

# SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF FRATERNITY AND SORORITY AFFAIRS

## FRATERNITY/SORORITY CHAPTER ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

### *Purpose*

Syracuse University recognizes that fraternities and sororities play an integral part of the student experience. The purpose of the FASA Accreditation Program is to assess and evaluate the Syracuse fraternal experience. This program allows fraternities and sororities to articulate their fraternal experience based on FASA's values ACADEMIC and PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE, COMMUNITY, FRIENDSHIP, GROWTH, INCLUSION, SELF- REFLECTION, SERVICE, and UNITY. This is an assessment process that unifies the goals and values of all fraternities and sororities as identified in *A Call for Values Congruence (2005)*. These core values represent the goals of chapters and individual members but also Syracuse University, and its commitment to providing a meaningful experience to its students. Chapters are expected to provide enrichment to the collegiate experience and SU community.

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs wants to foster the positive growth and success of the fraternity/sorority community and will assist chapters to uphold the values set forth by their member organizations while guiding them to think critically about their impact at Syracuse University and the local Syracuse community. Additionally, chapters also need to maintain and follow all administrative expectations so we can gather and record the necessary data to better serve our fraternity/sorority community. FASA staff will provide assistance and resources for all chapters to help them achieve their goals and maintain necessary expectations.

### *Outcomes*

As a result of participating in the FASA Accreditation Program, chapters will:

- Identify how their chapter values and actions align with expectations of Syracuse University;
- Develop and maintain a scholarship program for their that will enhance their academic success;
- Instill a commitment to life-long learning outside the classroom for its members to increase their awareness in current events and other areas;
- Foster brotherhood/sisterhood/siblinghood between all fraternities and sororities;
- Educate and promote healthy lifestyles;
- Recognize the importance of serving the community and gain an understanding of social issues facing their communities;
- Encourage values-based leadership development and promote leadership opportunities for their members.

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### **ASSESSMENT AREAS**

#### **Academics**

The chapter develops and maintains a scholarship program for its members that promotes success, growth, and academic success. The chapter also instills a commitment to learning outside the classroom to increase awareness in current affairs in other areas. Scholarship will reinforce the scholastic principles of fraternities and sororities and connect the chapter's values and purpose to the academic mission of Syracuse University.

The chapter must maintain academic baseline requirements for the positions of:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Recruitment
- New Member Educator
- Standards/Judicial

For the 2021 -2022 academic year, all presidents and officers are required to achieve a 2.5 GPA.

All officers are expected to remain in conduct standing with the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. The President must remain a fulltime student for the duration of their term. Students who will not be fulltime students based on extenuating circumstances must appeal to the Assistant Dean of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs.

The chapter is responsible for ensuring that they have a developed and implemented academic scholarship program in place.

#### **Community**

The chapter fosters brotherhood/sisterhood/siblinghood between all fraternities and sororities by creating safe and healthy environments. The chapter will also educate and promote healthy lifestyles, diverse perspectives, and embrace the free exchange of ideas and beliefs. The chapter will promote community through collaboration, respect, and friendship within the fraternity/sorority community.

The chapter collaborates with other councils and chapters.

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### **Member Development**

The chapter encourages values-based leadership development and promotes leadership opportunities for its members. Syracuse University believes that the cultivation of leadership, social, and civil skills is an important aspect of the fraternity/sorority experience. Chapters are encouraged to strive for their members' holistic growth from initiation to graduation.

The chapter President attends FASA Chapter Executive Leadership Retreats. The chapter provides developmental opportunities for all membership - both new and active.

### **Personal Responsibility**

The chapter provides and fosters a safe and healthy environment in which members exhibit responsible behavior while maintaining healthy surroundings. Responsibility provides support to the Syracuse University fraternity/sorority community to empower chapters to assess potential risks within the chapter, to educate members, and to establish responsibility and accountability for the success of the campus community. Chapters are encouraged to educate their membership about preventing risky behavior, safe practices, and established processes.

### **Service**

The chapter will recognize the importance of serving the community and gain an understanding of social issues facing their communities. Syracuse University is committed to fostering a community of service for the common good. In addition to hands-on community service, chapters are encouraged to participate in philanthropic activities.

### ***Assessment and Evaluation***

The first phase of the evaluation process is the submission of narrative responses to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. Each chapter is asked to submit responses to the provided questions in each area totaling no more than two pages per area. Chapters may frame these responses in any way they choose. Narrative responses will be evaluated by the Review Committee which consists of FASA staff, chapter advisors, and Syracuse University staff members.

The second phase of the evaluation process are the chapter interviews. Chapter leaders will have the opportunity to articulate their accomplishments in each area and how they are supporting the mission of their fraternity/sorority and of Syracuse University. Interviews will be conducted in each values area with faculty, staff, and

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other members of the university community committed to the success of fraternities and sororities. Interviewers will be members of the Review Committee. Chapters may have up to three members at each interview. Chapters may also provide supporting documents during interviews.

### *Administrative Expectations*

- Submit updated roster by FASA specified deadlines;
- Submit Hazing Compliance form and New Member processes by FASA specified deadlines;
- Register events;
- Submit community service hours and philanthropy dollar amounts by FASA specified deadlines;
- Register and update chapter Cuse Activities portal by specified deadline;
- Have an alumni and/or faculty/staff advisor.

### *Awards*

Chapters that demonstrate Excellence in multiple areas will be eligible for recognition.

*Honorable Mention* - Chapters who achieve Excellence in three (3) areas.

*Excellence Award* - Chapters who achieve Excellence in four (4) areas.

*Exemplary Award* - Chapters who achieve Excellence in five (5) areas.

The awards submission and interview process will take place during the Fall semester and evaluate chapter progress within the previous academic year (Fall 2020 - Spring 2021).

### *Narrative Response Submission*

- Chapter narrative responses will be due to FASA Friday, November 19, 2021.
- Responses must be submitted using the FASA provided template.
- Narrative responses may not exceed two pages per area of evaluation.

### *Chapter Interviews*

- Chapters will be provided an interviewer for each value area. Interviewers are staff and faculty members with a commitment the success of the fraternity/sorority community.

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- The chapter is responsible for contacting the interviewer as soon as possible to set up a meeting for the interview.
- Chapters may provide any supporting documentation that will help them demonstrate their success in a particular area.

### *Evaluation*

- Interviewers will complete an Accreditation Evaluation Form to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs.
- Chapters will be recognized at the annual awards ceremonies.

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**NARRATIVE QUESTIONS**

***ACADEMICS***

- What were your chapter's academic accomplishments?
- What are your chapter's academic goals?
- What is the chapter doing to achieve the chapter's academic goals?
- How does the chapter hold members accountable who do need meet academic expectations?
- How does the chapter recognize academic accomplishments within the chapter?

***COMMUNITY***

- How has your chapter collaborated with other chapters and councils?
- How does your chapter educate its new members on all of the fraternity/sorority councils at Syracuse University?
- How does your chapter promote diversity and inclusion?

***MEMBER DEVELOPMENT***

- Did your chapter President attend the FASA Chapter Executive Leadership Retreat?
- What leadership opportunities does your chapter provide for new members?
- What leadership experiences or programs does your chapter attend?

***PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY***

- How does your chapter hold members accountable?
- What risk reduction education is provided to new members in your chapter?
- How does your chapter promote a safe and healthy environment?

***SERVICE***

- How does your chapter serve the Syracuse University community?
- How does your chapter positively contribute to the great Syracuse community?
- What hands-on service events did your chapter host or participate in?
- What philanthropic events did your chapter host or participate in?