

Standards of the Greek Life Community at the University of Mississippi

Administrative

Proper administrative interaction between the Office of the Dean of Students and individual chapters is essential in ensuring that the community grows and functions within legal, University, and organizational standards.

To receive recognition as meeting the “Administrative” standard, the following criteria must be met:

Chapter submits a list of all active members to the Greek Life Coordinator that is used as a cross-reference for Formal Roster Day. Any changes to the Formal Roster must be provided to the Greek Life Coordinator within one week of the change. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examples of changes include: graduation of a member, disaffiliation of a member, or membership revocation.
Chapter submits a list of all chapter officers and their contact information to the Greek Life Coordinator as soon as the officer is elected or appointed. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any subsequent changes must be reported to the Greek Life Coordinator within one week.
Chapter submits its emergency contact and the contact’s information for breaks when requested within one week of the request.
Chapter’s president must meet with the Greek Life graduate assistant working with their council once a semester to identify a chapter specific goal and the steps that are to be taken to accomplish that goal.

Affiliation

Recognizing and cultivating the link between the chapter and the (inter)national organization is an important aspect of Greek Life—it is one of the elements that distinguishes Greek lettered organizations from campus specific clubs or activities.

To receive recognition as meeting the “Affiliation” standard, the following criteria must be met:

Chapter must apply for any awards that the chapter qualifies for on the (inter)national level. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual members are also encouraged to apply for applicable scholarship and awards bestowed by the (inter)national organization.
Chapter must send a delegation (ideally two members and one advisor) to the organization’s convention or comprehensive leadership training.
Chapter must host a yearly event with at least one other chapter of their organization. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This event cannot be a party and is ideally centered upon celebrating the values of the organization.
Chapter must host a yearly event recognizing the organization’s alumni members. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This event cannot be a party and is ideally centered upon celebrating the legacy of the contributions of those who are members of the organization.

Campus Involvement

Campus involvement constitutes chapter participation in Greek-wide and University-wide programming and organizations.

To receive recognition as meeting the “Campus Involvement” standard, the following criteria must be met:

Chapter participates in activities associated with homecoming and university-wide initiatives such as the Big Event.
50% of chapter members must participate in at least one non-Greek organization. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation in NCAA athletics or intermurals in non-Greek leagues count as fulfilling this criterion.• Chapter should strive for 10% of its membership serving in some sort of leadership position within these organizations.
10% of chapter members must be initiated into an honor society. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• These honor societies can include academic discipline honor societies, leadership honor societies, or all-Greek honor societies.

Community Service

Community service is the act of serving one’s local community, both university and city, through time volunteered. Examples of community service can include, but are not limited to, tutoring, area clean-ups, volunteering at local fire departments, and visiting a local nursing home.

To receive recognition as meeting the “Community Service” standard, the following criteria must be met:

80% of the chapter’s members must complete at least 10 hours of community service per semester. <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Participating in mandated chapter events does not count towards the 10 hours.○ All hours can be reported by the individual member through OrgSync.
Chapter must complete at least one chapter wide community service event per semester. <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The chapter wide event can be one large event that the majority of the chapter completes in one day, or a series of events that emphasis one particular charitable organization that may take place over the span of the semester.
Chapter must support at least one council-wide community service or philanthropy event per semester. <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Support can include submitting a team for an event (ex: Robert Langley, CARE Walk), or volunteering in some other capacity (ex: volunteering with NPHC voter and blood drives).

Membership Education

Membership education is the element of continuing education within chapter programming in which chapters may continue to develop their new and active members within the Greek organization as well as personal development.

To receive recognition as meeting the “Membership Education” standard, the following criteria must be met:

Chapter must hold one membership educational program per semester.
As an example, program topics may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Alcohol and Drug Awareness○ Greek Responsibility○ Hazing Awareness○ Administrative Skills – Chapter Management, Time Management, How to Run Effective Meetings○ Inter-Chapter Programming○ Diversity Programming○ University Relations/Awareness○ Personal Development Skills
A quorum of initiated members must be present for each educational program --50 percent plus one—of the chapter membership. Programs are not time specified, but they must be thorough and efficient, and may be presented by a third-party.
To ensure proof of compliance, it is recommended that attendance sheets be turned into the Greek Life Office after each event. The sheet can be the role taken and verified by the signature of the individual taking the role, or the sheet can be a sign-in sheet signed by each member.

New Member Education

New member education, programming for individuals who are not yet initiated members of the organization, is the curriculum set in place to educate newly inducted members of Greek organizations on issues related to Greek history, both local and national, university resources, and personal development. Most new member education periods last from three to eight weeks and culminate with some type of ritual session.

To receive recognition as meeting the “New Member” standard, the following criteria must be met:

Chapter must submit one copy of the new member education program to the Greek Life Coordinator within the first two weeks of classes each semester in which recruitment/intake is held.
Chapter must elect at least one officer whose position is concentrated on new member education and development.
New member educational curriculums should include the following components: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ritual<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ At least two ritual ceremonies—induction and initiation—should occur during the new member education period.

- History
 - Both the local and (inter)national history of the organization should occur during the new member education period.
- Scholarship
 - There must be at least one academic program a semester targeted specifically for new members during their new member education period.
 - As an example, programs may include: academic mentor pairings, study tables, or study hour tracking.
- Risk Management
 - All new members must sign a Social/Anti-Hazing Contract and a FERPA release form.
 - There must be at least one risk management program a semester targeted specifically for new members during their new member education period.
 - Suggested topics include alcohol education, drug education, or fire safety.
- Community Service and Philanthropy
 - 10% of the organization's new member class must participate in the community service or philanthropy service event hosted by the Greek Life Office. Participation can include donating to Adopt-a-Basket.
 - New members should be educated about the local organization(s) that the chapter supports.
- Campus Involvement
 - New members must be educated about the larger campus community, including the chapter's role within their individual council (IFC, NPHC, PNC), their chapter's role within the entire Greek community, and their chapter's role within the University community.
 - All new members should be encouraged to register with OrgSync.

Philanthropy

Philanthropy is the act of donating money and goods to support a charitable cause, usually over a period of time, and in regard to a defined objective.

To receive recognition as meeting the “Philanthropy” standard, the following criteria must be met:

Chapter must hold at least one philanthropic event per academic year (August – May) which funds are donated to a charitable organization. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter is encouraged to hold one event per semester, alternating financial support between the (inter)national and local philanthropy.
At least 80% of the chapter membership must participate in the event for the standard to be met. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapters are encouraged to include inter and intra-council participation in all philanthropic events. ○ To ensure proof of compliance, it is recommended that attendance sheets be turned into the Greek Life Office after each event. The sheet can be the role taken and verified by the signature of the individual taking the role, or the sheet can be a sign-in sheet signed by each member.

Risk Management

Risk management is the act of structuring an organization in a way in which uncertainty can be avoided and risk is minimized in regards to physical and legal issues. Primary topics in regards to risk management include, but are not limited to, alcohol and drug use, fire safety, and physical injuries.

To receive recognition as meeting the “Risk Management” standard, the following criteria must be met:

In order to maintain minimum standards, chapter must remain in good standing with University policies as well as national risk management policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good standing is defined as not violating any university or national policy within the academic year, or being placed on a cease and desist order.
Chapter elects or appoints a risk management officer specifically tasked with risk-management responsibilities. The position should be an executive level position.
Chapter must conduct a meeting for members that cover risk-management policies at least one time a semester. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any mandated risk-management programs that a chapter is required to complete can count as meeting this.
Chapter must have a copy of their risk management policy and insurance policy on file with the Greek Life Coordinator. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The risk management policy should include a plan that addresses various emergency situations and the actions that each officer is expected to perform.
Chapter participates in the “Adopt-a-Cop” Program through the University Police Department.
Chapter is in compliance with all University Fire Regulations and holds regular fire drills if the chapter has a house.

Scholarship

Scholarship is the cornerstone of the collegiate experience. Chapters should not only strive to attain high levels of scholarship, but should also provide resources to improve those members struggling with scholarship.

To receive recognition as meeting the “Scholarship” standard, the following criteria must be met:

Chapter must maintain a chapter cumulative GPA of a 2.6 per academic year.
Chapter must elect at least one officer whose position is concentrated on member’s academic and scholastic development.
Chapter must have at least one academic program a semester. As an example, programs may include: academic mentor pairings, study tables, or study hour tracking.
Chapter must host or co-host some sort of academic appreciation event. As an example, programs may include: dinner for members whose GPA improved or reached a certain level, faculty appreciation activities, or dues waivers for high GPAs.
At least 10% of the chapter must support the all- Greek faculty appreciation event through attendance.

Chapter has an on-campus faculty member as academic advisor.

- The faculty member does not have to be a member of the organization.
- The faculty member does not need to be tenured.

Award Procedures

Each chapter will present to the committee created by the Order of Omega (Omega Theta Chapter) the way in which their chapter meet each standard over the previous academic year. Each chapter may present according to their own accord, but the total presentation may not last longer than 30 minutes. The committee will evaluate whether the information provided demonstrated that the chapter met all parts of the standard. If all parts of the standard are met, then that standard will be met.

Chapters will be recognized publically at the Order of Omega Awards ceremony, and on the Greek Life webpage for each standard that they meet.

In order to be considered for the Chancellor's Cup, chapters must meet at least 7 of the 9 standards categories. If multiple chapters meet the criteria to be considered for the Chancellor's Cup, then the Chancellor's Cup committee can vote to select only one recipient of the award or multiple recipients of the award. The Chancellor's Cup is not required to be given to any chapter and can be revoked if discovery of fraud or major chapter violation during the academic year that the award was granted in.