The Purpose of the “Pillars of Excellence”: Fraternity & Sorority Standards Program is to establish standards to ensure that every Greek organization at UT Dallas is well managed and fully committed to the highest quality of the fraternal experience for each of its members, with particular emphasis on a shared set of principles.

There is a common set of principles that all Greek students ascribe. The “Pillars of Excellence” program aims to challenge students to live up to those highest principles and ideals upon which our respective organizations were founded. Knowing that individual members’ and chapters’ action reflect upon the community as a whole, we can only be as strong as our weakest link.

Our Office has challenged the Fraternity/Sorority Community at UT Dallas to adopt the Standards Program that will form a basis for cooperation and interaction for the benefit of the University and Fraternity/Sorority Community. This Program will encourage organizational success and will provide a structure for self-assessment, accountability, greater achievement of organizational goals, and the development of practices that will lead to significant enhancement of the Fraternity and Sorority experience. The “Pillars of Excellence” recognizes and rewards those organizations that consistently exceed expectations as well as provides guidance and support to those organizations that fail to meet the expectations of the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life and the Fraternity/ Sorority Community.

This Chapter Standards Program will challenge the UT Dallas Greeks to have integrity – steadfast loyalty to the oath we took as we made a lifelong commitment to our respective fraternity/sorority. By providing a set of standards that reflect these shared principles, the “Pillars of Excellence” provides Greeks at UT Dallas a level of accountability, with an opportunity to seek excellence. In the end, the goal of the “Pillars of Excellence” is simple; as members of fraternities and sororities, we should always strive to be better for our membership, the campus improved through our involvement, and the greater community enhanced for our contribution.
How It Works

As a standards program, the “Pillars of Excellence” addresses and outlines specific activities to be completed by the chapters. Chapters will be supported by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life staff, IFC, CPC, NPHC and MGC in completing and documenting these activities. Activities have been determined based on current chapter practices and are broken down into seven categories:

1. Scholarship and Academics
2. Social Responsibility and Risk Management
3. Membership Development
4. Recruitment/ Intake
5. Service/ Philanthropy
6. Campus Involvement
7. Community Development

The activities under each category have been assigned a specific pillar placement. Chapters will attain an individual level of achievement and accreditation based on the activities they complete for the levels in the specific categories. The task under every category is given a specific point value, with each level being worth a certain amount of points. The total value of points is 100 with each areas adding up to a maximum amount. Each category’s activities add up to the maximum total number of points available. It is possible for a chapter to receive a lesser amount of points based on their progress in individual levels but every activity in the respective level for each category must be completed in order to receive the allotted points. For example, every activity must be reached in the Standard level in order to gain the points given for the standard level. Even if you complete some of the activities for the Standard level and all of the activities for the Silver level you will not be awarded points as all of the activities in the Standard level haven’t been completed. Chapters will attain a certain level of achievement and accreditation based on the number of points they acquire.

Point totals

3. Member Development-Max Available 15 pts. Standard=3 Silver=5 Gold=7
4. Recruitment/Intake-Max available 10 pts. Standard=2 Silver=3 Gold=5
5. Service/Philanthropy-Max Available 15 pts. Standard=3 Silver=5 Gold=7
7. Community Development-Max Available 15 pts. Standard=3 Silver=5 Gold=7

Each category has a standard set of activities that need to be completed to be to remain in good standing on campus. Standard activities warrant special attention, in that failure to perform at a minimum level calls for the need to improve chapters in areas of weakness. If the standard activities are not completed the responsible chapter will have to schedule a meeting with the Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life in order to determine required actions to be taken by chapters based on their lack of performance and discussion of their future recognition on campus.

At the beginning of each year, each council is encouraged to recognize the top performers in each category of the pillars for their performance in the previous year.

If a chapter fails to complete any Silver activities for one year in all categories (meaning the chapter solely completes the Standard activities), no formal sanctioning will take place, but strong recommendations for improvement will be made from the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life. If a chapter fails to complete any Silver activities for a second straight year, they will be asked to make a recommendation on chapter.
improvement and membership review to the Fraternity & Sorority Life Office and that chapter’s national headquarters.

If a chapter earns Gold status in one or more areas but significantly lacks in one or more specific categories, a meeting with a representative from the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life will be requested to discuss improvement strategies in those areas. No formal sanctions will be imposed.

Appeals to any noted discrepancy within the ranking of the “Pillars of Excellence” or remedying actions as a result of low placement in the “Pillars of Excellence” can be made to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life within 14 days following any decisions made. If not explicitly stated otherwise all items for submission in the Pillars of Excellence program are due to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life by the end of each respective semester (fall and spring). All submitted material may be sent electronically to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life at fsl@utdallas.edu
1. **Scholarship and Academics – Max points available 20**

Scholarship is the cornerstone of the collegiate experience and an area in which chapters, and individual members, should seek to excel. Chapters should not only achieve these academic standards, but work towards excelling beyond the minimum standards outlined below.

A. **Standard- 4 points available (upon completion of every activity listed)**
   1. A Minimum chapter GPA of 2.5
   2. Written and documented academic success plan up to 6 weeks following the start of the semester
      - Academic success plan contains aspect including but not limited to study hours, academic presentations, incentive programs, etc.
      - Submitted electronically to the FSL (fsl@utdallas.edu) office via email

B. **Silver- 6 points available (upon completion of every activity listed)**
   1. All the listed standard qualities
   2. Chapter has a listed UTD faculty member serve as a faculty advisor
      - Faculty member can be full or part time
      - Chapter can designate responsibilities of faculty advisor per guidance of National headquarters academic standards
   3. Having a GPA above the University male/female GPA in both the fall and spring semesters of the program
      - FSL Office will provide documentation

C. **Gold- 10 points available (upon completion of every activity listed)**
   1. All Standards & Silver qualities
   2. Planning an academic success presentation for your chapter where over 75% of the chapter is present: topics include but are not limited to (study abroad, study skills, time management, graduate school presentations, alumni mentor program)
      - Please confirm program with FSL office at least 1 week prior to program in order to get approval
      - Program can take place at chapter meetings/ events/ retreats
   3. Having a GPA above the all fraternity/all sorority GPA in both the fall and spring semesters of the program
      - FSL office will provide documentation
   4. Documented and stated individual member academic standards program
      - Submit template of program to FSL office electronically email up to 6 weeks following the start of the fall semester
      - Template of program should include the following items but not limited to these only: If an individual member has a GPA lower than your stated standards, what steps will you take to hold that member accountable and assist them in their academic success.
2. Social Responsibility and Risk Management- Max points available 15

Excellent Greek chapters place a strong emphasis on risk management, risk reduction, adherence to Greek and University policies, and encourage responsible chapter events. It is the obligation of each chapter to provide a safe environment, and to respect the rights of others in all aspects of chapter activities.

A. Standard- 3 points available (upon completion of every activity listed)
   1. Attendance at the monthly SOC meetings for all required parties
      ▪ FSL & SOC Office will provide documentation
      ▪ Submitted electronically to FSL office (fsl@utdallas.edu) if not on file. FSL will provide documentation if on file with FSL
   3. Submitted chapter officer rosters with officer’s contact information up to 4 weeks following the start of both the fall and spring semester

B. Silver- 5 points available (Upon completion of every activity listed)
   1. All Standard qualities
   2. Having a stated and followed code of conduct for members of the organization. (Showing members are aware/signed this code/ and if violations are found providing that the policies stated in the code are followed)
      ▪ Description/confirmation of code needs to be submitted electronically to FSL office email address (fsl@utdallas.edu) up to 6 weeks following the start of both the fall and spring semester. Spring semester confirmation can just be sent to newest members who didn’t receive fall confirmation.
   3. Planning and Executing an Alcohol education workshop for your chapter with at least 75% of your chapter present once a semester.
      ▪ Workshop can take place at chapter meetings
      ▪ Please confirm program with FSL office at least 1 week prior to program to get approval

C. Gold- 7 points available (Upon completion of every activity listed)
   1. All Standard & Silver qualities
   2. Having a chapter Standards Board in place and documenting roles and responsibilities of board
      ▪ Description/confirmation of board needs to be submitted electronically to FSL email (fsl@utdallas.edu) up to 4 weeks following the start of the fall semester
   3. Chapter must not have any violations, found to be responsible of any infractions, or be placed on any form of status for the entire year with the Conduct and Community Standards Office, Dean of Student Life office or their council’s respective hearing board
3. **Membership Development-Max points available 15**

The strength of any Greek-letter organization is its membership. The skills, experiences, personalities, and attitudes of each member define the level of success possible for the chapter in leadership, scholarship, social awareness, involvement, and career preparation. These qualities are also indicative of the way the chapter maintains its traditions and imparts them to future generations. The activities of this section provide a focus for a chapter’s processes for inducting new members into the organization, and its programs for developing the full potential of each member.

A. **Standard- 3 points available (Upon completion of every activity listed)**
   1. Chapters will submit their new member education plan by up to 6 weeks following the start of the semester that the organization holds new member education
      - Submitted in person or electronically to FSL office
   2. Chapters have a written constitution and/or by-laws that are shared with members.
      - Confirmation via FSL email (fsl@utdallas.edu) that documents have been distributed to chapter members need to be submitted to FSL office up to 4 weeks following the start of each semester.
      - Chapter must send the documents to each member and include the FSL office on a carbon copy (CC) of the email or.

B. **Silver- 5 points available (Upon completion of every activity listed)**
   1. All Standard activities
   2. Chapter will host an officer training retreat/meeting 3-6 weeks following transition
      - Please confirm program with FSL office 1 week prior to program in order to get approval
   3. Chapters will host or sponsor 2 personal development educational programs per year (1 a semester) with a minimum of 75% attendance of the chapter at each program.
      - Acceptable programs include but are not limited to environmental, personal leadership development, financial management, service learning, career advancement, campus involvement, social etiquette, values, and ethics, etc.
      - Programs can take place at chapter meetings or retreats
      - Please confirm program with FSL office at least 1 week prior to program to get approval.
      - Programs must be completed by the end of the respective semester. Summer programs can count for fall semester if applicable.

C. **Gold- 7 points available (Upon completion of every activity listed)**
   1. All Standard and Silver activities
   2. Chapter will host a chapter development retreat/meeting at the beginning/end of a given semester focused on goal setting
      - Please confirm program with FSL office at least 1 week prior to program to get approval
   3. Chapters will host or sponsor 4 personal development educational programs per year (2 a semester) with a minimum of 75% attendance of the chapter at each program.
      - Acceptable programs include but are not limited to environmental, personal leadership development, financial management, service learning, career advancement, campus involvement, social etiquette, values, and ethics, etc.
      - Programs can take place at chapter meetings or retreats
      - Programs that were done for Silver status can be included in addition to programs submitted for Gold status.
      - Please confirm program with FSL office at least 1-week prior program to get approval
      - Programs must be completed by the end of the respective semester. Summer programs can count for fall semester if applicable.
4. Chapters will have a member accepted and/or attending a campus-based, national or regional leadership development institute, conference, meeting or convention
   - One sponsored by their respective council, international/national headquarters, or UT Dallas is acceptable.
   - Confirmation of acceptance and attendance needs to be submitted electronically to FSL via email (fsl@utdallas.edu)
4. **Recruitment/ Intake- Max points available 10**

Chapters at UT Dallas strive to offer membership to those who express interest and those willing to positively contribute to our community. Although chapters are very different in size, all acknowledge that without members, our chapters would not exist. Therefore, chapters at UT Dallas need to have a strong commitment to recruitment or membership intake to ensure the sustainability and growth of the Greek Community.

A. **Standard- 2 points available (Upon completion of every activity listed)**
   1. Submit a calendar of events regarding all recruitment events up to 4 weeks following the start of the semester that primary recruitment events are planned to be held
      - Submitted to FSL office electronically via email (fsl@utdallas.edu)
      - Events can be subjected to change
   2. Turn in all completed recruitment paperwork (release forms, intake forms, new member education plans) for every member who membership is offered.
      - Paperwork needs to be submitted by the FSL recruitment policies (all paperwork must be submitted prior to offering bid or invitation of membership)
   3. Not be found responsible for any recruitment conduct violations (Alcohol policy, infractions with social events, recruitment week violations, etc.)
      - Governing Councils will provide documentation along with respective Hearing boards, and the Dean of Student’s office

B. **Silver- 3 points available (Upon completion of every activity listed)**
   1. All Standard qualities
   2. Submit a written chapter recruitment plan up to 4 weeks following the start of the semester that primary recruitment events are planned to be held
      - Submitted electronically to FSL via email (fsl@utdallas.edu)
   3. Have a written PR plan that lays out how your chapter will hold alcohol free recruitment events
      - Plan needs to outline how you will market your organization throughout the recruitment period through responsible activities (non-alcoholic social, educational and cultural events), creative marketing of chapter (events, members, values) and coordinating dates
      - Plan needs to be submitted electronically via FSL email account (fsl@utdallas.edu) up to 4 weeks following the start of the semester that primary recruitment events are planned to be held.

C. **Gold- 5 points available (Upon completion of every activity listed)**
   1. All Standard & Silver qualities
   2. Plan and execute 2 recruitment workshops based on your national organizations stated recruitment program
      - Workshops must be completed both semesters of the year before the end of the respective semester (fall and spring). Workshops done in the summer months can be counted for fall semester.
      - Workshops need to be put on for new members as well as active members when chapter has new members affiliate.
      - Please confirm program with FSL office at least 1 week prior to program to get approval
   3. Be able to show at least an 85% retention rate for all members you extend membership to.
      - FSL will send listing of all members who have accepted bids upon request
      - Documentation needs to be provided to show that members who accepted bids are in turn initiated by chapter within 8-12 week new member education period limit
      - Submit all documentation electronically via email (fsl@utdallas.edu).
5. **Service/Philanthropy - Max amount of points available 15**

Chapters at UT Dallas strive to give back to the UT Dallas and the surrounding DFW community. Service is the act of donating time and effort for the benefit of the public or its institution. Philanthropy involves raising and dispensing funds for a certain cause. Both service and philanthropy are important aspects of UT Dallas Greek Life programming.

A. **Standard - 3 points available (Upon completion of every activity listed)**
   1. Submit a calendar of events regarding all service events/philanthropy events within the first 6 weeks the fall and spring semesters
      - Calendar must be submitted to FSL office electronically via email (fsl@utdallas.edu)
      - Events can be subjected to change
   2. Have at least one elected or appointed officer to coordinate service and philanthropy up to 6 weeks following the start of each semester
      - No documentation is needed if appointed officer for spring semester is the same as fall semester.
      - Documentation must be submitted electronically via email (fsl@utdallas.edu)
   3. Document and submit all community/regional/national partners that your chapter either partners with for events or volunteers time for within the first 6 weeks of the fall and spring semester
      - Additionally, all events and activities done with or done for partners should be included.
      - Events and partners can be subject to change
      - Submitted to FSL office electronically via email (fsl@utdallas.edu)

B. **Silver - 5 points available (Upon completion of every activity listed)**
   1. All Standard activities
   2. Chapter must complete an average of 5 service hours per member per semester
      - Documentation must be submitted via the elected/appointed service officer upon FSL request
      - Submissions can be entered electronically to FSL (fsl@utdallas.edu) monthly for record keeping
      - Service work done and hours presented for individual members must be separate from large-scale service event for 75% of chapter (see below)
   3. Chapter participate in at least 1 service event (donation of time) a semester where at least 75% of chapter is present in either the fall or spring semester
      - Can be for stated community partner or not
      - Additionally, a sign in sheet approved by service agency or community partner must also be submitted.
      - Please confirm program with FSL office at least 1 week prior program to get approval
   4. Chapter initiates and implements at least 1 philanthropy event where 75% of your membership raises money or goods for a stated partner in either the fall or spring semester
      - Please confirm program with FSL office 1 week prior to program to get approval

C. **Gold - 7 points available (Upon completion of every activity listed)**
   1. All Standard & Silver activities
   2. Chapter must complete an average of 10 service hours per member per semester
      - Documentation must be submitted via the elected/appointed service officer upon FSL request
      - Submissions can be entered electronically to FSL at the end of the fall and spring semesters for record keeping
      - Hours complete by individual members may include 5 hours done for Silver status
      - Service work done and hours submitted for individual members must be separate from large-scale service event for 75% of chapter (see below)
   3. Chapter co-sponsors at least 1 additional service event with an organization from another council in the fall or spring semester
      - Please confirm program with FSL office at least 1 week prior to program to get approval
4. Chapter participants and plan one additional philanthropy event with another organization from another council.
   - Please confirm program with FSL office 1 week prior to program to get approval
   - Chapter for philanthropy event must be from a different council than service event.
6. **Campus Involvement - Max points available 10**

*In order to learn and grow as individuals, it is a necessity that chapter members positively contribute to their campus community. Campus involvement enhances the undergraduate experience by encouraging students to reach out to other areas of campus life. Additionally, being supportive of the university and various departments/events will enhance the image of the organization and the learning of members.*

A. **Standard - 2 points available (Upon completion of every activity listed)**
   1. Submit a calendar of events regarding all social events within the first 4 weeks of the start of the fall and spring semesters
      - Submit electronically via email (fsl@utdallas.edu)
      - Dates can be subjected to change
   2. 33% of your organization must participate in one additional non-Greek campus organization outside of your chapter/council
      - Any non-Greek campus organization is suitable for credit (includes academic organizations)
      - Provide a list of names and corresponding organizations electronically via email by the end of the fall and spring semesters

B. **Silver - 3 points available (Upon completion of every activity listed)**
   1. All Standard qualities
   2. Have a group of your chapter members (<50%) participate in 3 UT Dallas traditional events
      - Traditional events include but are not limited to:
        - Homecoming, Ring Ceremony & Senior Week, Welcome Week, Spring-a-Palooza, MLK Breakfast, Family Weekend, International Week’s Passport to the World, Freshmen Move In, Viva Volunteer, Trunk or Treat, etc.
        - Documentation of participation needs to be confirmed with FSL office electronically via email (fsl@utdallas.edu) by the end of the fall and spring semesters.
   3. 50% of your chapter must attend one athletic event on campus during fall and spring semester
      - Chapter members can go individually and report or collectively
      - Provide chapter organized attendance at campus event (pictures, emails, meeting minutes, etc) electronically to FSL via email (fsl@utdallas.edu) within one week following event
   4. 50% of your organization must participate in one additional non-Greek campus organization outside of your chapter/council
      - Any non-Greek campus organization is suitable for credit (includes academic organizations)
      - Provide a list of names and corresponding organizations electronically via email (fsl@utdallas.edu) by the end of the fall and spring semesters

C. **Gold - 5 points available (Upon completion of every activity listed)**
   1. All Standard and Silver qualities
   2. 25% of your membership holds a position in a non-Greek campus organization
      - Provide a list of names and corresponding organizations electronically to FSL office (fsl@utdallas.edu) by the end of the fall and spring semesters
      - Position must be a stated contributing position to a non-Greek UT Dallas student organization.
   3. Host, co-host, sponsor, or co-sponsor an event with a non-Greek campus organization/campus office in both the fall and spring semester
      - Events can be social, athletic, educational
      - Please confirm program with FSL office at least 1 week prior to program to get approval
      - Provide chapter organized attendance at campus event (pictures, emails, meeting minutes, etc) electronically to FSL via email (fsl@utdallas.edu) within one week following event
   4. Host, co-host, sponsor, or co-sponsor 1 diversity education program during the academic year (fall or spring semester), with a minimum of 75% attendance of the chapter the program.
- Acceptable programs include but are not limited to multiculturalism education, racial/ethnic education, LGBTQ Safe Space training, etc. Programs can take place at chapter meetings.
- Please confirm program with FSL office at least 1 week prior to program to get approval

5. 75% of your organization must participate in one additional non-Greek campus organization outside of your chapter/council
   - Any non-Greek campus organization is suitable for credit (includes academic organizations).
   - Provide a list of names and corresponding organizations electronically via email (fsl@utdallas.edu) by the end of the fall and spring semesters
Community Development - Max points available 15

In keeping with the goal of the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life to provide students with a “well-rounded fraternity and sorority experience grounded in shared values,” it is necessary that chapters form collaborative relationships with the other members of the Greek community. We have over 800 members apart of 24 different chapters and the development of “one” UT Dallas community is an important aspect of the fraternal experience.

A. Standard - 3 points available (Upon completion of every activity listed)
1. Chapter have their designated representative (or alternate) in attendance of 100% of council meetings
   - Governing councils will provide documentation via FSL email account
2. Chapter will have 80% of membership attend all mandated activities by their respective councils.
   - Percentage is to change only if documented by respective council to FSL office via email.
3. Be recognized by your governing council and remain in good standing (as defined by council)
   - Council will provide confirmation
4. Chapters are responsible for following all social policies illustrated from the SOC policies
   - Any violations of event registration & preparation with C.A.R.E. meetings could result in tier demotion.

Silver - 5 points available (Upon completion of every activity listed)
1. All Standard activities
2. At least one person from your organization must attend a Greek Leadership Retreat (Either fall or Spring)
   - FSL will provide documentation via list of attendees
3. At least 75% of your new member classes attends the fall and spring FSL 101
   - A list of all New Members must be submitted to FSL prior to New Member Orientation
   - FSL will provide documentation of attendance
4. Chapter organizes 1 non-alcoholic social or educational event with a chapter from another council in both the fall and spring semesters.
   - Please confirm program with FSL office at least 1 week prior to after program to get approval
   - All documentation must be submitted electronically via email (fsl@utdallas.edu) by the end of the fall and/or spring semesters

Gold - 7 points available (Upon completion of every activity listed)
1. All Standard and Silver activities
2. Chapters will have at least 1 officer/chair attend all roundtable /focus group meeting/programs put on by Office or Fraternity & Sorority Life
   - Documentation will be noted via role taken at event
3. Chapter organizes and participates in a non-alcoholic event (social, educational, etc.) event with a chapter from each of the other 3 councils in either the fall or spring semester.
   - Groups may collaborate on these events.
   - Please confirm program with FSL office at least 1 week prior to program to get approval
   - All documentation must be submitted electronically via email by the end of the fall and/or spring semesters
SPECIAL THANKS, CONSIDERATION, AND RECOGNITION GOES TO:

1. **The University of Texas at Dallas Fraternity Sorority Life Community Standards**
2. **University of Missouri Greek Life “Foundation” Program**
3. **North Carolina State University Community Standards for Fraternities and Sororities**
4. **Creighton University’s Student Leadership & Involvement Center “The Greek Measure Program.”**
5. **The University of Houston Center for fraternity & sorority Life “Fraternal Excellence Program.”**
6. **The University of Texas at Arlington Student Affairs Greek Life “Pillars of Excellence” program**
7. **San Diego State University Student Life and leadership “Greek Accreditation” Program**
8. **The University of Delaware Fraternity & Sorority Life “Chapter Assessment” Program**
9. **The University of Texas at San Antonio Fraternity and Sorority Minimum Standards**
10. **The University of North Texas Greek Life Community Standards Program**
11. **The University of Wyoming Fraternity/Sorority 2010 Advancement Committee**
12. **The University of Texas at El Paso Greek Awards Program**
13. **University of California Santa Barbara Greek Affairs Accreditation Program**
14. **The University of California Davis “Sorority and Fraternity Excellence Compact.”**
15. **The University of Alabama Standards for Fraternity/Sorority Recognition**
16. **Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity Sample Chapter Expectations**
17. **The Franklin Square 2005 “A Call for Values Congruence.”**

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