

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS  
STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENT**

**OFFICE OF SORORITY AND FRATERNITY AFFAIRS  
FLORIDA GREEK STANDARDS  
for Social Sororities and Fraternities**

Social sororities and fraternities are student organizations that have an extensive and pronounced history at the University of Florida. Social sororities and fraternities are founded on principles of sisterhood/brotherhood. Through the ideals of friendship and personal growth, social sororities and fraternities promote the highest standards of scholarship, leadership, and service for their members.

The United States Department of Education has established guidelines and criteria necessary to be classified as a social sorority or fraternity (which includes a provision that allows an organization to operate as a single-sex organization). In keeping with the criteria established by the Department of Education, the University of Florida classifies social sororities and fraternities as organizations that:

- Do not limit membership to persons pursuing or having interest in a particular field of study, profession or academic discipline
- Do not serve as honorary societies for academic, leadership, or any other endeavor
- Do not permit members to hold membership in other social sororities or fraternities.

In addition these organizations must also:

- Have tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code
- Limit membership to currently enrolled students at the University of Florida.

Social sororities and fraternities shall exist at the University of Florida as registered student organizations and shall be classified as social sororities and fraternities, governed by policies established by the Division of Student Affairs and administered through the Center for Student Activities and Involvement/Office of Sorority and Fraternity Affairs (OSFA).

The governance structure established by the University of Florida includes student input and participation. Student input and participation is accomplished in part through authority delegated by OSFA to designated student governing councils. Social sororities and fraternities must abide by applicable university policies, regulations, and procedures governing student organizations, as well as policies, guidelines, and procedures established by OSFA and the designated governing councils.

## **FLORIDA GREEK STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS**

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The Florida Greek Standards (FGS) is a set of guidelines that establishes minimum operating standards for social sororities and fraternities at the University of Florida, as well as identifies and encourages high ideals, principles, and standards critical to the success of each organization and its members. The FGS was created with input from university staff, students, chapter advisors and other individuals from the community. Through the chapter score card, the accomplishments and progress of each chapter can be monitored relative to achievement of established standards.

In addition to complying with all applicable University rules, regulations, policies, and procedures, social sororities and fraternities at the University of Florida are expected to meet or exceed all requirements contained in the FGS. The FGS is divided into eight sections. Each section is described below along with requirements and recommendations for success for organizations.

## I. SCHOLARSHIP

Social sororities and fraternities must be committed to the ideal of academic achievement and success. Organizations must affirm that scholarship is the most important aspect of the college experience.

To facilitate a successful scholarship program, chapters are encouraged to recruit one or more faculty members to serve as scholarship advisor(s). A scholarship advisor assists the chapter in achieving the requirements of the Scholarship Section of the FGS and promotes a culture committed to scholastic excellence within the organization.

### **Role of Scholarship Advisor** (*adapted from Gamma Sigma Alpha's Faculty Advisor Role*):

1. Assist the chapter in creating a scholarship plan
2. Meet with new members each semester to review their academic progress and plans at the University
3. Assist with developing a scholarship recognition and academic incentives program for the chapter
4. Organize and/or attend scholarship receptions hosted by the chapter
5. Be available to meet with individual members who are in need of academic assistance and/or advice regarding academic program requirements.

The following requirements are established to further scholastic achievement among individual members of organizations:

### **Requirements**

1. Each chapter must maintain a previous semester chapter GPA of at least 2.85 for both active and new members.
2. Each chapter must elect or appoint a Scholarship Chair.

## II. SERVICE

Social sororities and fraternities value service and philanthropy. Individual members of organizations are encouraged to demonstrate selfless service and embrace the opportunity to give back to the community through their organization. Through service and philanthropic initiatives, members gain a deeper understanding of their individual value system and develop a sense of civic responsibility. Organizations are encouraged to exceed the minimum requirements defined by the Florida Greek Standards.

Service projects identify issues within the community and address them through direct, hands-on interventions, activities, or programs. Examples of service include tutoring children, serving food at a soup kitchen, and/or building a Habitat for Humanity house.

Philanthropic projects gather resources needed to address an issue within the community. Examples of philanthropic projects include raising money for a specific community service need, conducting a clothing or canned food drive, or coordinating the collection of school supplies for children.

### **Requirements**

1. a.) Chapters shall complete at least two service projects and participate in at least one philanthropy project with at least 25% of the chapter participating per semester.  
**OR**  
b.) Chapters shall complete at least four service projects with at least 25% of the chapter participating per semester.
2. Each chapter must elect or appoint a Service Chair.

**Role of Service Chair:**

1. Organize chapter service projects/philanthropies
2. Collaborate with other chapters as needed to facilitate cooperative programming and effective program management
3. Be knowledgeable of and maximize use of available university resources such as the Center for Leadership and Service to aid in successful delivery of service to the community

***(Helpful Hints):***

- Choose a community service project or philanthropy that a majority of chapter members are affected by and/or are passionate about
- To enhance the service experience, take time as a chapter to reflect on the activities and the community impact
- Consider participating in joint-service projects with other organizations from different councils

### **III. LEADERSHIP**

Social sororities and fraternities provide opportunities for members to become involved in their chapters, the University, and the community. The experiences gained through involvement play an instrumental role in the personal growth and maturation of individual members. These leadership experiences can be rewarding and can also provide a foundation for future success as they allow students to obtain invaluable practical experience and transferable skills.

**Requirements**

1. Each chapter president must attend annual Greek Advance leadership conference.
2. Chapter programming shall include at least one seminar, guest speaker, and/or presentation on a leadership topic each semester with at least 50% of chapter membership in attendance.
3. Each chapter must send required attendees to its regional/state/(inter)national leadership training or convention on an annual basis. If the organization does not have an annual leadership opportunity, the chapter may send appropriate representation to a general fraternal leadership experience such as the Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute or other comparable program provided prior approval is obtained from OSFA.
4. Each chapter must participate in at least one campus-based leadership development opportunity annually. Examples of campus-based leadership opportunities include the Art of Leadership, GatorShip, or similar program approved in advance by OSFA.

### **IV. COMMUNITY**

The social sorority and fraternity community consists of in excess of 5,000 students, which is approximately 14% of the University of Florida undergraduate population. Belonging to the sorority/fraternity community at UF means that we share similar values and goals in our organizations and for individual members. It is vital for the success of the community that we continue to build a cohesive relationship and remain partners in all endeavors.

**Requirements**

1. All chapters must be recognized by one of the four governing councils (Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, or Panhellenic Council).
2. Each chapter must actively participate in regularly scheduled governing council meetings and functions.
3. All chapters must collaborate with at least one other registered student organization to plan and implement a program at least once per year (during fall or spring semester). The co-sponsored

program may be educational, service/philanthropic, or social (alcohol-free) in nature. Exchange dinners will not count to satisfy this requirement.

## **V. ALUMNI RELATIONS**

Many social sororities and fraternities attribute the rich history of their chapters generally to their alumni. Alumni serve critical roles such as advisors, trustees, members of house corporations, and financial contributors. To maintain a positive relationship with alumni and further the principles of sisterhood/brotherhood, it is vital to display respect and appreciation. In order to achieve this, the following are requirements:

### **Requirements**

1. Each chapter shall organize and host one alumni event per year such as Founder's Day, Initiation, or Homecoming.
2. Each chapter must elect or appoint an Alumni Chair.

## **VI. RISK MANAGEMENT**

The physical and emotional well-being of individual members as well as the financial security and reputation of the individual chapter are of great importance to the success of any social sorority or fraternity at the University of Florida. To promote such an environment, the following are required:

### **Requirements**

1. All chapter presidents, and social and risk management chairpersons shall attend Social/Risk Management Training at the beginning of each semester.
2. Each chapter shall develop and submit a written Crisis Management Plan at the beginning of each school year to the OSFA.
3. At the beginning of each school year, each chapter shall document that it has an Internal Judicial System allowing the organization to address inappropriate behavior and create high standards of ethical conduct.
4. All chapters shall adhere to all local, State, and federal laws, University regulations and policies including the Student Code of Conduct, and policies of the respective governing council.
5. Each chapter shall participate in two or more alcohol-free social events each semester. One event may be a closed sisterhood/brotherhood function (please note that exchange dinners must include some type of programming in order to satisfy this requirement).
6. Chapter programming shall include at least one seminar, guest speaker, and/or presentation concerning alcohol, drugs, hazing and/or sexual assault each semester.
7. 75% of the new member class or line must participate in training which focuses on alcohol, hazing, sexual assault, or similar topic.
8. Each chapter shall maintain liability insurance in the amount of \$1 million for un-housed chapters and \$2 million for housed chapters. Copies of up-to-date certificate of insurance must be filed with OSFA.

## **VII. ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS**

Administrative affairs are vital to the success of the social sorority and fraternity community. Through effective chapter management and communication with OSFA, sororities and fraternities can be viable and integral partners with the University and surrounding community.

## **Requirements**

1. Each chapter must maintain accurate contact information for the chapter advisor, (inter)national headquarters, house director (if applicable), and house corporation (if applicable) in the Student Organization Database.
2. Each chapter must maintain an active chapter advisor or chapter advisory board as defined in the Florida Greek Standards (see *Role of Chapter Advisor* below).
3. Each chapter must update the chapter roster in the Student Organization Database by the required dates (in the fall, spring, and summer).
4. Each chapter president must conduct a one-on-one meeting with his or her council advisor (OSFA staff member) at least once per academic year. The meeting must occur before the midpoint of the president's term.
5. Each chapter advisor must conduct a one-on-one meeting at least once per academic year with the appropriate OSFA staff member.
6. Each new member educator and chapter president must attend the appropriate Outcomes Workshop (*Outcomes of New Member Education, Outcomes of New Member Intake*) prior to conducting recruitment/intake each semester.
7. Each chapter must submit all required membership intake/new member education paperwork (e.g., New Member Roster, Anti-Hazing Contract) by the required date(s).
8. Each chapter must submit a signed Grade Release Form for all new members to the OSFA by the required date.
9. Each chapter must abide by the University's initiation/intake window; new members must be initiated within 10 weeks of beginning of process and no later than 2 weeks before the last day of class.

### **Role of Chapter Advisor:**

An active, involved chapter advisor is a key ingredient to a successful chapter. Accordingly, each chapter shall have a chapter advisor who either lives or works within the immediate Gainesville area, and who has the support of the chapter's Inter/National office. The advisor shall be an alumnus of the sorority or fraternity and at least three years removed from her/his undergraduate chapter experience [unless a specific exemption is granted by the University in conjunction with the (Inter)National organization]. The advisor should have the relevant experience necessary to provide the chapter and individual members with continuing advice and support. The advisor shall agree to:

1. Attend most chapter meetings
2. Attend Chapter Advisor meetings scheduled by OSFA
3. Meet with staff from OSFA at least once per semester
4. Assist with chapter-sponsored events and programs
5. Assist the Scholarship Advisor in the promotion of scholarship
6. Work closely with the chapter president, treasurer, risk manager, social chair, and new member educator in the execution of their duties
7. Assist the chapter in preparing and implementing chapter budgets, goals, event management, and crisis management procedures
8. Stay abreast of relevant University policies, guidelines, and procedures
9. Stay abreast of the rules and regulations of the Inter/National organization

OSFA shall work with chapters and their Inter/National organizations to locate potential chapter advisors and will provide additional resources toward training and development for advisors.

## **VIII. FACILITY MANAGEMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

Facility management, when properly executed, ensures a residential environment that is safe and secure, conducive to learning, and is aesthetically pleasing within the larger University community.

## **Requirements**

1. Each chapter with a live-in facility must be in compliance with the Facility Policy for Social Sororities and Fraternities and must have a live-in house director according to the House Director Policy for Social Sororities and Fraternities (please see the respective policies in OSFA for more information).
2. Each chapter must have an active house corporation entity as defined below.
3. The facility must maintain a Level 1 or Level 2 rating for each Fire Safety Inspection.
4. The facility's kitchen must have a satisfactory inspection from the Alachua County Health Department and must maintain appropriate standards at all times.

### **Role of House Corporation:**

An active, involved house corporation is a key ingredient to a successful chapter residential facility. Accordingly, each chapter shall have a house corporation officer who either lives or works within the immediate Gainesville area, and who has the support of the Inter/National organization. The house corporation shall ensure the completion of and/or shall agree to:

1. Complete all paperwork with the Internal Revenue Service and State of Florida to be an incorporated entity in good standing
2. Establish costs for living in the house, meal plans, and out-of-house fees as well as bill for and collect the referenced funds (use of a professional accountant or collection agency is acceptable)
3. Hire, supervise, and train the House Director in accordance with appropriate policies
4. Ensure compliance with the University of Florida Social Sorority and Fraternity Facility Policy
5. Attend House Corporation meetings scheduled by the OSFA
6. Submit an annual Emergency Management Plan for the facility
7. Submit contact information for the representative from the House Corporation who will serve as liaison to OSFA on maintenance and facility issues as required by the Facility Policy for Social Sororities and Fraternities
8. Submit on an annual basis a copy of the lease agreement signed by each resident in the facility
9. Submit on an annual basis a copy of the House Director's employment contract, which should include all requirements as outlined in the House Director Policy
10. Submit on an annual basis a copy of the rules and regulations governing residents and guests of the chapter facility along with the process by which violations are addressed including sanctions that may be imposed

## **CHAPTER SCORE CARD**

OSFA will evaluate chapters each academic year on the criteria outlined in the FGS. Chapters will receive ratings of *Exceeds Expectations*, *Meets Expectations*, or *Does Not Meet Expectations* for each item. Further, each chapter will receive an overall rating in each section of:

1. Exceeds Expectations – chapter met and exceeded all requirements
2. Meets Expectations – chapter met all requirements
3. Does Not Meet Expectations – chapter did not satisfy one or more requirement(s)
4. Not Applicable – this section is not relevant for the chapter

## **FLORIDA GREEK STANDARDS REVIEW COMMITTEE**

When a chapter does not meet expectations in one or more sections, the organization shall be referred to the Florida Greek Standards Review Committee. This committee shall consist of a professional staff member from the OSFA; a staff member from the University community (to be determined by the OSFA

based on the section in which the chapter did not meet expectations); the Executive Vice President of the council in which the organization is a member; two student members from the Greek Judicial Board (one must be a member of the council in which the organization is a member, and one must be a member of a different council). The Executive Vice President of the council in which the organization is a member shall serve as chairperson of this committee.

The Florida Greek Standards Review Committee will review information related to the section(s) where expectations were not met by the chapter. After the review, the committee shall convene a meeting with the chapter leadership. Chapter advisors, house corporation board members and/or the house director may be requested to attend the meeting by the committee and/or by the chapter. The purpose of the meeting is to afford the chapter leadership the opportunity to provide information to the committee as to why the chapter did not meet expectations and to discuss and collaborate on necessary actions or strategies for the chapter to achieve and maintain compliance.

After the meeting, a recommendation of corrective measures will be forwarded to the Associate Director for Sorority and Fraternity Affairs by the chairperson of the committee. The Associate Director will review the recommendations and make a final determination relative to what the chapter must do to meet expectations.

If a chapter fails to meet expectations for two or more consecutive years, the Florida Greek Standards Review Committee may make a recommendation for loss of registration. If cancellation of registration occurs, the organization must work with the OSFA and the appropriate governing council to return to campus upon demonstration of a strategy to meet and maintain FGS standards as well as any terms and conditions as may be deemed appropriate by the Associate Director for Sorority and Fraternity Affairs.

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