



Student  
Life

2020

# FRATERNITY & SORORITY

RECOGNITION + ACCREDITATION

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## Program Overview

The GW fraternity and sorority life (FSL) community and its chapters share common values of excellence in scholarship, leadership, diversity, community, and accountability. In line with these values, and in the spirit of continuous improvement to the GW FSL community, the Fraternity and Sorority Recognition and Accreditation (FSRA) program creates community-wide chapter responsibilities, expectations, and benchmarks for success and excellence in these areas and beyond. It provides a framework by which our chapters can quantify and document activities and successes and creates a pathway for chapters to receive individualized feedback and recognition. Chapters will be evaluated **on activity occurring during Spring 2020 and Fall 2020** in three ways:

- **Chapter Responsibility Checkpoints:** FSL staff will automatically verify or evaluate a chapter's success in meeting the listed baseline chapter responsibilities. No action or submission is required from the chapter for these items, however, if your chapter has not met one of the listed chapter responsibilities, you may have an opportunity to do so prior to the deadline.
- **Chapter Report:** In each section, chapters will submit a brief written description or data on outlined topics. (*See Chapter Report Outline*)
- **Chapter Presentation:** Each chapter will deliver a virtual oral presentation on their chapter's accomplishments and successes over the past year (spring 2020 and fall 2020). The presentation is an opportunity to tell your chapter's story, highlight its greatest successes, and demonstrate its excellence over the past year through photos, videos, testimonials, narratives, and other creative elements. (*See Presentation Guidelines*)

Based upon the information gathered through this process and scoring by a review committee, organizations will receive a Chapter Designation along with written feedback that identifies unique challenges, opportunities, and strengths. The information will also directly inform recognition via community awards, including Chapters of the Year among others. Chapters that fail to submit materials for FSRA will be receive a Chapter Designation of Rebuilding Chapter and may lose organizational privileges. For more information on the Chapter Designations, see page 11. It is our hope and expectation that all chapters embrace the opportunity for continuous improvement, consistently strive to achieve a Chapter of Excellence designation, and endeavor to serve as role models of excellence to the campus community.

### DATES TO NOTE

**January 25, 2021:** 2020 Call for Submissions shared with chapter presidents

**March 1-12, 2021:** FSL Staff verify completion of Chapter Responsibility Checkpoints

**March 14, 2021:** Chapter Report Due

**March 23 - April 3, 2021:** Chapter Presentation – FSL staff will coordinate a time with chapter presidents.

**Mid April (Date and format TBD):** Announcement of awards and distribution of FSRA feedback and chapter designation

### A NOTE ABOUT COVID

We understand that the past year has been extremely difficult. COVID-19 undoubtedly limited your chapter's ability to engage and operate. We appreciate the obstacles presented by the circumstances of the last year and invite you to speak to that in your reporting. If COVID limited your chapter's ability to achieve in a particular area, describe how and address what steps you took to try to overcome the obstacles.

While chapters are not excused from responsibilities or expectations because of COVID, we do commit to offering grace and flexibility when possible in our review and scoring. Simultaneously, we will continue to hold this community to a high standard and strive for excellence and success in the face of adversity.

# Chapter Management & Communication

Record keeping, information sharing, and communication are vital to the success of a chapter and to viability of the fraternity and sorority community as a whole. Through effective chapter management and communication with Division for Student Affairs staff and other stakeholders, fraternities and sororities can be integral partners with the University and surrounding community.

## Chapter Responsibility Checkpoints

*FSL staff will automatically verify or evaluate a chapter's success in meeting the baseline chapter responsibilities listed below. No action or submission is required from the chapter for these items. If you're concerned that your chapter hasn't fulfilled a responsibility, check with FSL staff to confirm and verify if there is still opportunity to complete the task.*

Responsibility	Description
<b>Roster Submission</b>	Each chapter will submit an accurate, comprehensive member roster by the deadline communicated by FSL staff each semester.
<b>GW Engage Portal</b>	Chapter will ensure Engage portal is up to date with accurate roster, officers designations, and other information.
<b>DSA/FSL Meetings</b>	Chapter president will meet with their FSL staff advisor at least three times per semester.
<b>New Member Paperwork</b>	Chapter will submit intake/new member paperwork by the deadline communicated by FSL staff each semester.
<b>Chapter Advisor Meeting</b>	Chapter advisor will conduct a one-on-one meeting at least once per semester with the appropriate FSL staff member.
<b>New Member Days</b>	100% of new members must participate in a New Member Days training within the same academic year as their initiation.

## Chapter Report

Section	Description/Documentation
<b>Chapter Contact Information</b>	Chapter will complete this <a href="#">Chapter Contact Information Sheet</a> , to include names, titles, and contact information for: chapter leadership, advisors, advisory board members, house manager, and housing corporation (if applicable).
<b>Chapter Programming</b>	Chapters will complete this <a href="#">Chapter Programming List</a> , providing a comprehensive overview of programming over the last year.



## Academic Achievement

The University, each of our councils and chapters, and the national organizations with which we work all place a strong emphasis on chapter-wide academic success. It is an expectation, as well as a benefit of membership, that our chapters provide an environment in which individual members can thrive academically. Chapter efforts and work in this area should affirm that scholarship is the most important aspect of the collegiate experience and demonstrate that it has prioritized the strong academic performance of its members.

### Chapter Responsibility Checkpoints

*FSL staff will automatically verify or evaluate a chapter's success in meeting the baseline chapter responsibilities listed below. No action or submission is required from the chapter for these items. If you're concerned that your chapter hasn't fulfilled a responsibility, check with FSL staff to confirm and verify if there is still opportunity to complete the task.*

Responsibility	Description
<b>Grade Release Forms</b>	Grade release form on record with FSL for every member
<b>EXTRA POINTS</b>	<i>Extra points will be awarded for chapters that fulfill the following:</i>
<b>GPA 3.0 or higher</b>	Chapter overall (active and new members combined) semester grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 each semester.
<b>GPA above GW average</b>	Chapter overall (active and new members combined) semester GPA is above the GW-wide All-Women's/All-Men's average (undergraduate).
<b>GPA above all FSL average</b>	Chapter overall (active and new members combined) semester GPA above the All Fraternity and Sorority Life Average for that semester.

### Chapter Report

Section	Description/Documentation
<b>Statement on Academic Success and Chapter Scholarship</b>	<p>Provide a statement (300 word max) outlining how your organization supports members in achieving academic success. This may include discussion of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizational leadership positions designed to support members in their studies and how the position has found success</li> <li>Unique chapter initiatives or activities designed to boost scholarship or offer engagement with an academic department or learning resource</li> <li>Information on academic policies, expectations, and</li> </ul>

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	<p>accountability measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recognition and rewards related to academic success</li></ul>
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# Leadership

The GW FSL community is poised to be our campus' premier leadership program – offering invaluable experiences and connections to members and operating as a community that exudes and role models its values in a way that inspires the rest of the GW community. Participation in and facilitation of leadership opportunities and leadership development programming across campus and externally is essential to the continuous growth of our chapters and community.

## Chapter Responsibility Checkpoints

*FSL staff will automatically verify or evaluate a chapter's success in meeting the baseline chapter responsibilities listed below. No action or submission is required from the chapter for these items. If you're concerned that your chapter hasn't fulfilled a responsibility, check with FSL staff to confirm and verify if there is still opportunity to complete the task.*

Responsibility	Description
<b>FSL Leadership Retreat Attendance – Spring 2020</b>	Chapter president attended
<b>Excellence in Leadership Seminar student organization training requirement – Spring 2020</b>	Chapter completed 5 ELS sessions, per the requirement for all registered student organizations.
<b>Our Purpose Leadership Summit Attendance – Fall 2020</b>	Chapter met attendance requirements: <i>president, vice president, risk manager and/or standards, intake/recruitment/membership chair, diversity and inclusion chair or rep, programming/marketing/pr chair</i>

## Chapter Report

Section	Description/Documentation
<b>External Leadership Training Experiences</b>	Describe the chapter's involvement in external training and leadership development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Did the chapter send attendees to its regional/state/(inter)national leadership training programs or convention?</li> <li>Did the chapter send representation to a general fraternal leadership experience such as the Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute or other comparable program?</li> </ul>
<b>Chapter Representation in FSL-Related Leadership Roles</b>	Describe the chapter's level of representation in fraternity and sorority leadership positions outside of the chapter.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council executive board</li> <li>• Council position (non-executive)</li> <li>• State, regional, or national Greek leadership role</li> </ul>
<b>Member Involvement &amp; Leadership</b>	Highlight the ways in which your chapter's members are involved in extracurricular organizations, jobs, internships, research, etc.
<b>Facilitation of Leadership Development Among Members</b>	<p>Describe how your chapter has created internal learning opportunities promoted leadership development for members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did the chapter host a seminar or presentation on a topic(s) related to leadership?</li> <li>• Did the chapter invite a guest speaker to discuss a topic related to leadership?</li> </ul>



## Service

Service and philanthropy are foundational and universal values for fraternities and sororities. Individual members of organizations are encouraged to demonstrate selfless service and embrace the opportunity to give back to the community. Through service and philanthropic initiatives, members gain a deeper understanding of their individual value system and develop a sense of civic responsibility.

**Service projects** identify issues within the community and address them through direct, hands-on interventions, activities, or programs. Examples of service include tutoring children, serving food at a soup kitchen, and/or building a Habitat for Humanity house. **Philanthropy projects** gather resources needed to address an issue within the community. Examples of philanthropic projects include raising money for a specific community service need, conducting a clothing or canned food-drive, blood-drive, or coordinating the collection of school supplies for children.

### Chapter Responsibility Checkpoints

*FSL staff will automatically verify or evaluate a chapter's success in meeting the baseline chapter responsibilities listed below. No action or submission is required from the chapter for these items. If you're concerned that your chapter hasn't fulfilled a responsibility, check with FSL staff to confirm and verify if there is still opportunity to complete the task.*

Responsibility	Description
<b>Leadership Role Dedicated to Service/Philanthropy</b>	Chapter must elect or appoint a member in the organization responsible for organizing community service events as well as encouraging members in the organization to attend these events. (Verified via Chapter Contact Information Sheet and Engage roster/positions).

### Chapter Report

Section	Description/Documentation
<b>Chapter Service/Philanthropy Projects</b>	Describe your chapter's service and philanthropy projects and provide documentation of attendance/participation. This section should cover projects coordinated by the chapter; not participating in another chapter's event.
<b>Chapter Support of FSL Community</b>	Describe how your chapter has supported the service and philanthropy projects of other chapters. Include documentation as possible.
<b>Member Service Hours</b>	Provide your chapter's GW Serves report or other data indicating the number of service hours per member.

# Community

The fraternity and sorority community represents approximately 20% of the George Washington University undergraduate population. Belonging to this community at GW means embracing and living similar values, lifting each other up to achieve common goals, and striving together for continuous improvement. It is vital for the success of the community that we continue to build a cohesive relationship and remain partners in all endeavors. It is equally important that as a Greek community, we support the broader GW community through meaningful engagement and participation.

## Chapter Responsibility Checkpoints

*FSL staff will automatically verify or evaluate a chapter's success in meeting the baseline chapter responsibilities listed below. No action or submission is required from the chapter for these items. If you're concerned that your chapter hasn't fulfilled a responsibility, check with FSL staff to confirm and verify if there is still opportunity to complete the task.*

Responsibility	Description
<b>Grand Chapter Attendance – Spring 2020</b>	At least 50% of chapter in attendance

**COVID NOTE:** THIS EVENT DID NOT TAKE PLACE IN SPRING 2020 DUE TO COVID SO WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN EVALUATION FOR THE FRSA 2020. IT WILL REMAIN AN EXPECTATION FOR FRSA 2021 (covering spring 2021 and fall 2021).

## Chapter Report

Section	Description/Documentation
<b>Collaboration</b>	Describe how your chapter has collaborated in the past year. The collaboration or co-sponsored program may be educational, service/philanthropic, or social (alcohol-free). This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborations with other registered student organizations (non-FSL) or academic/administrative departments to plan and implement a program</li> <li>• Collaboration with a recognized fraternity or sorority outside of your respective council to plan and implement a program</li> <li>• Collaboration with a recognized fraternity or sorority within your council to plan and implement a program</li> </ul>
<b>Community Engagement</b>	Describe how your chapter has participated in University-sponsored events such as athletics events, Days of Service, the GW Diversity Summit, Midnight Breakfast, Heritage Celebrations, and other events. Include documentation or photos verifying your chapter's participation as possible.

## Alumni/Alumnae Relations

Many fraternities and sororities attribute the rich history of their chapters to their alumni/alumnae. Alumni/alumnae serve critical roles such as advisors, trustees, members of house corporations, and financial contributors. In order to maintain a positive relationship with alumni/alumnae and further the principles of sisterhood/brotherhood, chapters must prioritize meaningful engagement.

### Chapter Responsibility Checkpoints

*FSL staff will automatically verify or evaluate a chapter's success in meeting the baseline chapter responsibilities listed below. No action or submission is required from the chapter for these items. If you're concerned that your chapter hasn't fulfilled a responsibility, check with FSL staff to confirm and verify if there is still opportunity to complete the task.*

Responsibility	Description
<b>Leadership Role Dedicated to Alumnae Relations</b>	Chapter must elect or appoint a member of the organization to keep in contact with alumni/alumnae as well as plan events for alumnae as needed (Verified via Chapter Contact Information Sheet and Engage roster/positions).

### Chapter Report

Section	Description/Documentation
<b>Alumni Programming</b>	Describe how your chapter has worked to engage alumnae through programming and events over the past year.
<b>Alumni Communication</b>	Describe how your chapter communicates with alumni/alumnae, including the medium(s) and frequency. Electronic newsletters or other online methods of communications are encouraged – provide documentation/copies when possible.

## Risk Management

The physical and emotional well-being of individual members as well as the financial security and reputation of the individual chapter are of great importance to the success of our individual chapters and the community at large. All chapters shall adhere to all local, state, and federal laws; this includes University regulations and policies pertaining to the Student Code of Conduct and policies of the respective governing council. Violations will be subject to the Student Code of Conduct process among other possible actions from the University.

### Chapter Responsibility Checkpoints

*FSL staff will automatically verify or evaluate a chapter's success in meeting the baseline chapter responsibilities listed below. No action or submission is required from the chapter for these items. If you're concerned that your chapter hasn't fulfilled a responsibility, check with FSL staff to confirm and verify if there is still opportunity to complete the task.*

Responsibility	Description
<b>Adherence to GW Events with Alcohol Policy</b>	Events with alcohol must be approved in advance via the online event with alcohol registration form. Events must have the appropriate security, amount of sober monitors, and adequate food for the number of attendees. Policy outlined <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Adherence to other University policies</b>	FSL staff will comment on overall chapter adherence to policy over the review period. This includes Code of Student Conduct policies; recruitment, intake, and council policies; and student organization policies (including COVID policies).

### Chapter Report

Section	Description/Documentation
<b>Internal Accountability</b>	Describe your chapter's Internal Judicial System and/or measures that allow the organization to address inappropriate behavior, hold members accountable, and create high standards of ethical conduct (we encourage that systems include social media). If you have specific positions appointed to manage this area, describe those roles here.
<b>Alcohol-Free Social Engagement</b>	Describe your chapter's engagement in alcohol-free social events each semester. The events may be a closed sisterhood/brotherhood function or be co-sponsored with another registered student organization. Include specific

	examples of alcohol-free programming.
<b>Training &amp; Education</b>	<p>Describe the training and education your members receive on topics related to bystander intervention, alcohol, drugs, hazing, sexual assault prevention, and more. Provide specific examples and include documentation of attendance when possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does your chapter's new member class participate in a training program during semester of their initiation?</li><li>• Does your chapter host at a seminar, guest speaker, and/or presentation concerning bystander intervention, alcohol, drugs, hazing, sexual assault prevention and/or similar topic?</li></ul>

# Chapter Designations

*All Chapter Designations will be noted on the FSL website and other materials.*

## **Chapter of Excellence**

Chapters with this designation have met all Chapter Responsibility Checkpoints and exceeded all or most of the additional expectations and standards outlined in the Recognition of Greek Excellence program, earning at least 90% of the possible allotted points. Chapters of Excellence serve as role model chapters within GW's Fraternity and Sorority Life community and beyond. Through a high quality written report and presentation, Chapters of Excellence demonstrated consistently going above and beyond the outlined standards and illustrated a thriving chapter that embraces and represents the values of our community. Chapters of Excellence will be highlighted as such in FSL materials and may receive other benefits as available (priority tabling space, invitations to special events, social media features, etc.)

## **Noteworthy Chapter**

Chapters with this designation have met all Chapter Responsibility Checkpoints and addressed all of the additional expectations and standards outlined in the Recognition of Greek Excellence program, earning at least 80% of the possible allotted points. Through a quality written report and presentation, Noteworthy Chapters have demonstrated that they are consistently meeting all or most of the outlined standards and illustrated a successful chapter that embraces and represents the values of our community.

## **Accredited Chapter**

Chapters with this designation have met all or most of the Chapter Responsibility Checkpoints and addressed all or most of the additional expectations and standards outlined in the Recognition of Greek Excellence program, earning at least 70% of the possible allotted points. Through their written report and presentation, Accredited Chapters have demonstrated that they are successful in some areas and working toward improvement in others, while still embracing and representing the values of our community.

## **Rebuilding Chapter**

Chapters with this designation have failed to meet most or all of the Chapter Responsibility Checkpoints and/or failed to provide information related to some or all of the additional expectations and standards outlined in the Recognition of Greek Excellence program, earning less than 70% of the possible allotted points. Rebuilding Chapters will be required to meet with FSL staff and will create and present a corrective plan of action, to include:



- SWOT analysis and goals, created in partnership with FSL advisor and local chapter advisor
- Monthly meeting with FSL advisor

FSL Staff and the Recognition Review Committee may determine additional action for the chapter.

Chapters that fail to participate in any aspect of the Recognition of Greek Excellence program will be automatically considered a Rebuilding Chapter and may also lose other organizational privileges such as space reservations, event-hosting privileges, and more.

Any chapter that receives a designation of Rebuilding for two consecutive years will be automatically considered non-accredited and unrecognized.

### **Non-Accredited and Unrecognized**

If an organization receives a designation of Rebuilding for two consecutive years or fails to submit for Recognition of Greek Excellence, the chapter will lose recognition from the Office of Student Life and will be placed on a one-year suspension. During this suspension, chapters will not:

- Operate as an organization
- Participate in recruitment or intake in any form
- Participate in FSL or Council-sponsored events
- Host or participate in social events off- or on-campus
- Reside in on-campus FSL/chapter housing

*Any operation of chapters during a suspension is considered underground activity, is against University policy and is not sanctioned by the Office of Student Life.*

# Chapter Report and Presentation Guidelines

## CHAPTER REPORT GUIDELINES:

- Include specific detail, including data points whenever possible (attendance records, etc)
- Limit each “statement” to 300 words (i.e. the Leadership section, with 4 statements should be no more than 1200 words)
- You can find more details, including statement prompts within each section’s detail page in this packet
- Please label each report section and section element as outlined below
- Completed reports should be saved as one .pdf file and emailed to [fsl@gwu.edu](mailto:fsl@gwu.edu) by March 14.

WRITTEN REPORT SECTION	SECTION ELEMENTS
Chapter Management & Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Contact Information Sheet ( <a href="#">Use This Template</a> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Programming List ( <a href="#">Use This Template</a> )
Academic Achievement	<input type="checkbox"/> STATEMENT: Academic Success and Chapter Scholarship
Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> STATEMENT: External Leadership Training Experiences <input type="checkbox"/> STATEMENT: Chapter Representation in FSL Leadership Roles <input type="checkbox"/> STATEMENT: Member Involvement and Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> STATEMENT: Facilitation of Leadership Development
Service	<input type="checkbox"/> STATEMENT: Chapter Service/Philanthropy Projects <input type="checkbox"/> STATEMENT: Support of FSL Community <input type="checkbox"/> Member service hours (GW Serves report)
Community	<input type="checkbox"/> STATEMENT: Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> STATEMENT: Community Engagement
Alumni/Alumnae Relations	<input type="checkbox"/> STATEMENT: Alumni Programming <input type="checkbox"/> STATEMENT: Alumni Communication
Risk Management	<input type="checkbox"/> STATEMENT: Internal Accountability <input type="checkbox"/> STATEMENT: Alcohol-Free Social Engagement <input type="checkbox"/> STATEMENT: Training and Education

## PRESENTATION GUIDELINES:

The chapter presentation serves as an opportunity to bring life to your chapter’s report. Using your written report as a basic outline, the presentation should highlight your chapter’s greatest successes and accomplishments from the past year, as well as illustrate your organizational values and bond. We strongly encourage the use of photos, videos, testimonials, narratives, and other creative story-telling elements. For instance, if your written report outlines a chapter initiative designed to boost academic success, your presentation might highlight the success of the initiative through a member’s testimonial and photos of the event. The presentation should be approximately 20 minutes in length. Presentations will be delivered at a time scheduled between March 23 and April 3. FSL staff will coordinate a time with each chapter president.

**QUESTIONS:** Email us at [fsl@gwu.edu](mailto:fsl@gwu.edu) or reach out to any FSL staff member.