## Standards of Excellence Autumn 2020

The Standards of Excellence, along with its goals, were developed by the Greek Life Task Force who, in 1998, was asked by the Office of Student Life to assess and recommend improvements for Ohio State's Greek Community. The Greek Life Task Force set the Standards of Excellence, which went into effect March 9, 2001, as a plan to improve the condition of the Greek community.

As our Sorority and Fraternity Community and its members continue to grow and change, the specific needs of our organizations and members also continue to evolve.  With this growth in mind, this updated version of the Standards of Excellence was created to uphold the original goals of the Standards of Excellence, while serving the unique needs and experiences of our current members.

On the following pages, you will find the specific focus areas for the Standards of Excellence, each with their own intended outcome and requirements.  Additionally, many areas highlight additional opportunities for engagement.  To support these focus areas, chapters will complete Chapter Plans each semester to set goals and priorities and will complete Chapter Reports each semester to share their successes and identify additional areas for growth.

Each month, Chapter Presidents will meet with their Chapter Liaisons to help establish their individual priorities, track progress, and connect with support resources.  In these meetings, Chapter Presidents are expected to think critically about their chapter environments and how their chapter can best support their members.  Chapter Presidents should also be engaging with their chapter advisors, (inter)national organization representatives and members to help establish the chapter priorities.

The Sorority and Fraternity Life staff is excited to support each organization in this new Standards of Excellence program and to share in your success.  We also know that all new programs have room to improve, and we welcome any and all feedback on how the Standards of Excellence can better support your chapters.  Please share any questions, comments, or concerns to your Chapter Liaison or to sfl@osu.edu.

# Details, Reporting and FAQs

For SOE requirements that involve individual member participation (i.e Health and Safety), please note that 85% of your chapter needs to participate in each required category. Chapters may offer separate programs based on the needs of different members (i.e different programs by year in school), as long as 85% of the chapter attends at least 1 program.

To access an updated list of SOE opportunities, go to go.osu.edu/sflsoe. If you do not see your desired program listed, please complete the "SOE Program Approval Form" on that web page and email it to ciango.1@osu.edu 3 weeks prior to your program.

SOE Educational Programs can be reported by individuals or chapter officers https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NlYJ61IQlUiVKx_53x0RIQI4FgzFRy9FjB9 TBxDchiJUMVY5VEJSRlBYUURJUzhaVE9OS0pSU1IxSC4u

All reports should be submitted in the chapter's One Drive folder.

All due dates are listed in the Checklist document.

**There are so many programs! How do we pick which one to do?**

First of all, you do not have to—and should not--limit yourselves to only one program per semester.(See other FAQ below about counting multiple programs towards your requirements.) Think about your members, the needs of your chapter, and your national organization's values (if applicable). Are there knowledge gaps you'd like to fill in your members or specific risks you have noticed? If so, SOE programs are great opportunities to address these. While the pre-approved programs on the SOE web page are excellent educational experiences, we encourage you to work with campus or community partners to craft your own programs if you have a specific topic you want to address. Then, simply submit the SOE Program Approval Form to ciango.1@osu.edu 3 weeks ahead of time in order to make sure your program will be approved as an SOE.

**Can I use my inter/national organization's programming to complete my chapter's SOE requirements?**

Yes you can! If your inter/national organization has programming that fulfills one of the SOE educational requirements, feel free to count that towards your goal. Please send an SOE Program Approval Form or a program description from your organization's headquarters to ciango.1@osu.edu 3 weeks ahead of time so we have detailed information about what this program will entail.

If the program required by your organization does not address your specific prioritiy areas, you are strongly encouraged to complete an additional program that more directly addresses the current needs of your members.

**My organization/my chapter member has to complete an educational sanction as part of the Student Conduct process. Can this count towards completing an SOE requirement?**

No. Educational programs that are already required sanctions through Student Conduct may not be counted for SOE credit.

**It's really hard to get 85% of my chapter in the same room for a program. How can we fulfill our SOE requirements if this is an issue?**

You can count multiple programs towards meeting each SOE requirement. For instance, if 40% of your chapter attends a program on drugs and another 45% attend a program on mental health, your chapter would meet the Health & Safety requirement. Just make sure all events have been approved by SFL, and then submit all programs using the reporting form
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NlYJ61IQlUiVKx_53x0RIQI4Fgz
FRy9FjB9TBxDchiJUMVY5VEJSRIBYUURJUzhaVE9OS0pSU1IxSC4u.

With this in mind, you can also count events that only a very small number of your members attend. Even if only one person attends a certain program, if it fits the description of an SOE requirement, that event can be counted towards your chapter 85% goal.

**I still have questions. Who should I talk to?**

Please email Alyssa Ciango.1 and also CC your chapter's SFL Liaison so we can determine who can best assist you.

# Standards of Excellence Focus Areas

## Academics

Outcome: Chapters support the academic growth of members through individual resources and organizational support.

Requirements:

1. Chapter semester GPA meets or exceeds the all-undergraduate average.
2. Chapter completes at least 1 academic goal setting session for members each semester and/or chapter completes at least 1 program focused on academic support resources each semester.
3. Chapter provides resources to individuals failing to meet chapter GPA requirements.
4. Chapter recognizes members who improve their GPA.
5. To earn a bid to membership or begin a membership intake process, students at The Ohio State University must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.50 in at least 12 earned college or university credit hours. Proficiency or examination (EM) credits do not qualify. Students already initiated into a national/international organization may immediately affiliate with that group.


## Health and Safety

Outcome: Chapters improve members' practice of healthy behaviors through educational and organizational support.

Requirements:

1. Chapter completes at least 1 health and safety program for members each semester. This program should connect to chapter goals outlined in their annual plan. Themes may include Alcohol and Other Drugs, Hazing, Mental Health, Sexual Assault. Other topics must be preapproved by the Director of Sorority and Fraternity Life or their designee.
2. Chapter registers all events with alcohol at least 5 days prior to the event.
3. Chapter hosts no more than 20 events with alcohol per semester. This requirement does not supersede any additional restrictions on number of events from other entities (i.e. Student Conduct, governing body, etc.).
4. Chapter leadership attends Risk Management Training each semester prior to hosting first event with alcohol. Chapters with less than 40 members has 2 officers trained each semester. Chapters with more than 40 members has 3 officers trained each semester.
5. Chapter does not have major violations of the Code of Student Conduct, including but not limited to, hazing, drugs, sexual misconduct, and continuous mismanagement of alcohol.

Optional Programs

1. Additional Health and Safety programs each semester to help achieve Health and Safety goals.

**Member Development**

Outcome: Chapters support the development of individual members based on their personal needs and goals.

Requirements:

1. Chapter has at least 1 representative at leadership programs including, but not limited to, Chapter Presidents Leadership Institute, Buckeye Greek Leadership Institute, Social Justice Retreat.
2. Chapter has at least 1 representative at monthly Chapter Presidents Meetings.
3. Chapter completes at least 1 member development program for members each semester. This program should connect to chapter goals outlined in their annual plan. Topics include, but are not limited to, professional development, leadership.

Optional Programs:

1. Additional Member Development programs.
2. Chapter completes a preapproved brotherhood or sisterhood program.


**Inclusive Excellence**

Outcome: Chapters create a more socially just community through education based in social justice and organizational support.

Requirements:

1. Chapter completes at least 1 program focused in diversity, inclusion or Social Justice each semester. This program should connect to chapter goals outlined in their annual plan. Themes may include ability status, ethnicity, gender/gender identity/gender expression, immigration status, race, religion, sexuality, social class, veteran status. Other topics must be preapproved by the Director of Sorority and Fraternity Life or their designee.

Optional Programs:

1. Chapter completes member and community education to promote advocacy of a social justice issue.
2. Additional educational programs each semester to help achieve Inclusive Excellence goals.


**Citizenship**

Outcome: Chapters create a more socially just community through engaged citizenship.

Requirements:

1. Chapter completes at least 1 community service program per semester.
2. Chapter submits total service hours completed each semester per member. Individual members must complete at least 5 individual service hours per semester.

3. Chapter submits total amount of dollars raised each semester per philanthropic partner.

**Chapter Operations**

Outcome: Chapters meet university and council expectations and engage with support resources to maintain organizational effectiveness.

Requirements:

1. Chapter pays all council dues and Sorority and Fraternity Life Contribution.
2. Chapter has a primary chapter advisor.
3. Chapter has a faculty or staff member who serves as chapter advocate. The chapter advocate does not need to be an affiliated member of the organization.
4. Chapter maintains status as an active Registered Student Organization through Student Life Student Activities.
5. Chapter updates their membership roster at the start of each semester and updates chapter roster with all new members and/or participants in membership intake within 10 days of offering a bid to membership.
6. Chapter submits calendar of all new member and/or membership intake activities.
7. Chapter new member education and/or membership intake process lasts no longer than 8 weeks. All new member activities including, but not limited to, bidding, education, new member presentation, and initiation must all take place during a single academic term.