



## STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM FOR FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES

The standards of excellence program for fraternities and sororities at Indiana State University aims to challenge members of recognized social fraternities and sororities to live up to the high principles and ideals upon which their organizations were founded. By providing a set of standards from the Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) office that reflects these common principles, we will create level of accountability with opportunities to seek distinction. The overall goal of this program is to improve the community and create opportunities for membership growth, development, and values congruence.

### I. Academic Achievement

- a. Each fraternity or sorority must maintain an average cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of a 2.50 (*inclusive of new/associate and initiate members*), but should strive to be above the all-University average. Those who do not meet this standard are recommended to have members participate in the FSL Academic Commitment Exchange.
- b. Organizations should have a specific GPA standard for membership selection (*ex. invitations for membership are given to those with at least a 2.75 high school GPA or 2.50 transfer/college GPA*).
- c. Each organization must have a chairperson, officer, committee, include academic oversight within the job description of an officer, or be able to demonstrate that an officer/committee has responsibility for academic achievement.
- d. Each organization must have an academic support/achievement program that includes campus support resources (*ex. Young Gifted, & Black; Supplemental Instruction; Writing Center; Math Center; Tutoring*).
- e. Organizations should be able to explain how their academic intervention/support program has been beneficial for members.
- f. Organizations should be able to explain how members who do not meet outlined academic standards are held accountable.
- g. Organizations should have an academic incentive or recognition process (*ex. Dean's List reward, scholarship for potential members, etc.*) and be able to display how members who are doing well academically are celebrated.

### II. Campus Leadership and Involvement

- a. Organization representatives must attend an annual TreeHouse training session hosted by the Office of Campus Life.
- b. Organizations should participate in annual campus traditions such as, but not limited to: Donaghy Day, Welcome to the Forest/Convocation, March Thru the Arch, Family Weekend, Homecoming, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, Give to Blue Day, State Dance Marathon, Spring Week, or Sycamore Sessions.
- c. Organization members (including active and new members) should be involved in another organization or experience outside of their fraternity/sorority (*ex. student organization, honor society, club sport, research initiative, volunteer experience, faith-based program, work/job commitment, etc.*).
- d. Organization representatives should attend leadership development programs from the Linda Eldred Student Leadership Center such as the Student Leadership Conference and LeaderShops.
- e. Organization members should attend and support "Greek Night" athletic events
- f. Organization should encourage membership to apply for the Greek honor societies of Order of Omega or Gamma Sigma Alpha, or encourage membership in fraternal related organizations like GreekIV.

### III. Education and Learning

- a. Each organization must host, co-host, or attend a minimum of two member development / educational programs/trainings/events per semester.
- b. At least one of the member development/educational activities the organization hosts or attends should be sponsored/hosted by an Indiana State University office (*ex. Student Health Promotion, Multicultural Services and Programs, Charles E. Brown African American Cultural Center (AACC), Campus Life, Student Counseling Center, Community Engagement, Career Center, Office of Sustainability, Accessibility Resource Office, Veterans Services, Mentoring Center, New Student Transition Programs, etc.*).
- c. Organizations must submit the FSL Member Development/Educational Program Reflection Form after hosting/attending a program/training/event to document their attendance and learning.
- d. Member organizations must participate in the Fall semester FSL sponsored Alcohol Skills Training Program (ASTP) biannually. If an organization receives this program through their inter/national organization, they may be able to opt out of the requirement if documentation is provided.
- e. In the year that an organization does not receive ASTP, they must participate in the Fall semester FSL sponsored Bystander training program (which may be Behind Happy Faces or the StepUP Program). In the event that an organization receives a similar program through their inter/national organization, they may be able to opt out of the requirement if documentation is provided.

### IV. Inclusive Excellence and Belonging

- a. Each organization must have a chairperson, officer, committee, include diversity initiatives within the job description of an officer, or be able to demonstrate that an officer/committee has responsibility for inclusive excellence.
- b. Each organization must host or attend diversity, equity, inclusion, implicit bias, social justice, and/or anti-racism programming or training each semester. These may be activities hosted by campus offices (*see Education and Learning* section), community partners (*ex. Terre Haute Pride Center, CANDLES*), and/or an inter/national headquarters.
- c. Organizations should host or attend opportunities for members to form deeper connections and learn more about their personal or social identities by hosting or attending brotherhood / sisterhood / siblinghood event programs or activities.
- d. Organizations should host or attend programming, events, trainings, or other initiatives that provide opportunities for members to understand, articulate, and exemplify their values/targets/pillars (*ex. review meeting following a ritual ceremony or event*).
- e. Verification of training and/or programs should be submitted through the FSL Member Development / Educational Program Reflection Form.

### V. Leadership Development and Training

- a. Organizations must have an officer transition or onboarding process ([see template](#)) for newly elected officers (this can be a nationally mandated program or something developed on the local level), and be able to display how this transition process is implemented on at least an annual basis.
- b. At least one member of the organization should attend a leadership program, training, and/or business meeting sponsored by their inter/national or regional office each semester.
- c. Organization representatives must attend all biweekly All-Council meetings.
- d. Organization must be represented at the August President's Retreat and the Spring semester Greek Leadership Series events (held in January, February, and March).
- b. Organization representatives should attend the annual FSL Officer Installation Ceremony and the annual FSL Leadership Awards Ceremony
- a. Presidents (or their designee) must schedule and attend monthly one-on-one meetings with their FSL coach during the Fall and Spring semester.

## **VI. Membership Sustainability**

- a. To comply with [Policy 450 on Student Organizations](#), all fraternities and sororities must have at least six members to retain their recognition. In the event that an organization falls below the six member threshold, a plan must be put in place with how the organization will comply with this standard within the academic year.
- b. Organizations must submit the Membership Process Planning Form on TreeHouse within the first two weeks of each semester.
- c. Organizations should participate in University promotional events (*ex. Involvement Fair, FSL Carnival, AACC Street Fair, etc.*) and council-sponsored recruitment/intake programming (*ex. IFC Info Session, NPHC Meet the Greeks, Panhellenic Picnic*).
- d. Organizations must keep their rosters and officers updated in TreeHouse. Roster updates should be checked quarterly on August 1 (for the start of the Fall semester), November 1 (for Fall semester grades), January 15 (for the start of the Spring semester), and April 1 (for Spring semester grades).
- e. New/Associate members must complete the FSL Academic Release Form and Hazing Policy Acknowledgment by November 1 (if they affiliate in the Fall semester) or April 1 (if they affiliate in the Spring semester).
- f. Organization engages with alumni/ae in a meaningful way (*ex. ongoing communication via newsletter/social group, Founder's Day activities, alumni/ae networking/mentoring programs, etc.*) to demonstrate lifetime membership to current members.

## **VII. Operations and Administration**

- a. Organizations must re-register as a student organization annually through TreeHouse.
- b. To comply with Recognized Student Organization policies, all fraternities and sororities must have an on-campus faculty/staff advisor (in addition to the FSL Office staff members).
- c. Each organization must have a primary advisor who has received approval and training from the regional and/or inter/national organization. Advisors should be involved in offering advice and assistance on the daily operations of the organization.
- d. Each organization must have local operating documents (i.e. constitution and bylaws) that have been updated and reviewed by its membership within the last two years.
- e. Organizations must have a line-item budget for their fiscal year, which should be updated and review by members or advisors annually.
- f. Each organization must be recognized by a governing council.
- g. Organizations must meet their financial obligations with their governing council, and meet all other necessary steps to remain in good standing with the council.
- h. Organizations must complete and submit the Standards of Excellence self-assessment form each semester, which also serves as the application process for the annual FSL Awards process. Organizations will not receive their grade reports each semester until this self-assessment has been submitted.

## **VIII. Philanthropy and Service**

- a. Organizations must host or co-host at least one community service event/project per semester.
- b. Service hours completed by the organization and/or organization members (either on behalf of the organization or on an individual level) should be reported through the FSL Service & Philanthropy Tracking Form.
- c. Organizations must host or co-host at least one philanthropic event/fundraiser/item drive for a charitable cause each semester. This cause can be a local beneficiary or a national philanthropic partner.
- d. Philanthropic/fundraising events and evidence of donations should be reported through the FSL Service & Philanthropy Tracking Form.
- e. Each organization should participate in at least one philanthropic project or event of another organization (preferably from each council) throughout the year. Please note: While donations are appropriate, they do not discount the value of active participation and support.

## IX. Responsibility, Health, and Safety

- a. As registered student organizations, fraternities and sororities must comply with the Code of Student Conduct and all applicable local, state, and federal laws.
- b. All organizations must be aware of their inter/national organization risk management and/or harm reduction policies, and showcase how those are regularly reviewed with members ([see template here](#)).
- c. All organizations must have a local crisis response plan in the event of an emergency ([see template here](#)). This plan should be updated and reviewed with members on at least an annual basis.
- d. Organization members should be represented at Fall semester National Hazing Prevention Week events and activities.
- e. Organizations must submit the FSL Social Event Registration Form on TreeHouse a minimum of seven days prior to hosting an event. *Please note:* The following event safety expectations, also outlined on the registration form, will be expected from social events (In alignment with the University Alcohol Policy for Student Related Events):
  - i. Complete a pre-event consultation meeting with FSL Staff.
  - ii. Submit an event guest list a minimum of two business days prior to the event, following the 3:1 guest policy (i.e. for each member present at the event, they are permitted to host 3 guests).
  - iii. Pick up sober monitor vests and wristbands for 21+ guests the Friday prior to the registered event, and return the vests the Monday following the event.
  - iv. Prohibit the presence of alcohol products above 15% alcohol by volume, unless served by a licensed and insured third-party vendor.
  - v. Restrict any use of glassware or glass bottles at events, unless served by a licensed and insured third-party vendor.
- f. Events sponsored by the organization should be held on-campus, at a third-party venue, or in a recognized fraternity or sorority facility (i.e. *no events that are held on behalf of the organization or can be interpreted as being held on behalf of the organization should be held in private, off-campus apartments/homes or private land*).
- g. Organizations should be able to produce a Certificate of Insurance (either blanket or event-based) that names “Indiana State University Board of Trustees” as additional insured and includes a minimum of \$1 million in general liability/general aggregate coverage.