The purpose of the SUNY Oneonta fraternity and sorority Standards of Excellence program is to enhance the basic expectations of fraternities and sororities recognized by SUNY Oneonta. In addition, this program will assist chapters in monitoring and improving their own activity and performance. As stated in the Code of Rights and Responsibilities for Social Greek Letter Organizations, fraternities and sororities contribute scholarship, community service, good citizenship, and high moral standards to the College community. This program will foster further expansion of these ideals and establish necessary room for growth of each individual chapter by outlining their strengths and weaknesses.

The Standards of Excellence criteria serve as the foundation for all healthy fraternities and sororities and, if implemented well, will enhance the undergraduate fraternal experience. The requirements are based upon the College’s Mission to allow opportunities for participation, personal challenge, and service, as well as enhance the minimum expectations outlined by the Greek Code.

Fraternities and Sororities will be evaluated in the areas noted below. A description for each component is provided at the beginning of its section.

- Membership Development (170 points)
- Chapter Management and Operations (80 points)
- External Relations (90 points)
- Policy compliance (60 points)
- Mid year presentation (200 points)

Points are accumulated throughout the year and are monitored through the yearly submission from each chapter to the Office of Greek Life. At the beginning of each year, the point total is set to zero. The categories are listed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Five Star Chapter</td>
<td>85%-100%</td>
<td>(510-600)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter of Excellence</td>
<td>70%-84%</td>
<td>(420-509)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Star Chapter</td>
<td>55%-69%</td>
<td>(330-419)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below Three Star Chapter</td>
<td>Below 55%</td>
<td>(0-329)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All documentation shall be organized and given to the chapter by the Office of Greek Life and must be turned in by the deadlines set by the Greek Advisor each year. Please note that any attendance lists must be certified by someone at the event (i.e. a coach at the athletic event, etc.) In the case the chapter is the host of the event; all attendance must be certified by the Advisor. A committee, consisting of the Greek Advisor, two Chapter Advisors, the Director of the College Union, the Inter-Greek Council President and two appointed students, shall review all materials. The top 3 chapters ranking in the Five Star Chapter category and in the annual Chapter Report will be asked to prepare a presentation for the Committee on Greek Life for the Chapter of the Year Award. In November chapters will be able to give presentations based on the areas of the Standards of Excellence Program. These presentations will be scored by a panel of judges and will be open to the campus community.
Section 1. Membership Development

A. Academic Achievement—80 Points

In an attempt to promote academic excellence among Sorority and Fraternity members and their respective organizations, points will be given according to academic performance of chapter members every semester.

1. **Chapter Term GPA**—Maintain a chapter GPA that is equal to or higher than the all undergraduate men’s/women’s semester GPA. Chapters below the all undergraduate average must show improvement each semester to meet the All Men’s/Women’s Average. (collected by Office of Greek Life)
   - 20 points if chapter’s fall semester GPA equals or exceeds all undergraduate men’s/women’s average.
   - 20 points if chapter’s fall GPA is below the all undergraduate men’s/women’s average but the chapter GPA improved from previous semester.

2. **Academic Success Program**—A written academic success program for initiated and new members that demonstrates how the chapter will address academic success, and how the plan is being implemented. Must describe goals for the chapter in achieving academic excellence, including individual success programs and planned chapter events. **Chapters must explain how this year’s plan is different from previous years. (due October 30)**
   - 20 points if the chapter submits an academic plan.

3. **Individual Member Standards**—Establish and enforce minimum individual expectations for academic performance (a minimum 2.50 cumulative GPA is recommended) and utilize a process of constructive activities to identify and help those members below the minimum. (due September 30)
   - 10 points per year for established standards.
   - 10 points per year for established process for members below the standard.

B. Membership Education and Development—40 Points

The mark of a successful chapter is the ability to enhance each member’s academic and co-curricular experience. One way to accomplish this is through effective recruitment and education of its new members. Another way is through the continuing opportunity for active members to develop leadership through training and experiences.

1. **Values Based Membership Selection**—Chapter has a written plan on membership selection that is based on the organization’s values. This selection criterion should be used during the membership selection process for chapters. (Ex. Potential new members must have a cum GPA of a 2.8 or Potential New Members need to be involved in at least one club or organization.) (due the first Friday of the fall semester)
   - 20 points for the year

2. **Chapter Development**—To encourage teamwork and friendship, in the organization the chapter should coordinate one chapter development event a year. (i.e. a retreat); the event should be social or teamwork oriented, and cannot include alcohol. (due November 15 or March 15)
   - 20 points

C. Leadership Development—50 Points

Membership in Greek organizations offers students many opportunities to develop their leadership potential. Greek organizations not only provide training in the principles of leadership, they are laboratories in which these
principles can be tested. Each member is actively involved in decision-making processes, teaching and encouraging students to utilize their leadership talents in their chapters and on the SUNY Oneonta campus.

1. **External Leadership Programs**—Attendance and participation in external leadership programs (Emerging Leaders, Leadership Institute, Greek Conference, etc), leadership conferences offered by international or national organizations, and leadership programs offered by other colleges and universities will earn a chapter points in this area. Chapters will receive 10 points for every 20% of their chapter that attends a program with a maximum of 50 points. *(due March 15)*

___50 points possible per year.

**Section 2. Chapter Management and Operations**

*A. Goals and Action Plans—30 Points*

Successful organizations regularly establish goals and objectives and develop strategies and action plans to achieve those goals.

1. **Goal Setting**—The chapter conducts at least one goal setting session each year and establishes specific written goals and objectives, approved by the membership. *(due September 30)*

___30 points

*B. Advisor Guidance—30 Points*

Successful organizations have active advisors and alumni to assist with organizational development, continuity, and compliance with College and (inter)national fraternity/sorority policies where applicable.

1. **Chapter Advisor**—The chapter has an advisor (at least one who is full time faculty or staff) who has regular contact with the chapter officers. *(advisor will turn in due November 15 and March 15)*

___15 points fall

___15 points spring

*C. Executive Board Efficiency—20 Points*

1. **Transitional Meeting**—A transitional meeting with incoming/outgoing officers (held whenever a new officer is elected), or the description of the chapter’s transition process with meeting minutes attached. *(due November 15 or March 15)*

___20 points per year

**Section 3. External Relations**

*A. Campus Involvement—35 Points*

Chapter participation in campus life is beneficial to the Greek community. It enhances the campus image of Greeks and enriches the collegiate experience.
1. **Clubs and Organizations**—At least 50% of the membership has joined at least one other non-Greek related campus or community organization. *(due November 15)*  

___15 points if at least 50% of the membership has joined another organization

2. **Campus Activities**—There are a variety of ways that chapters can support campus events. Accordingly, for this component chapters can accumulate up to 20 points for participation at campus events, which can be, but are not limited to the following. 60% attendance is required for the event to count. *(due November 15 or March 15)*  

- SAAC events  
- SA club/organization event  
- LEAD program  
- Athletic event  

___5 points per event, 20 maximum points per year

B. **Alumni and Family Relations**—20 Points

Alumni and parents can assist a chapter in a variety of ways including advising, financial support, and networking. Successful chapters, therefore, nurture their parents and alumni by maintaining frequent communication and hosting activities.

1. **Newsletters/Routine Communication**—The chapter sends at least one newsletter per semester to both alumni and parents. This can either be the same newsletter distributed to both groups, or separate newsletters for each. New organizations without local alumni can receive full credit by mailing newsletters to parents only. *(due November 15 and March 15)*  

___5 points for fall  
___5 points for spring

2. **Alumni Events**—The chapter sponsors at least one event per year for alumni (e.g., Founder’s Day dinner, Homecoming tailgate, BBQ’s, etc). *This section is not applicable to new organizations without local alumni.* *(due March 15)*  

___10 points

C. **Philanthropy and Civic Engagement**—2 Points

Greek organization mission statements reflect a commitment to the service of others, which is one of the highlights of the Fraternity and Sorority experience.

1. **Philanthropy Project**—Chapters coordinate and host one large community service or philanthropic event per year. This event must be planned and advertised one month in advance and documentation must include an event timeline. *(due November 15 or March 15)*  

___25 points
D. Greek Relations—10 Points

In addition to participation in Council and All-Greek activities, effective community building occurs when chapters do activities with one another.

1. **Greek Relations Activity**—Chapters attend events hosted by other Greek organizations. These events can include educational programs, philanthropy and community service events. 60% of the chapter must attend for the chapter to get credit for attending the event. *(due November 15 or March 15)*

   ___ 5 points for the first event

   ___ 5 points for the second event

Section 4. Policy Compliance

An excellent Greek chapter places a strong emphasis on risk management, risk reduction, adherence to Greek and College policies, and encourages responsible social events. It is the obligation of each chapter to provide a safe environment and to respect the rights of others.

A. Risk Management—20 Points

1. **Risk Management Officer**—The chapter has an elected/appointed risk management officer or other-named officer whose duties include, but are not limited to, coordinating risk management programs, overseeing social functions, being responsible for adherence to the College, local chapter, and (inter)national alcohol/social/risk management policies (if applicable) and fire code/safety compliance. *(due November 15)*

   ___ 20 points per year

B. Member Conduct—40 Points

1. **Chapter Code of Conduct**—Chapter has a written Code of Conduct or membership contract which includes member expectations regarding alcohol and drugs, hazing, fighting, and other risk management issues. The Code must be signed by every member when they are initiated. Chapters must also review the Student Code of Conduct and the Code of Rights and Responsibilities for Greek Letter Organizations on a yearly basis. *(due October 30)*

   ___ 20 points per year

2. **Chapter Judicial/Standards Board**—The chapter has an internal discipline board or process that handles violations of the chapter’s Code of Conduct. It is strongly recommended that the chapter utilize the intervention programs offered by Oneonta regarding alcohol/drug abuse, anger management, and civility. *(due September 30)*

   ___ 20 points per year

A chapter with ANY major violation, as defined and determined through the Inter-Greek Council and/or the College Judicial Process, shall automatically be considered ineligible for 3, 4, or 5 star Recognition.
Section 5. Standards of Excellence Presentation - 200 points

Process -

1. Each chapter will have 20 minutes to present their achievement in the assessment areas to the Standards of Excellence Scoring Committee and the campus community.

2. Scoring committee members will rate performance in each assessment area on a scale of 1 to 5 (1=does not meet expectations, 3=meets expectations, 5=exceeds expectations)

3. Presentations will be open to members of the campus community. Audience members are able to give feedback to chapters on written evaluation forms that will be provided. This feedback will be for the chapter's own use and will not be scored in this process.

Membership Development

Define your chapter's scholarship program:
- What do you do if members are not meeting academic goals?
- How do you assist new members in meeting their academic goals throughout their new member education process?
- How do you recognize improvement and excellence in our member's academic performance?
- How has your chapter included your chapter advisor in the scholarship program?
- How has your chapter's scholarship program changed since last year?

Explain the process that your chapter uses to develop goals for the year?
- How does your chapter advisor help your chapter throughout the year?
- How does your chapter participate in the Greek community?
- How does your chapter participate in the Oneonta community?
- How is important information passed down to new officers?

Values Congruency

What are the values of your organization?
- How does your chapter instill these values in the members and in daily chapter operations?
- How does your chapter recognize national and/or local celebrations (such as Founder's Day, initiation, graduating senior recognition)?

Leadership/Educational Programming

What educational programs has your chapter hosted/attended this year that have contributed to the intellectual growth of your members?
- What leadership positions (non-Greek) are your members involved in?
- Please describe your chapter's new member development program
- How do you involve alumni, advisors, faculty and staff in your chapter's leadership development?
- Have members of your organization been involved in the LEAD program?
- How does your chapter educate members and new members about risk management and risk reduction?

Positive Relationships

How does your chapter participate in the campus community?
- How does your chapter participate in the Oneonta community?
- How does your chapter contribute to diversity on campus?
- How does your chapter promote a life-long commitment to your organization and develop strong alumni ties?
Participation Incentives

Five Star Chapter Incentives

- Recognized at Award Banquet as a Chapter of Excellence.
- Chapter is eligible for the Chapter of the Year Award.
- Chapter is recognized in recruitment publications, on the Greek website and on marketing materials used during visit days, new student orientation, open houses, and activity fairs.
- Listed and promoted at summer orientations.
- Display cases in the Hunt Union set aside to denote Five Star Chapters for one month during the following academic year.
- An advertisement in the State Times newspaper will identify the chapters as a five star recipient, as well as a feature article on the Greek Blog detailing the chapter’s accomplishments.
- A letter of congratulations will be sent to the chapter's (inter)national headquarters detailing the program, and the chapter’s accomplishments.

Four Star Chapter Incentives

- Recognized at Award Banquet as an Above Average Chapter.
- Chapter recognized in recruitment publications, on the Greek website, and on marketing materials used during visit days, new student orientation, open houses, and activity fairs.
- An advertisement in the State Times newspaper will identify the chapter as a four star recipient, as well as a mention in the Greek Blog as a four star recipient.

Three Star Chapter Incentives

- Recognized at the Awards Banquet as an Accredited Chapter.
- Chapter recognized in recruitment publications, on the Greek Life website, and marketing materials used during visit days, new student orientation, open houses, and activity fairs.

Below Three Star Chapter Incentives

- Chapter is unable to win chapter awards at the Awards Banquet.
- Chapter will receive additional Standards of Excellence support should they rank Below Three Star Recognition for two or more consecutive years.