

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
2024 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.

II. 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.

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

III. 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. Note that all preliminary requirements must be met to remain in good standing. 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. 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.**

Award or Loss of Privileges

Crown(s)	Loss	Award
1	Rescission of Recognition (Refer to FSL policy manual/handbook for definition)	NA
2	Recommendation for Rescission of Recognition. <u>If Recognition is not rescinded, these other consequences may apply:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of Housing • Probationary Recognition • Loss of social privileges • Limited space reservation privileges 	NA
3	If the organization currently occupies university owned housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Probation • A recommendation for Loss of Housing 	Maintain recognition Social Privileges Space Reservations
Crown(s)	Awarded Privileges	
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privilege of maintaining housing (if already occupied) • Opportunity to apply for housing (when available for FSL) • Eligible for social privileges and space reservations (same as 3 Crowns) • Eligible for individual and chapter awards of distinction • Recognition for 4 Crowns during recruitment and the Annual FSL Awards Ceremony 	
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All privileges associated with 3 and 4 Crowns • Endorsement of nominations submitted for the King’s Crown Leadership Excellence Awards • Achievement letter sent to chapter’s Inter/National Headquarters, if requested • Qualify for up to \$250 in leadership funding from the InterGreek Council to be transferred into the organization’s on-campus SFA account. 	

Request for Second Review

A chapter may request a second review of Crown status by writing to their direct FSL advisor (or directly to the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life) within 5 business days of the ALPHA Standards notification. 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.

IV. ALPHA STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

ALPHA Standards should be submitted through the appropriate [ALPHA STANDARDS SUBMISSION FORM](#). Submissions can be made at any point during the year but **no later than Monday, December 2, 2024. Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Preliminary Requirements

Point	Requirement	Description	Score	Notes
1	The chapter submits Chapter Information Form and Active Roster for spring semester.	Completed Chapter Information Form and Roster are due by the first Monday of the semester via the submission form linked above. Active Roster must use the provided template.		
2	The chapter submits all appropriate documents and forms associated with recruitment and intake/new member education for spring semester.	Completed New Member Roster template and New Member Anti-Hazing Acknowledgement signatures submitted via the submission form linked above within 48 hours of bid acceptance.		
3	The chapter submits Chapter Information Form and Active Roster for fall semester.	Completed Chapter Information Form and Roster are due by the first Monday of the semester via the submission form linked above. Active Roster must use the provided template.		
4	The chapter submits all appropriate documents and forms associated with recruitment and intake/new member education for fall semester.	Completed New Member Roster template and New Member Anti-Hazing Acknowledgement signatures submitted via the submission form linked above within 48 hours of bid acceptance.		
5	The chapter submits Chapter Officer Report	Completed Chapter Officer Report template submitted via the submission form linked above within 72 hours of elections being completed. Chapters whose elections occur after the established ALPHA Standards of Excellence deadline must communicate this in advance of the deadline.		
6	The chapter maintains a comprehensive general liability insurance in the minimum	Chapter must maintain a certificate of insurance liability at all times. Chapters should present a digital copy to their FSL advisor annually via the		

	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 shall be written with an insurance carrier acceptable to the University.	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. Failure to maintain an updated insurance certificate will result in the chapter being unable to host or participate in any activity including recruitment/intake.		
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.	Chapter must submit a digital copy of these policies prior to the established ALPHA Standards of Excellence Deadline via the submission form linked above.		
8	The chapter leadership meets with a fraternity/sorority advisor from Fraternity and Sorority Life at least twice a semester.	After two meetings between the chapter leadership and the FSL advisor take place, the chapter must email their FSL advisor confirming the meetings took place.		
9	The chapter has at least one volunteer advisor from their Inter/National organization or alumni membership advisor meet with FSL advisor once each academic year.	Chapter must email their FSL advisor to confirm the required meeting took place. Chapter may also provide a sign-in sheet from and FSL sanctioned advisor meeting.		
10	Members of the chapter participate in a Diversity Education or Multiculturalism workshop. 100% of your chapter based on average chapter size from the full ALPHA Standards year. Not all members must attend the same training. Failure to complete will result in immediate Probationary Recognition for the following calendar year.	Many chapters work with ROOTED or Multicultural Affairs' Identity and Inclusion Series 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 a ROOTED-trained peer educator, you must seek approval from your FSL advisor. Chapters must submit the Educational Workshop template via the submission form linked above. *If you have more than 50 members, you should host AT LEAST one workshop in the Spring and one in the Fall to meet the 100% attendance requirement.*		

<p>11</p>	<p>Members of the chapter participate in a Sexual Respect educational workshop.</p> <p>100% of your chapter based on average chapter size from the full ALPHA Standards year.</p> <p>Not all members must attend the same training.</p> <p>Failure to complete will result in immediate Probationary Recognition for the following calendar year.</p>	<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.</p> <p>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>*If you have more than 50 members, you should host AT LEAST one workshop in the Spring and one in the Fall to meet the 100% attendance requirement.*</p> <p>Chapters must submit the Educational Workshop template via the submission form linked above.</p>		
TOTAL				

Additional Education

Point	Requirement	Description	Score	Notes
<p>12</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>80% chapter attendance based on chapter size during the</p>	<p>Chapters may work with their chapter/alumni advisor for this presentation.</p> <p>Chapters must submit the Educational Workshop template via the submission form linked above.</p>		

	semester in which the presentation was held.			
13	<p>Members of the chapter participate in a wellness educational workshop</p> <p>80% of your chapter based on average chapter size from the full ALPHA Standards year.</p> <p>Not all members must attend the same training.</p>	<p>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.</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 a Barnard Well-Woman-trained or Alice Health-trained peer educator, you must seek approval from your FSL advisor.</p> <p>Columbia Health Workshops can be found at http://bit.ly/ColumbiaHealthWorkshop</p> <p>Chapters must submit the Educational Workshop template via the submission form linked above.</p>		
14	<p>The chapter participates in a Fire Prevention educational workshop</p> <p>80% chapter attendance based on chapter size during the semester in which the presentation was held.</p>	<p>Only required for chapters occupying University-Owned brownstones.</p> <p>Chapters should email firesafety@columbia.edu or call 212.854.1892 at least three weeks in advance to request a training.</p> <p>Chapters must submit the Educational Workshop template via the submission form linked above.</p>		
Total				

Academics

Point	Requirement	Description	Score	Notes
15	The overall chapter average GPA is at or above a 3.0 for both the Fall and Spring semesters.	<p>Will be verified by Fraternity & Sorority Life staff from information submitted on Chapter Roster as part of the Chapter Information Form (see points 1 and 3).</p> <p>Chapter rosters must include the self-reported cumulative GPA of every member.</p>		
16	The chapter provides incentives and recognition for academic achievement.	<p>The chapter should submit written documentation of incentives for academic achievement. This may be a written note from the Scholarship Chair explaining rituals or meeting traditions that honor high achieving students. In the past, chapters have submitted highlighted portions of their chapter handbook.</p> <p>Documentation must be submitted via the submission form linked above by the established ALPHA Standards deadline each year.</p>		

17	Submit a statement that lists at least three accomplishments the chapter has achieved in the category of academics. Statements must be a minimum of 300 words.	Documentation must be submitted via the submission form linked above by the established ALPHA Standards deadline each year.		
Total				

Leadership Development & Member Education

Point	Requirement	Description	Score	Notes
18	The appropriate chapter leader(s) have attended the spring semester Greek leadership training hosted by Residential Life-Fraternity & Sorority Life	Will be verified by Fraternity & Sorority Life staff after training has taken place.		
19	The appropriate chapter leader(s) have attended the fall semester Greek leadership training hosted by Residential Life-Fraternity & Sorority Life	Will be verified by Fraternity & Sorority Life staff after training has taken place.		
20	The chapter has 80 % or more of all new members during the ALPHA Standards year in attendance at the New Member Summit.	The Inter-Greek Council will schedule the New Member Summit and will provide attendance rosters to chapters. Chapters are encouraged to have new members attend the New Member Summit during the semester in which they will be initiated. Chapters must submit the New Member Summit Attendance template via the submission form linked above by the established ALPHA Standards deadline.		
21	Submit a statement that lists at least three accomplishments the chapter has achieved in the category of leadership development and member education. Statements must be a minimum of 300 words.	Documentation must be submitted via the submission form linked above by the established ALPHA Standards deadline each year.		
Total				

Philanthropy and Community Service

Point	Requirement	Description	Score	Notes
22	Chapter has completed 5 hours of service per member for the spring semester. Hours will be calculated using total hours served by all members divided by number of members in chapter.	Chapters must submit the Community Service Tracking template via the submission form linked above by 5:00pm on the last day of finals each spring semester.		
23	Chapter has completed 5 hours of service per member for the fall semester.	Chapters must submit the Community Service Tracking template via the submission form linked		

	Hours will be calculated using total hours served by all members divided by number of members in chapter.	above by the established ALPHA Standards deadline each year.		
24	The chapter has raised at least \$5 per member throughout the year. Funds raised will be calculated using total dollars raised by all members throughout the ALPHA Standards year divided by the average active chapter size throughout the ALPHA Standards year.	Chapters must submit the Philanthropy Tracking template via the submission form linked above by the established ALPHA Standards deadline each year.		
25	The chapter has organized and executed at least one program or event that benefits an organization of their choice. The chosen organization must be legitimate 501(c)(3) incorporated group (e.g. Relay for Life; St. Jude's, Susan G. Komen, etc).	Chapter must submit proof of the event taking place via the submission form linked above by the established ALPHA Standards deadline each year. In previous years, chapters have submitted a flyer, email, and/letter from the organization stating the amount of funds raised for the organization. If soliciting funds digitally through the 501(c)(3) directly, a screenshot of funds raised is sufficient.		
26	Submit a statement that lists at least three accomplishments the chapter has achieved in the category of philanthropy and community service. Statements must be a minimum of 300 words.	Documentation must be submitted via the submission form linked above by the established ALPHA Standards deadline each year.		
Total				

Chapter Management

Point	Requirement	Description	Score	Notes
27	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.		
28	The chapter maintains an updated website that includes a link to the Columbia Residential Life-Fraternity & Sorority Life website.	Chapter should upload a document with the working website link to via the submission form linked above by the established ALPHA Standards deadline each year.		
29	The chapter has hosted transitioning for incoming and outgoing officers that incorporates goal setting and outlines position duties/responsibilities.	Chapter should submit a chapter transition plan (digital) via the submission form linked above.		
30	The chapter has attended and participated in all appropriate Inter-Greek Council meetings for the year.	Chapters should email jgc-exec@columbia.edu for confirmation of attendance after all IGC meetings have been held for the ALPHA Standards year. Once confirmed by IGC Exec, the email should be saved as a PDF and submitted via the submission form linked above.		

31	The chapter has attended and participated in all appropriate Governing Council meetings (IFC/MGC/PHC) for the year.	Chapters should email their respective council for confirmation of attendance after all council meetings have been held for the ALPHA Standards year. Once confirmed by council exec, the email should be saved as a PDF and submitted via the submission form linked above.		
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 must be submitted via the submission form linked above by the established ALPHA Standards deadline each year. Chapters can submit registration confirmation, transportation itinerary, or an email confirming attendance.		
33	Submit a statement that lists at least three accomplishments the chapter has achieved in the category of chapter management. Statements must be a minimum of 300 words.	Documentation must be submitted via the submission form linked above by the established ALPHA Standards deadline each year.		
Total				

Activities and Alumni/ae

Point	Requirement	Description	Score	Notes
34	The chapter has 60% or more of members involved in another recognized Columbia University student organization during the ALPHA Standards year Involvement percentage will be based on the average active chapter size across the ALPHA Standards Year	Will be verified by Fraternity & Sorority Life staff from information submitted on Chapter Roster as part of the Chapter Information Form (see points 1 and 3).		
35	The chapter has members holding executive officer positions in recognized student organizations outside of any Fraternity & Sorority Life organization including councils and IGC.	Will be verified by Fraternity & Sorority Life staff from information submitted on Chapter Roster as part of the Chapter Information Form (see points 1 and 3).		
36	The chapter has collaborated and planned at least one event throughout the ALPHA Standards year with another organization on campus that is not an FSL fraternity or sorority.	Chapter must submit proof of the co-hosted program via the submission form linked above by the established ALPHA Standards deadline each year. In previous years, chapters have submitted a flyer, email, photo, and/or space reservation.		
37	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. In previous years, chapters have submitted a flyer, alumni/ae newsletter, or email correspondence with alumni/ae.		

38	Submit a statement that lists at least three accomplishments the chapter has achieved in the category of activities and alumni/ae. Statements must be a minimum of 300 words.	Documentation must be submitted via the submission form linked above by the established ALPHA Standards deadline each year.		
Total				

Judicial: Deductions

Point	Requirement	Description	Score	Notes
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 4 points each time their status changes. This will be verified by Judicial Board.		
42	Chapter status was changed to probationary recognition on judicial sanction.	Chapter will lose 5 points each time their status changes. This will be verified by Judicial Board.		
Total Deductions				

****NOTE**** If chapters are found responsible for violating a policy also are sanctioned with a status change, the chapter will only be penalized with the status change deduction.

Bonus: Additional Point Opportunities

Point	Requirement	Description	Score	Notes
43	The chapter has had 60% or more of members participate in at least one Inter-Greek Council sponsored philanthropic or service event this year.	Chapters should email jgc-exec@columbia.edu for confirmation of attendance. Once confirmed by IGC Philanthropy Chair, the email should be saved as a PDF and submitted via the submission form linked above.		
44	Chapter has participated in a council specific (IFC/Panhellenic/MGC) initiative in the spring semester	Chapters should email their respective council for confirmation of attendance. Once confirmed by council exec, the email should be saved as a PDF and submitted via the submission form linked above.		
45	Chapter has participated in a council specific (IFC/Panhellenic/MGC) initiative in the fall semester	Chapters should email their respective council for confirmation of attendance. Once confirmed by council exec, the email should be saved as a PDF and submitted via the submission form linked above.		
46	Chapter has members on Inter-Greek Council and/or Judicial Board for entirety of ALPHA Standards year.	Will be verified by the IGC Judicial Board Advisor Chapters meeting this requirement will be awarded one point maximum.		
Total Bonus Points				

Submission Scores

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