

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 OF EXCELLENCE

2013

OFFICE OF RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS  
FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

[www.columbiagreeks.info](http://www.columbiagreeks.info)

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### **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. The Office of Residential Programs-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 Programs-Fraternity & Sorority Life. Additionally, chapters have the opportunity to create goals and assess their own success in meeting identified goals each year.

### **Guiding Values**

The ALPHA Standards of Excellence is guided by the shared values of all fraternal organizations, the Core Values of Residential Programs and the Columbia University Fraternity & Sorority Statement of Shared Values.

#### **Core Values of Residential Programs**

In Residential Programs, 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.

#### **Columbia University Fraternity & Sorority Statement of Shared Values**

Recognizing everything the fraternal bonds have done in influencing and supporting our paths in life we present the.....

### 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.**

### Values Congruence

The ALPHA Standards of Excellence is an umbrella for the guiding principles and values of fraternities and sororities at Columbia University.

ALPHA Category	Residential Programs	Statement of Shared Values	UNILOA
Academics	Learning	Scholarship	Critical Thinking
Leadership Development & Member Education	Development	Leadership	Membership & Leadership, Communication
Philanthropy & Community Service	Engagement	Social Consciousness	Citizenship
Housing Operations & Chapter Management	Responsibility	Mutual Respect	Self-Awareness, Communication
Activities & Alumni Involvement	Inclusivity	Empowerment	Diversity

### 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. 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, and

Activities and alumni

### **Scoring of ALPHA Standards Submissions**

In order to obtain three crowns a chapter must have submitted all documents listed in Three Crown Expectations. Chapter with housing must also complete the Housing Achievements. Should a chapter fail to complete the three crown expectations (and Housing Achievement when applicable) any additional information submitted will be recorded, but not scored.

Crowns	Points WITH Housing	Points WITHOUT Housing
1	0-9	0-7
2	10-19	8-14
3	20-32	15-27
4	33-45	28-40
5	46-56	41-51

### **ALPHA Standards Committee**

Submissions will be reviewed by the ALPHA Standards Committee. This committee will be comprised of students and staff. When possible staff will represent the areas of Community Development and Housing Services. When possible the students will be affiliated and non-affiliated. The Associate Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life will appoint the committee. Determination of requirement fulfillments and level of participation will be assessed by the ALPHA Standards Committee.

### **Award or Loss of Privileges**

Crowns	Loss	Award
1	Rescission of Recognition*	
2	Recommendation for Rescission of Recognition* <u>In the event Recognition is not rescinded:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First instance: Loss of Housing*</li><li>• Probationary Recognition</li><li>• Loss of social privileges</li><li>• Limited space reservation privileges</li></ul>	
3	If the organization currently occupies university owned housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First instance: Housing Probation</li><li>• Second instance: A recommendation for Loss of Housing*</li></ul>	Social Privileges Space Reservations
Crowns	Awarded Privileges	
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If an organization is currently in university owned housing the privilege may be maintained</li><li>• Chapters with 4 or more crowns not currently housed may apply for housing if/when available to Fraternity &amp; Sorority Life</li><li>• All privileges associated with 3 Crowns</li><li>• Ability to mention 4-Crown achievement during recruitment, events, etc.</li><li>• Chapter Certificate of Achievement and public recognition at the Annual</li></ul>	

	Fraternity & Sorority Awards Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The chapter and individual members are eligible for awards of distinction</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All privileges associated with 3 and 4 Crowns</li> <li>• Endorsement of nominations submitted for the King's Crown Leadership Excellence Awards</li> <li>• Achievement letter sent to chapter's Inter/National Headquarters</li> <li>• Qualify for up to \$250 in leadership funding from the Office of Residential Programs-Fraternity &amp; Sorority Life to be used to send member(s) to an annual leadership conference or training. If eligible, the chapter must submit the required funding request form.</li> </ul>

\*The ALPHA Standards Committee will submit the scoring to the Associate Director for Fraternity & Sorority Life. He/She will submit appropriate documentation to the Dean of Student Affairs or his/her designee for review. Please see the Community Standards and Accountability Handbook for additional information regarding Loss of Housing and Rescission of Recognition.

### **Submission**

All forms associated with the ALPHA Standards of Excellence can be found at [www.columbiagreeks.info](http://www.columbiagreeks.info)

In order to be considered for the awards and receive your chapter's assessment, please submit the above stated documents NEATLY and UNIFIED. A three-ring binder should be submitted to Fraternity & Sorority Life. The binder should include hardcopies of all documents mentioned above, completed ALPHA Standards Checklist, including dividers to separate the 5 "ALPHA" sections.

The hardcopy documents **MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE FIRST MONDAY OF DECEMBER AT 5PM** in order to be considered for Full Recognition.

### **Request for Second Review**

A chapter may request a second review of Crown status by writing to the Assistant Dean of Community Development within 5 business days of the ALPHA Standards notification. There are three grounds upon which a request for a second review may be made. 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

A statement addressing their concern and reasoning for a second review must be submitted. The Assistant Dean will review the submitted materials only. In-person meetings are not allowed.

### Three Crown Expectations

The following are the minimum expectations to maintain recognition. All items must be fulfilled in order to move to 4 Crowns.

Required Recognition Documents		Verification Guidelines
<b>Semester forms must submitted by the established deadline</b>		
1	The chapter submits all appropriate documents and forms associated with recruitment and intake/new member education.	Anti-Hazing Compliance Forms and new member/ pledge roster. Use the chapter roster template provided online.
2	The chapter submits Chapter Information Form by the first day of classes each semester.	Submit Chapter Information Form that includes chapter roster in proper format.
3	The chapter submits Chapter Officer Report within 72 hours of the conclusion of elections.	Submit Chapter Officer Report found online.
<b>Annual forms submitted as part of the ALPHA Standards due the first Monday in December</b>		
4	The chapter submits a statement by the Inter/national organization stating the chapter is in good standing.	Submit a letter of "Good Standing" from Inter/National Headquarters. Submitted at the conclusion of the year with ALPHA Standards.
5	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 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.	Submit a certificate of insurance to the University as evidence of such coverage, and the University must receive notice of any change, cancellation, or renewal of the policy. Submitted at the conclusion of the year with ALPHA Standards.
6	The chapter submits the most updated Inter/National and Local Chapter Bylaws and Constitution.	Submit official document electronically to FSL Advisor.
7	The chapter submits the policies and standards regarding education of new members. Specifically, headquarters anti-hazing policies.	Submit official document electronically to FSL Advisor.
8	The chapter submits risk management policies of the national organization.	Submit official document electronically to FSL Advisor.
9	The chapter submits a statement of understanding regarding city-wide/ multi campus chapter "guest policy" (where applicable). Non city chapters are given credit.	Submit official form to FSL Advisor.
<b>Required Education</b>		
10	The chapter participates in a General Fraternity Insurance Coverage and Risk Management educational workshop (80% attendance).	Submit a Risk Management Educational Certification Form.
11	The chapter participates in a Criminal Liability Education/ Basis Legal Concepts educational workshop (80% attendance).	Submit a Risk Management Educational Certification Form.

12	The chapter participates in a Sexual Violence educational workshop (80% attendance).	Submit a Risk Management Educational Certification Form.
13	The chapter participates in an Alcohol and other drug educational workshop (80% attendance).	Submit a Risk Management Educational Certification Form.
14	The chapter participates in a Fire Prevention educational workshop (University owned).	Submit a Risk Management Educational Certification Form.
15	The chapter leadership meets with a fraternity/sorority advisor twice a semester.	FSL advisor will verify completion.
<b>Additional Requirements</b>		
16	The chapter meets on a regular basis.	FSL advisor will verify completion.
17	The chapter has at least one volunteer advisor from their Inter/National organization or alumni membership. Advisor has met with FSL advisor at least once during the year.	Submit advisor contact information via the Chapter Information Form. FSL advisor will verify completion.
18	Any chapter occupying a university owned brownstone has an Alumni Housing Corporation/any chapter occupying a space in a residence hall has an alumni advisor, who is be responsible for ensuring that the chapter maintains the Chapter Residence Expectations.	Submit a letter from the Chair of the Housing Corporation/alumni advisor that verifies the existence of the board/person. Submit a roster with contact information for Housing Corporation members.

## Academics

We celebrate all experiences as opportunities for education by embracing inquiry and discourse to promote transformational growth.

**Values:** Learning, Scholarship

**UNiLOA:** Critical Thinking- An active process where the skills of evaluating, analyzing, assessing, interpreting, questioning and restating a problem or challenge are used. A skilled critical thinker should be able to examine and understand the fundamental qualities of problems, collect and analyze critical data, draw appropriate interpretations and conclusions, examine broad-based problem-solving options and effectively communicate and implement appropriate solutions.

### Achievements

19	The chapter has 10% or less of its members with a GPA of 2.50 or below each semester. Chapter must have submitted roster on time and in correct format.	Submit Chapter Information Form that includes chapter roster in proper format.
20	The chapter is at or above its Council grade point average the spring semester. <b>Chapters above the all-Greek GPA throughout the year may qualify for an Achievement in Academics Award.</b>	Submit Chapter Information Form that includes chapter roster in proper format.
21	The chapter is at or above its Council grade point average the fall semester. <b>Chapters above the all-Greek GPA throughout the year may qualify for an Achievement in Academics Award.</b>	Submit Chapter Information Form that includes chapter roster in proper format.
22	The chapter has 25% or more of its members with a GPA of 3.50 or above each semester. Chapter must have submitted roster on time and in correct format	Submit a completed Chapter Information Form that includes chapter GPA's in proper format.
23	The chapter had 60% of their members participate in an interactive workshop or shared experience with the purpose of developing critical thinking skills and aligns with the values of learning and scholarship. This must be facilitated by an outside entity such as an advisor, faculty member, department, off-campus organization or professional.	Submit an official letter(s) or attendance sheet(s) from the presenter of the program(s).
24	The chapter provides incentives and recognition for academic achievement.	FSL advisor will verify achievement after speaking with designated chapter representative. (Scholarship Chair, Director of Scholarship President or other)
25	Submit a plan that details how your chapter will improve in this category next year. The chapter is responsible for assessing its achievement of the plan and submitting with the 2014 ALPHA Standards of Excellence.	Submit a copy of the official plan: 1page document reviewed by FSL advisor



## Leadership Development & Member Education

We endorse healthy life balance that encompasses nurturing the mind, body, and spirit in order to maximize potential.

**Values:** Development, Leadership

**UNiLOA:** Membership & Leadership-The ability to recognize how you can contribute and be active in your participation, whether that participation is the holding of a recognized office with prescribed duties, or a member that contributes to the common good through active participation that supports growth and development of the collective body.

Communication- An active process where one person conveys a message to another through a variety of forms, including speaking, writing, or other nonverbal cues. Communication may be intentional or unintentional and at varying levels depending on the relationship between the sender and the receiver. It provides a means by which needs can be expressed from one person to another and attempts to in some way impact the behavior of the "other". Effectiveness in communicating with others requires an understanding of the environment, relationship to the other and how effective the symbols chosen for the expression of needs, wants, or perspective are in affecting behaviors.

### Achievements

26	The chapter has conducted values-based recruitment and educated new and initiated members on the values and history of the organization.	FSL advisor will verify achievement after speaking with designated chapter representative (Recruitment Chair, Director of Recruitment, President or other)
27	The chapter has discussed creed/values at chapter meetings and adhered to the ritual of the organization.	Will be verified by FSL advisor after speaking with designated chapter representative (Ritual Chair, President or other)
28	The appropriate chapter leaders have attended the spring semester Greek Leadership Trainings hosted by Residential Programs-Fraternity & Sorority Life (Greek Leader, Round Tables, etc.).	FSL advisor will maintain attendance sheets and verify achievement
29	The appropriate chapter leaders have attended the Fall semester Re-Charge leadership training hosted by Residential Programs-Fraternity & Sorority Life.	FSL advisor will maintain attendance sheets and verify achievement
30	The chapter has 80 % or more of all new members (from most recent spring and fall new member classes) in attendance at the annual New Member Summit.	FSL advisor will maintain attendance sheets and verify achievement
31	The chapter had 60% of their members participate in an interactive workshop or shared experience with the purpose of building skills and understanding in the areas of membership, leadership or communication.	Submit official letter(s) or attendance sheet(s) signed by the presenter(s)

32	The chapter has hosted one brotherhood/sisterhood event per semester.	FSL advisor will verify achievement after speaking with designated chapter representative (Social Chair, President or other)
33	The chapter conducts all ceremonies and meetings in accordance with the Inter/national organization.	FSL advisor will verify achievement after speaking with designated chapter representative (Sargent at Arms, President or other)
34	Submit a plan that details how your chapter will improve in this category next year. The chapter is responsible for assessing its achievement of the plan and submitting with the 2014 ALPHA Standards of Excellence.	Submit a copy of the official plan: 1page document reviewed by FSL advisor

## Philanthropy & Community Service

We encourage intellectual and interpersonal connections within the residential community and beyond.

**Values:** Engagement, Social Consciousness

**UNILOA:** Citizenship- entails an understanding of one's membership in a variety of "groups," from the campus community to the global level, and a demonstrated commitment through behaviors that reflect active participation within those groups.

### Achievements

35	The chapter has completed 10 hours of community service per member for the year. <b>Chapters producing 30 hours or more of community service per member may qualify for the Achievement in Community Service Award.</b>	Submit official attendance sheet and/or email from advisor confirming members completed 10 hours or more of community service.
36	The chapter has organized and executed a program or event once this year that benefits an organization of their choice. The idea is to raise awareness and funds for the organization. Chosen organization must be legitimate 501C3 incorporated group (e.g. Relay for Life; St. Jude's, Susan G. Komen, etc). <b>Chapters raising \$60 or more for charity per member may qualify for the Achievement in Philanthropy Award.</b>	Submit a flyer, email, and/or letter from the organization stating the amount of funds raised for the organization.
37	The chapter has had 60% or more of members participate in at least one InterGreek Council sponsored philanthropic or service event this year.	Submit a confirmation from the IGC Philanthropy Chair. FSL advisor will verify achievement.
38	The chapter has an established Philanthropy/Community Service Chairperson who is in regular communication with the IGC Philanthropy Chair regarding chapter events throughout the year. The chapter reports whenever they host or participate in a community service or philanthropy event.	Submit a confirmation from the IGC Philanthropy Chair. FSL advisor will verify achievement.
39	Submit a plan that details how your chapter will improve or maintain high standards in this category next year. The chapter is responsible for assessing its achievement of the plan and submitting with the 2014 ALPHA Standards of Excellence.	Submit a copy of the official plan: 1page document reviewed by FSL advisor.

## Housing & Chapter Management

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.

**Values:** Responsibility, Mutual Respect

**UNiLOA:** Self-awareness deals with awareness from the both internal and external perspectives. Those dual perspectives allow individuals to understand their place within the environment and to express behaviors and cognitions that compliment harmony between self and other.

### Housing Achievements – University Owned

40	The chapter House Manager and/or RA has attended all mandatory trainings, meetings required by Residential Programs- Fraternity and Sorority Life.	FSL advisor will verify achievement.
41	The chapter has a plan in place to communicate and interact appropriately with neighbors throughout the year. Noise complaints have been addressed by the chapter appropriately. <i>Please submit chapter plan and documentation of addressing any noise complaints.</i>	FSL advisor will verify achievement after speaking with designated chapter representative (House manager, RA, President or other).
42	The chapter has up to date and accurate house rules.	FSL advisor will verify achievement after speaking with designated chapter representative (House manager, RA, President or other).
<b>Achievements</b>		
43	The chapter operates with a Standards Board to address any violations or misconduct from membership.	FSL advisor will verify achievement after speaking with designated chapter representative (President or other).
44	The chapter maintains an updated website that is linked to the FSL page on the Student Affairs- Office of Residential Programs website.	Submit an active website link.
45	The chapter has hosted transitioning for incoming and outgoing officers that incorporates goal setting and outlines position duties/responsibilities.	FSL advisor will verify achievement after speaking with designated chapter representative (President or other).
46	The chapter has attended all appropriate Governing Council meetings (IGC/IFC/MGC/PHC) for the year.	Each Council Executive Board will document attendance and chapter participation will be verified by FSL advisor.
47	The chapter has at least one member attend regional and/or national meetings, conferences, conventions, and trainings hosted by the Inter/National organization.	Please provide proof of attendance such as an email confirming attendance, travel itinerary, registration confirmation, etc.

48	Each officer has a complete and current officer manual (online or hard copy) specific to responsibilities.	FSL advisor will verify achievement after speaking with designated chapter representative (President or other).
49	The chapter has had 10% or more of its eligible members submit an application for the Order of Omega Honor Society, and during applicable years the chapter has applied for inter/national fraternity/sorority awards.	FSL advisor will verify completion.
50	Submit a plan that details how your chapter will improve or maintain high standards in this category next year. The chapter is responsible for assessing its achievement of the plan and submitting with the 2014 ALPHA Standards of Excellence.	Submit a copy of the official plan: 1page document reviewed by FSL advisor.

## Activities & Alumni

We foster recognition of commonalities and differences across a spectrum of identities and seek the perspectives not present in our pursuit of shared understanding.

**Values:** Inclusivity, Empowerment

**UNILOA:** Diversity- Appreciating differences include such things as the recognition of values held by different people, cultures, ethnicity, politics, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation and a host of others. The understanding and appreciation of difference is necessary to establish and maintain pluralism in a way that will be complimentary to such things as social responsibility, cohesion and advancement of social structures, the bolstering of individual and group identity, equality and respect. Moving beyond simple tolerance allows individual members of a social group the capacity to appreciate the positive contribution different people can make to the collective good of that social group, whether limited to small groups of individuals or on a global scale.

### Achievements

51	The chapter has 60% or more of members involved in another recognized Columbia University student organization during the year. <b>Chapters who achieve this may qualify for the Achievement in Campus Involvement Award.</b>	Submit a chapter roster listing involvement of each member.
52	The chapter has members holding executive officer positions in recognized student organizations (outside of the Greek organization).	Submit a roster listing executive positions of each member.
53	The chapter has collaborated and planned <b><u>at least one</u></b> event this year with another organization on campus or fraternity/sorority outside the chapter's Council. <i>Example: educational program, leadership workshop, or another values-based event of your choice.</i>	Submit a flyer, photo, space confirmation and/or email verifying co-sponsorship.
54	The chapter has collaborated and planned <b><u>more than one</u></b> event this year with another organization on campus or fraternity/sorority outside the chapter's Council.	Submit a flyer, photo, space confirmation and/or email verifying co-sponsorship.
55	The chapter recognizes Founders' Day by initiating a public or private event(s).	Submit a flyer, space confirmation and/or email.
56	The chapter has made efforts to reach out to alumni members and invite alumni to at least one chapter/university event each year.	Submit a letter/email or some form of correspondence and response.
57	The chapter has a functioning Alumni Advisory Board who is responsible for ensuring the chapter remains in good standing with the inter/national organization.	Submit a letter from chapter advisor and roster with contact information.
58	Submit a plan that details how your chapter will improve in this category next year. The chapter is responsible for assessing its achievement of the plan and submitting with the 2014 ALPHA Standards of Excellence.	Submit a copy of the official plan: 1page document reviewed by FSL advisor.