

2025-2026 Academic Year



STANDARDS
OF
EXCELLENCE



STUDENT AFFAIRS
FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE
VIRGINIA TECH.

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CHAPTER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Fraternity and Sorority Life community at Virginia Tech aspires to be one that inspires lifetime engagement in the spirit of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), where individual members of every fraternity and sorority are values-driven contributors to a larger society. Additionally, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life coaches and educates our community, organizations, and members through cultivating leadership, encouraging personal growth, fostering health & safety, and expanding spaces of belonging for students to *ExperienceVT while embracing Ut Prosim as a way of life*. We hope our chapters spread excellence to each of their members so every student can grow intellectually and become a contributing member of the local, national, and world communities.

Fraternities and sororities seeking certification are encouraged to develop in each of these areas throughout the year. With the support of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life staff, chapters will set goals that push their chapter to new standards. The chapter certification focuses on five key areas of Fraternity and Sorority Life, which we espouse as our community's values:

Community Impact & Citizenship

- The Community Impact & Citizenship area focus empowers members of the Fraternity and Sorority Life community to be mindful of global citizenship and embrace servant leadership as a way of life, honoring the University's motto of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve). Chapters and their members that excel in this area are active participants in university-wide programs and initiatives, support philanthropic causes, and maintain a strong presence within the broader community. They demonstrate what it means to be good neighbors by positively engaging with fellow students, campus partners, local citizens, local businesses, the Town of Blacksburg and the greater New River Valley. Through intentional reflection and action, chapters (and their members) deepen their awareness of self and others; practicing service as visible, positive contributors: locally, regionally, and nationally.

Chapter Support & Leadership Development

- The Chapter Support and Leadership Development area of focus implores chapters to create avenues for members to experience innovative and inspiring leadership development opportunities. Chapters and their members that excel in this area are actively engaged with alumni, advisors, chapter volunteers, and regional/inter) national representatives of their respective organizations. Chapter leadership and members eagerly engage in various skill building and leadership development opportunities that prepare and equip them to carry out the mission, purpose, and vision of their organization.

Maintaining Healthy Environments & Member Experiences

- The Maintaining Healthy Environments and Member Experiences area of focus creates space for chapters to develop community and connectedness through the unique aspect of brotherhood and sisterhood. Chapters and their members that excel in this area understand that creating safe environments, healthy relationships and member experiences is fundamental in living out a chapter's values. Rather than reinforcing dangerous trends such as hazing, alcohol abuse, and toxic social cultures, these chapters tackle these challenges head-on by placing value in a healthy member experience.

Academic Excellence

- The Academic Excellence area of focus centers on scholastic achievement and intellectual development in the Fraternity and Sorority Life experience. Chapters and their members that excel in this area embrace and celebrate their members' academic achievements and prioritize academic success by planning and implementing various academic support programs and strategies. For members of these organizations, participation in high-impact practices and prioritization of academics are fundamental principles of their FSL experience.

Residential Facility Management (if applicable)

- The Residential Facility Management area of focus highlights the responsibility of maintaining a chapter-affiliated facility in **Oak Lane** or the greater Blacksburg area. Chapters that excel in this area promote safe, clean, and well-managed environments that reflect their organization's values and foster a sense of pride and accountability among members. These chapters maintain strong relationships with housing partners, comply with university and local policies, and prioritize risk management, financial responsibility, and timely upkeep. By managing their facilities with care and intention, these organizations contribute positively to the campus and surrounding community.

CERTIFICATION STATUSES

Chapters will be evaluated in each of the applicable certification categories and will be awarded a certification status in each category. Additionally, each chapter will receive an overall certification status.

NOT CERTIFIED: The chapter did not participate in the certification program. Chapters not submitting accreditation documents by the established deadline in the spring semester will automatically be considered not certified.

- The chapter is not eligible to receive awards at The Celebration in the year in which non-accreditation status is determined. Individuals affiliated with the chapter are also not eligible to receive awards.
- Chapter is identified on the Fraternity and Sorority Life website, associated social networking sites, and other departmental materials as a Not Certified Chapter.
- The chapter is identified on the Fraternity and Sorority Life Scorecard as a Not Certified Chapter.
- Provided with coaching and certification support that is intended to help them become certified, if they choose. Fraternity and Sorority Life will partner with local advisors and the (inter)national organization to provide this coaching support.

BRONZE CHAPTER: The chapter has participated in the certification program and satisfactorily achieved or met some of the standards and expectations of Virginia Tech's Fraternity and Sorority Life community.

- Chapter recognized on the Fraternity and Sorority Life website, associated social networking sites, and other departmental materials as a Bronze Chapter.
- The Chapter is identified on the Fraternity and Sorority Life Scorecard as a Bronze Chapter.
- Chapter members are eligible for Fraternity and Sorority Life individual end of the year awards.
- Chapter is recognized in an advertisement in The Collegiate Time recognizing chapters.
- A press release about Bronze Chapters will be shared to the local media.
- A letter will be sent to the chapter's (inter)national headquarters detailing the program and the chapter's accomplishments.
- Provided with coaching and certification support that is intended to help them achieve Gold or Platinum in the future. Fraternity and Sorority Life will partner with local advisors and the (inter)national organization to provide this coaching support.

GOLD CHAPTER: The chapter has participated in the certification program and has satisfactorily achieved or met all the standards and expectations of Virginia Tech's Fraternity and Sorority Life community.

- Chapter recognized on the Fraternity and Sorority Life website, associated social networking sites, and other departmental materials as a Gold Chapter.
- The Chapter is identified on the Fraternity and Sorority Life Scorecard as a Gold Chapter.
- The chapter is eligible for all Fraternity and Sorority Life Organizational and Individual end of the year awards, except for the Fraternity/Sorority of the Year Award.
- Chapter is recognized in an advertisement in The Collegiate Times recognizing chapters.
- A press release about Gold Chapters will be shared to the local media.
- A letter of congratulations will be sent to the chapter's (inter)national headquarters detailing the program and the chapter's accomplishments.
- Provided with coaching and certification support that is intended to help them maintain Gold or achieve Platinum status in the future. Fraternity and Sorority Life will partner with local advisors and the (inter)national organization to provide this coaching support.

PLATINUM CHAPTER: The chapter has participated in the certification program and has consistently exceeded the expectations of Virginia Tech's Fraternity and Sorority Life community.

- Chapter recognized on the Fraternity and Sorority Life website, associated social networking sites, and other departmental materials as a Platinum Chapter.
- The Chapter is identified on the Fraternity and Sorority Life Scorecard as a Platinum Chapter.
- Recognized at The Celebration, Fraternity and Sorority Life's annual recognition program.
- The chapter is eligible for all Fraternity and Sorority Life Organizational and Individual end of the year awards, including Fraternity/Sorority of the Year Award.
- Chapter is recognized in an advertisement in The Collegiate Times.
- A press release about Platinum Chapters will be shared to the local media.
- A letter of congratulations will be sent to the chapter's (inter)national headquarters detailing the program and the chapter's accomplishments.
- Provided coaching and certification support intended to help them retain Platinum status in the future. Fraternity and Sorority Life will partner with local advisors and the (inter)national organization to provide this coaching support.

COMMUNITY IMPACT & CITIZENSHIP

The Community Impact & Citizenship area focus empowers members of the Fraternity and Sorority Life community to be mindful of global citizenship and embrace servant leadership as a way of life, honoring the University's motto of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve). Chapters and their members that excel in this area are active participants in university-wide programs and initiatives, support philanthropic causes, and maintain a strong presence within the broader community. They demonstrate what it means to be good neighbors by positively engaging with fellow students, campus partners, local citizens, local businesses, the Town of Blacksburg and the greater New River Valley. Through intentional reflection and action, chapters (and their members) deepen their awareness of self and others; practicing service as visible, positive contributors: locally, regionally, and nationally.

Community Programming Participation

- **Hokie Helpers** - 2 members assist with new students get settled into their residence halls.
- **Homecoming** - The chapter is involved with at least one university-sponsored Homecoming activity such as: the NPHC Homecoming Yard Show, having a Homecoming Court candidate, participating in the Homecoming Parade, etc.
- **The Big Event** - 15% of the chapter participates in the annual event.
- The chapter participated in **two events sponsored by another council for the academic year** (i.e., Oak Lane Trick-or-Treat, Center St. Clean Up, Overton Step Show, Homecoming Yard Show, New Member Presentations/Reveals, etc.).

The Ut Prosim Challenge - Serving Our Community

- **Greeks Giving Back Participation Expectations** - at least 15% of the chapter participates.
- **Local Community Service-wide Project/ Engagement** - Chapter plans or participates in at least one local (i.e., New River Valley/ Southwest Virginia/ Appalachia) community service project/ endeavor per semester.
 - Examples include blood drive, Micha's Backpack, Interfaith Food Pantry, food/ clothing/ item drive, non-profit, etc.
- **Service Hours** - The chapter averages 5 hours of community service per member for the academic year.

Supports a Philanthropic Cause

- Each chapter will have a philanthropic cause that it supports financially and meets the following expectations.
 - Implemented educational and awareness programming re: philanthropic cause.
 - Chapter raised/ financially contributed an equivalent of \$100 a member to your philanthropic cause.
 - Fully participated in at least four other organizations' philanthropic causes (across at least three of the four councils, your own council will count as one of the three).
- **Significant Philanthropic and Service Achievements** - Chapter met a recognizable philanthropic goal or made a significant philanthropic contribution.
 - This could be that the chapter received recognition, is an outstanding philanthropic performer, "won" a chapter's philanthropy, formed a new partnership, created a new philanthropic/service opportunity, is identified as a ranked contributor to a philanthropic cause/event, made a significant philanthropic achievement, etc. This could also be qualitative in nature.

Membership in Other RSOs

- 60% or more of chapter members are members of other student organizations. (*Professional and Academic Honor Societies do not count as they are counted in Academic Excellence.*)

Student Leadership

- 15% or more of members are in leadership roles/ involvement in an RSO, UCSO, or through a department or college.

Town Gown Meeting Attendance

- The chapter sends a designee to attend at least one Virginia Tech/Blacksburg Town Gown meeting during the academic year.

Community Concerns/Complaints

- There were fewer than three complaints or concerns throughout the semester relayed that were associated with or attributed to the chapter from local businesses, organizations, agencies, VT staff/department etc. such as:
 - Code/Zoning/Trash Infractions written by the town
 - Noise complaints
 - Community member complaints
 - SECL/VTPD, etc. concerns
 - BPD, VTPD, MCSO calls for service
 - Kicked out of a third-party vendor location

Community Compliments/Accolades

- The chapter received at least two unprompted accolades or compliments by community members and/or campus-based, regional, or national awards associated with or attributed to the chapter throughout the academic year. Some examples include, but are not limited to calls from community members, shout-outs from VT staff/departments, etc.

CHAPTER SUPPORT & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Chapter Support and Leadership Development area of focus implores chapters to create avenues for members to experience innovative and inspiring leadership development opportunities. Chapters and their members that excel in this area are actively engaged with alumni, advisors, chapter volunteers, and regional/(inter)national representatives of their respective organizations. Chapter leadership and members eagerly engage in various skill building and leadership development opportunities that prepare and equip them to carry out the mission, purpose, and vision of their organization.

(Inter)National/Regional Leadership Development

- The required chapter leadership participates fully and completely in ALL of the required (inter)national and regional leadership development workshops, retreats, and institutes and new member education sessions during the year. IHQ/ Region will indicate which statuses best describe the chapter's participation.
 - Exceeds the attendance expectations and requirements.
 - Meets the attendance expectations and requirements.
 - Meets with some exceptions the attendance expectations and requirements.
 - Does not meet the attendance expectations and requirements.

Advisor and Alumni Support

- The chapter has an additional advisor/ alumni volunteer per every 40 members who have specific roles guiding and supporting the chapter. These should be post-baccalaureate volunteers who work directly with the chapter regularly.
- A chapter advisor/alumni volunteer participates in at least **four chapter-wide meetings, trainings, and events** throughout the year.
- A chapter advisor/alumni volunteer participates in at least **80% of council/ FSL meetings, trainings, and events** throughout the year.

Chapter Coach Support

- Chapter President attends a monthly meeting with their FSL Chapter coach.
- At least three other chapter officers meet with their FSL Chapter coach during the semester.
- Chapter officers initiate communication and outreach with their chapter coach frequently outside of coaching meetings.

Chapter Strategic Planning

- **The chapter has an annual or semesterly retreat** with at least 75% of the chapter are in attendance where the status of the chapter is discussed, and goal setting occurs.
- The chapter hosts a **Chapter Exec Retreat & Officer Transition meeting** with at least 75% of the new officers in attendance.

Member Development Programming

- The chapter plans and implements at least **three chapter-wide programs** on the following topics each semester by a trained and qualified professional/facilitator:
 - Alcohol and Drug /Substance Use Education
 - Risk Management
 - Hazing Awareness
 - Sexual Assault/Dating & Domestic Violence
 - Health Education (Mental, Physical, Sexual, Well-being, etc.)
 - Recruitment & Belonging
 - Personal Growth & Development
 - Resource Awareness & Educational

External Chapter Programming

- The chapter plans and implements at least **one educational program to non-members** that is external to the chapter and open to the general public each semester.
 - The format of this program can be a presentation, activity, tabling event, marketing campaign, etc. to educate or raise awareness for an issue or cause.

Alumni, Parents and Intraorganizational Relations

- The chapter hosts or participates in at least **one event** per semester focused on **alumni, parents/family, or another chapter** in their organization or same council they are affiliated with (i.e., JMU, GMU, ODU, UNC, UVA, etc.).
- The chapter has at least one newsletter/outreach to alumni/parents that is formally sent via email and have included gogreek@vt.edu, or shared on social media and uploaded a picture into Teams.

Phired-Up Support & Technology Use

- The chapter participated in at least one event/ meeting/ consultation during the year.
- The chapter effectively uses the technology provided during recruitment/intake.

Leadership Development

- A chapter member fully participates in Fraternal Leaders Institute (FLI) and/or any other events hosted by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.
- A chapter member attends a campus-based leadership development event (i.e., Hokie Leadership Summit).
- A chapter member attends a regional/national leadership development event (i.e., Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute (UIFI), AFLV Central, and/or the SGLA Annual Conference.)

MAINTAINING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS & MEMBER EXPERIENCES

The Maintaining Healthy Environments and Member Experiences area of focus creates space for chapters to develop community and connectedness through the unique aspect of brotherhood and sisterhood. Chapters and their members that excel in this area understand that creating safe environments, healthy relationships and member experiences is fundamental in living out a chapter's values. Rather than reinforcing dangerous trends such as hazing, alcohol abuse, and toxic social cultures, these chapters tackle these challenges head-on by placing value in a healthy member experience.

Adam's Law Compliance & Hazing Prevention Education

- All potential new members will have attended the Adam's Law Training (Commitment to a Hazing Free Experience) before accepting a bid into their organization.
- At least 25% of the chapter members in at least their second year of membership (not an executive board member) will attend the Continued Commitment to a Hazing Free Experience program, offered through both Hokie Wellness and Fraternity and Sorority Life
- At least 2 executive board members, one of whom must be the Membership Educator, will attend the Membership Education Review sessions as a part of a continued commitment to a hazing free experience.
- At least 1 advisor/ volunteer has met the Adam's Law Requirement (i.e., fully attended an official Commonwealth of Virginia staff member facilitated in-person hazing prevention training).

New Member Education / Intake Process

- The chapter has a conversation about their written new member/MIP plan/ calendar/ timeline with their Chapter Coach and shares it with FSL.

Risk Management Plan

A chapter should have a robust risk management plan that is well articulated, but more importantly, **known and used by the chapter and its leadership**. The chapter should use excellent guidance from their IHQs, Advisors, Regionals, legal teams, etc. to consistently reassess and innovate their risk management plans, crisis preparation, and incident management policies and procedures. This should be a collaborative effort throughout the semester and update the policy based on feedback. Chapters should be able to articulate a creative and innovative way to manage/mitigate risk beyond the expected/standard risk management efforts/plan.

- Chapters should submit annually the two documents below by September 5th, 2025.
 - **Local Chapter's Risk Management Plan** - including crisis/incident plan/contact information of who you are reaching out to in time of a crisis/situation.
 - **National Risk Management Plan & Policy** - this should be provided to you by your (inter)national organization.
- Chapter officers/exec have reviewed organizational crisis/incident management guidelines with their FSL Chapter Coach semesterly.
- Attend a FSL staff-led Health & Safety Roundtable accordingly with expectations shared by the office.

Member Retention

A chapter should ensure they provide excellent new and current member experiences throughout the undergraduate membership by building membership retention plans and programming. We encourage each organization to collaborate with their advisors, chapter coach, and headquarters/regional volunteers to ensure that members are satisfied with and involved in creating a fraternal experience.

- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life believes that excellent member retention is defined:
 - as losing less than 10% of chapter members in the academic year.
 - as losing less than 10% of new members in the academic year.

Brotherhood/Sisterhood Events

- The chapter hosts at least **one event** per semester that actively fosters meaningful connection, unity, and engagement among members through an intentional, inclusive, and substance-free event.

Event Planning & Management

- The chapter plans chapter events well in advance and has a chapter calendar that they utilize. They do that by:
 - Regularly using the Event Notification form for events with AND without alcohol such as:
 - Social Events (Parties, Formals, Beach/Mountain Weekend, Alumni/Parent Weekends, Tailgates, etc.)
 - New Member Experience (Induction/Pinning, Big/Little, Basket Week, Initiation, Education meetings, etc.)
 - Philanthropy & Service (Fundraisers, Tabling, Large Scale Events, etc.)
 - Chapter Operations (Elections, Transitions, IHQ Visit, etc.)
 - Member Development (Educational Programs, Speakers, Retreats, etc.)
 - Town of Blacksburg Voluntary Party Registration
 - Using the Town of Blacksburg Event registration form for gatherings of more than 200 people.

Chapter Accountability

- Chapter has a designated “Standards/Accountability” officer or board or has a standards/accountability process built into an officer’s job description.
- Attend a FSL staff-led Accountability Process training accordingly with expectations shared by the office.
- Chapter has an active standards/accountability process. This means that the chapter can provide evidence that they actively engage in their chapter standards/accountability process.

University & (Inter)National/Regional Conduct

- Chapter was not on a cease of operations/restrictive status by the university and/or IHQ/region.
- Chapter did not receive a new policy violation during the academic year.
- Chapter was not on an active conduct sanction during the year.
- Chapter has satisfactorily made progress and/or fulfilled all sanction requirements for Student Conduct and/or IHQ/Region with the support of the Chapter Coach.
 - Chapter completed their conduct status without receiving a new conduct violation.
- Less than 5% of chapter members have been found responsible for a violation of the Student Code of Conduct during the academic year.

Risk Management Institute Participation

- Chapter attended the Risk Management Institute and met the attendance requirements:
 - **Kick - Off Event** - These members should include President, Vice President, Risk Manager, Social Chair, and New Member Educator (or their designees).
 - IFC, Panhellenic, AOE, and MED - 5 members from the chapter attend.
 - NPHC and UCFS (except AOE/MED) - 3 members from the chapter attend.
 - **RMI Educational Sessions** -These sessions will be on-going throughout the year and communicated by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life in advance. They may be hosted by the office, third-party providers, or campus partners like Hokie Wellness, Women’s Center, Blacksburg/Virginia Tech Police Department, etc.
 - All chapters should send a cumulative total of **at least 30%** of their members to a qualifying “RMI Educational Session” throughout the academic year.
 - **The ideal attendees for these sessions are not only executive board members, and not necessarily new members.** This is a great way for general membership to feel engaged and empowered in helping make themselves, their chapter and community healthier, safer, and better.

- Chapters will share meeting minutes/evidence during Chapter Coaching documenting that they discussed material learned either during the RMI Educational Sessions or the micro-learning modules that will be distributed through FSL.

Piazza Center Research Partnerships

- The chapter engages at a minimum 25% rate of response in any request for chapter-wide data as part of the What Works Partnership.
- The chapter participates in any additional requests for data or program requests as part of the What Works Partnership.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The Academic Excellence area of focus centers scholastic achievement and intellectual development in the Fraternity and Sorority Life experience. Chapters and their members that excel in this area embrace and celebrate their members' academic achievements and prioritize academic success by planning and implementing various academic support programs and strategies. For members of these organizations, participation in high-impact practices and prioritization of academics are fundamental principles of their FSL experience.

Academic Achievements

- The chapter has achieved at least six of the following:
 - Chapter GPA higher than their council average
 - Chapter GPA higher than the FSL average
 - Chapter GPA higher than the all undergraduate
 - Chapter GPA higher than the all-female or male.
 - Chapter 4.0 GPA% higher than that of their council.
 - Chapter 4.0 GPA% higher than that of FSL.
 - Dean's List % higher than that of their council.
 - Dean's List % higher than that of FSL.
 - Chapter has no more than 1% of members or 1 member with a GPA below a 2.0.

New Member Academic Achievements

- The chapter has achieved six of the following:
 - Chapter New Member GPA is higher than their council average.
 - Chapter New Member GPA is higher than the FSL average.
 - Chapter New Member GPA is higher than the all undergraduate
 - Chapter New Member GPA is higher than the all-female or male.
 - Chapter New Member 4.0% higher than their council New Member Peers.
 - Chapter New Member 4.0% higher than their FSL New Member Peers.
 - Chapter New Member Dean's List % is higher than their council New Member Peers.
 - Chapter New Member Dean's List % is higher than their FSL New Member Peers.
 - Chapter has no more than 1% of new members or 1 new member with a GPA below a 2.0.

High Impact Academic Practices

- 20% of the chapter is engaged in academic research, TA, co-op, study abroad, academic honor societies, and/or professional/academic organizations.

Academic Support Systems and Policies

- The chapter implements one academic support programs, initiatives, and strategies such as study hours, coaching/mentoring, academic resources, recognition, etc. per a semester.
- The chapter has a conversation about ways they have connected members to external academic success resources and remediation programming/accountability standards with their Chapter Coach.

RESIDENTIAL FACILITY MANAGEMENT

The Residential Facility Management area of focus highlights the responsibility of maintaining a chapter-affiliated facility in **Oak Lane** or the greater Blacksburg area. Chapters that excel in this area promote safe, clean, and well-managed environments that reflect their organization's values and foster a sense of pride and accountability among members. These chapters maintain strong relationships with housing partners, comply with university and local policies, and prioritize risk management, financial responsibility, and timely upkeep. By managing their facilities with care and intention, these organizations contribute positively to the campus and surrounding community.

Oak Lane Facilities

- The chapter House Supervisor submits rosters for those living in the house for the next academic year on time.
- Oak Lane Resident Contracts for the following year are signed by the due date.
- Oak Lane Roommate Groups for Oak Lane for the following year are due to FSL from the chapter House Supervisor.
- The chapter has at least three members of the chapter apply for the House Supervisor position.
- The chapter signs and returns the organizational lease agreement (*If applicable*).
- Attend an Oak Lane Health & Safety training accordingly with expectations shared by the office.
- The chapter has fewer than five fire code violations/Health & Safety concerns documented throughout the year.
- The chapter maintains 90% or higher occupancy of the chapter house throughout the year.
- The chapter has fewer than two "unidentified" damages in the house.
- The chapter receives a meet expectation housekeeping score of (:|)
- The chapter hosts a fire/chapter house safety program once a year.

Off-Campus Facilities

- The chapter provides the names of those who reside there.
- The chapter completes a "Virginia Maintenance Code Inspection" by the Town of Blacksburg per town requirements.
- The chapter hosts a fire/chapter house safety program once a year.