information Form) via the submission form linked above.	Yes	Within 48 hours of bid acceptance	
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.		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.		Verified by FSL	
10	Chapter must complete 5 hours of community service per member during the Spring semester.		Complete Spring Community Service Tracking template must be submitted by 5pm on the last day of class in the Spring semester via the submission form linked above. Chapters that perform more than 5 hours per member will be considered for the Commitment to Community Service award.	Yes	5pm last day of Spring	
11	Chapter must have a debt-free operating budget with Columbia University	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		5pm last day of Spring	

	Administration & Planning.		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 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 advisor and Inter/National Headquarters representatives to determine appropriate plans.		5pm last day of Spring	
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)	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Columbia SVR and Columbia Gender-Based Misconduct are pre-approved to host workshops. Columbia SVR Workshops can be found at http://bit.ly/ColumbiaSVRWorkshop</p> <p>Chapters can schedule a workshop with Gender-Based Misconduct by emailing Gender Based Misconduct.</p> <p>Chapters must submit the</p>	Yes	5pm last day of Spring	

			Educational Workshop template via the submission form linked above.			
			TOTAL			

Fall Requirements

Point	Requirement	Penalty for Lack of Completion	Description	Template	Due	Complete
14	The chapter submits Fall Chapter Information Form.	Out of Compliance	Complete Fall Chapter Information Form is due by 9am on the first Monday of the Fall semester via the submission form linked above.	Yes	9am first Monday 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.		9am first Monday of Fall	
16	The chapter submits Fall Active Roster.	Out of Compliance	Complete Fall Active Roster must use the provided template and is due by 9am on the first Monday of the Fall semester via the submission form linked above.	Yes	9am first Monday of Fall	
17	The chapter submits Fall New Member Roster.	Out of Compliance	Complete Fall New Member Roster must use the provided template and is due within 48 hours of bid acceptance (communicated through the Fall Chapter Information Form) via the submission form linked above.	Yes	Within 48 hours of bid acceptance	
18	The chapter submits signed Fall New Member Anti-Hazing Forms.	Out of Compliance	Complete Fall New Member Anti-Hazing Acknowledgement form with signatures is due within 48 hours of bid acceptance (communicated through the Fall Chapter Information Form) via the submission form linked above.	Yes	Within 48 hours of bid acceptance	
19	Chapter leadership attends annual Fall FSL Leadership Training.	Probationary Recognition (groups already on	The appropriate chapter leader(s) have attended the Spring semester leadership/Presidents' training		Verified by FSL	

		probation will be referred to J-Board)	hosted by Residential Life - Fraternity & Sorority Life. When Club Refuel is held on a singular day or weekend, it will be included in scheduling. 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.		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.		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.		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.		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.		Club Refuel deadline	
25	Chapter must complete 5 hours of community service		Complete Fall Community Service Tracking template must be submitted by 5pm on the Monday prior to Thanksgiving	Yes	5pm on the Monday prior to Thanksgiving	

	per member during the Fall semester.		via the submission form linked above. Chapters that perform more than 5 hours per member will be considered for the Commitment to 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. 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 the Educational Workshop template via the submission form linked above. Chapters that hold exemplary workshops will be considered for the Outstanding DEI Programming award.	Yes	5pm on the Monday prior to Thanksgiving	
				TOTAL		

Additional Requirements

Point	Requirement	Penalty for Lack of Completion	Description	Template	Due	Complete
27	Chapter submits Chapter Officer Report.	Out of Compliance	Complete Chapter Officer Report must use the provided template and submit via the submission form linked above.	Yes	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	Out of Compliance	Chapter must maintain a certificate of insurance liability at all times. Chapters should present a digital copy to their FSL advisor annually via the submission form linked above. Chapters will receive notice from the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life when the certificate of insurance is about to expire.		Upon lapse in current policy	

	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.		Failure to maintain an updated insurance certificate will result in the chapter being unable to host or participate in any activity including recruitment/intake.			
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 submission form linked above. Additionally, chapters should submit a complete Philanthropy Tracking form in the provided template. Chapters raising over \$10 per member will be considered for the Outstanding Commitment to Philanthropy award.	Yes	5pm on the Monday prior to Thanksgiving	
TOTAL						

Suggested Eligible Programming

Point	Requirement	Description	Template	Due	Complete
30	At least 60% of the chapter 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 the Educational Workshop template via the submission form linked above.		5pm on the Monday prior to Thanksgiving	
31	At least 60% of the chapter participates in a wellness educational workshop.	Wellness educational workshops can include, but is 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 at http://bit.ly/ColumbiaHealthWorkshop If the		5pm on the Monday prior to Thanksgiving	

		<p>chapter has questions about a program they are interested in hosting, chapters should consult with their FSL advisor for specific approval of the training.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Chapters must submit the Educational Workshop template via the submission form linked above. Chapters hosting exemplary wellness workshops will be considered for the Outstanding Wellness Programming award.</p>		
32	The chapter operates with a Standards Board to address any violations or misconduct from membership.	Chapter should submit a digital copy of these policies submitted via the submission form linked above.		Verified by FSL
33	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 submission form linked above by the established ALPHA Standards deadline each year. Chapters that host exemplary alumni programming will be considered for the Outstanding Alumni Programming award.		5pm on the Monday prior to Thanksgiving
34	Chapter has members on IGC, MGC, Panhell, 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 Distinction award.		Verified by FSL
TOTAL				