



S.O.F.E.

Standards of Fraternal Excellence

2021-22

 SORORITY & FRATERNITY LIFE

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2021-22 Standards of Fraternal Excellence

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Referenced External Links

Original Relationship Statement (2016)
Standards of Fraternal Excellence Website
SOFE Reporting Form

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2021-22 Standards of Fraternal Excellence

The **Standards of Fraternal Excellence** (SOFE) breaks down the expectations for each chapter within the Sorority and Fraternity Life community at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Below details the threshold of minimum expectations for all chapters while setting the path toward chapter excellence. Chapters have the ability to earn 100 points throughout their election year. In 2016, In conjunction with students, staff, faculty, and fraternal umbrella associations, the SOFE was created, and has since been updated to reflect the demands of sororities and fraternities on modern college campuses.

The University of Tennessee recognizes that sororities and fraternities are an integral part of the campus community. These organizations have a positive impact for members, nonmembers, alumni, and the local and national community. To achieve mutual success for the institution and the sorority and fraternity organizations, there must be trust and shared responsibility. This document outlines the commitments of the University, the Division of Student Life, the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life (OSFL), sorority and fraternity organizations, national/international organizations, sorority and fraternity volunteers, and student members.

OSFL will provide training, aid, and resources for all fraternal organizations to meet the SOFE requirements. Sororities and Fraternities at the University of Tennessee are expected to reach the minimum expectations set forth in this document. Organizations not achieving minimum expectations will work in conjunction with OSFL to create plans for improvement and future success. Sororities and Fraternities recognized OSFL will be required to achieve these standards. Sororities and Fraternities will experience requirements above and beyond those of other registered student organizations. All sorority and fraternity organizations will be given ample support in order to maintain compliance with these standards. OSFL will coordinate check-ins to assist the organization president and advisors in determining their progress to becoming a chapter of excellence.

Additionally, OSFL will conduct an annual review of the standards each fall term. The Standards of Fraternal Excellence are subject to change as our organizations continually improve. All constituents will be made aware of any changes prior to the start of the next academic year. Organizations will need to turn in proper documentation for review on their achievement of these standards each year.

SOFE will have the following categories: education, administration, academics, civic engagement, and excellence. These categories will determine the chapter standings for the following year. Chapters will be graded based on their election cycle (calendar or academic year).

Chapter Standings	
Chapter of the Year	The organization(s) with the highest point totals across the community
Three-Star Chapter	Organizations with 90-100 points
Two-Star Chapter	Organizations with 80-89 points
One-Star Chapter	Organizations with 70-79 points
Unacceptable	Organizations with >70 points
Provisional	Newly established organizations within their expansion year

Chapters that fall under 70 points (Unacceptable standing) will work with OSFL to develop a performance improvement plan. All organizations that fall within this category will attend a meeting with OSFL, chapter leadership, chapter advisor(s), and inter/national headquarters representative(s). During this meeting, representatives will discuss the previous years' SOFE performance, the chapter's relevancy to the community, an improvement plan, goals for the next year's SOFE cycle, and an agreed upon coaching sessions for the upcoming year. **For Chapters that fall under 70 points three consecutive years**, a review committee, composed of the Director of OSFL, a representative from the Dean of Students Office, respective council president, representative from Student Conduct and Community Standards, alumni/a representative, and an additional staff member from the Division of Student Life, will review the organizations status on campus as a registered student organization.

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Standards

Education (total points possible: 32)

- **Health & Safety Summit (4 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 4 points for having the minimum attendance at both the Fall and Spring Health & Safety Summits
 - 2 points for having minimum attendance at the Spring or Fall Health & Safety Summit
 - If mandatory attendance is not met for Spring or Fall, a chapter can earn 1 point for having partial attendance
 - 0 points are given if a chapter does not have representation at a Summit
 - Due Date: Health & Safety Summit(s)
 - How to Submit: Attendance
- **Greek Leadership Summit (4 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 4 points for having minimum attendance at the Greek Leadership Summit
 - If mandatory attendance is not met for the Summit, a chapter can earn 1, 2, or 3 points for having partial attendance
 - 0 points are given if a chapter does not have representation at the Summit
 - Due Date: Greek Leadership Summit(s)
 - How to Submit: Attendance
- **Bystander Intervention Workshop (4 Points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 4 points for having minimum attendance at the Bystander Intervention Workshop
 - If mandatory attendance is not met for the Workshop, a chapter can earn 1, 2, or 3 points for having partial attendance
 - 0 points are given if a chapter does not have representation at the Summit
 - Due Date: Bystander Intervention Workshop
 - How to Submit: Attendance
- **Chapter Officer Workshops (3 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 3 points for having minimum attendance at Chapter Officer Workshops
 - If mandatory attendance is not met for the workshops, a chapter can earn 1 or 2 points for having partial attendance
 - 0 points are given if a chapter does not have representation at Chapter Officer Workshops
 - Due Date: Chapter Officer Workshops(s)
 - How to Submit: Attendance
- **Cross Council Exchange (3 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 3 points for having minimum attendance at Cross Council Exchange (CCE)
 - If mandatory attendance is not met for the CCE, a chapter can earn 1 or 2 points for having partial attendance
 - 0 points are given if a chapter does not have representation at CCE
 - Due Date: Cross Council Exchange
 - How to Submit: Attendance
- **New Member Health & Safety Orientation (4 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - Points are awarded based on the percent of new members that complete the orientation:
 - 4 points: 80 – 100%
 - 3 points: 70 – 79.9%
 - 2 points: 60 – 69.9%

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- 1 point: 50 – 59.9%
 - 0 points: 0 – 49.9%
 - Note: IFC and Panhellenic new members must complete the New Member Orientation Health & Safety Module through Canvas and MGC and NPHC new members will complete a meeting with the council advisor
- Due Date: September 30 & March 15
- How to Submit:
 - MGC & NPHC – meetings with council advisor
 - IFC & Panhellenic – completion of [Canvas module](#)
- **Chapter Programming:**
 - **Headquarters Program (1 point)**
 - 1 point will be given to a chapter participating in any program sponsored by their inter/national Headquarters
 - 0 points are given if a chapter does not attend a Headquarters Program
 - **Risk Management Program (1 point)**
 - 1 point will be given to a chapter that has more than 50% of its members complete a Risk Management Program
 - 0 points are given if a chapter does not complete a Risk Management Program
 - **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program (1 point)**
 - 1 point will be given to a chapter that has more than 50% of its members complete a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Program
 - 0 points are given if a chapter does not complete a DEI Program
 - **Program with a chapter from another council (1 point)**
 - 1 point will be given to a chapter participating in any program/event hosted by that chapter and another chapter from one of the other three councils within the community (i.e. Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, or Panhellenic Council)
 - 0 points are given if a chapter does not complete a program with a chapter from another council
 - **Program with another Registered Student Organization (RSO), department, or office (1 point)**
 - 1 point will be given to a chapter participating in any program/event hosted by that chapter and another Registered Student Organization (RSO) or department/office on campus
 - 0 points are given if a chapter does not complete a program with another RSO, department, or office
 - How to earn points:
 - Points are awarded based on the completion and proof of event completion
 - Chapters will submit proof of the event and attendance at the event
 - Note: organizations are allowed and encouraged to complete multiple programs with one event. For example, if organizations co-sponsor a risk management program with another organization from another council and the Center for Health Education and Wellness (CHEW), this would satisfy the 'Risk Management Program,' 'Program with another department,' and 'Program with a chapter from another council' events
 - Note: all events must be alcohol-free events
 - Due Date: April 15 or November 15 (end of year depending on chapter's election cycle)
 - How to Submit: Complete [SOFE Reporting Form](#)

Administration (total points possible: 28)

- **Roster Submission (2 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 2 points for on-time submission of Fall and Spring rosters

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- 1 point for late submissions (within 15 days)
 - 0 points for late submissions (after 15 days), or no roster submitted
 - Due Date: per semester
 - How to Submit: email to council advisor
- **New Member Education Plans (2 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 2 points for on-time submission of Fall and/or Spring New Member Education planning documents
 - 1 point for late submissions (within 15 days)
 - 0 points for late submissions (after 15 days), or missing New Member Education planning documents
 - Due Date: reference OSFL's New Member Education Policy
 - How to Submit: email to council advisor
- **Officer Updates (2 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 2 points for on-time submission of up-to-date officers after elections have been completed
 - 1 point for late submissions (within 15 days)
 - 0 points for late submissions (after 15 days), or no contact information provided for officers
 - Due Date: April 15 or November 15 (end of year depending on chapter's election cycle)
 - How to Submit: [Officer Update Form](#)
- **Advisor Contact Update (2 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 2 points for on-time submission of annual advisor contact information
 - 1 point for late submissions (within 15 days)
 - 0 points for late submissions (after 15 days), or no update provided for advisors
 - Due Date: August 2
 - How to Submit: [Advisor Update Form](#)
- **Council Meeting Attendance (2 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 2 points for 100% representation at all council meetings
 - 1 point for 1-3 absences from council meetings
 - 0 points for 4+ absences from council meetings
 - Due Date: April 15 or November 15 (end of year depending on chapter's election cycle)
 - How to Submit: Council executive board will confirm attendance
- **Presidents Cabinet Meeting Attendance (2 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 2 points for 100% representation at all Presidents Cabinet Meetings
 - 1 point for 1-3 absences from Presidents Cabinet Meetings
 - 0 points for 4+ absences from Presidents Cabinet Meetings
 - Due Date: April 15 or November 15 (end of year depending on chapter's election cycle)
 - How to Submit: OSFL will maintain attendance records
- **VOLink Registration (1 point)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 1 point for on-time completion of VOLink Registration
 - 0 points for late or no completion of VOLink Registration
 - Due Date: December 15 and April 1
 - How to Submit: complete re-registration through VOlink
- **OSFL Coaching Meetings (2 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 2 points for completion of 4 coaching meetings per year

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- 1 point for completion of 2-3 coaching meetings per year
 - 0 points for completion of 0-1 coaching meeting per year
 - Due Date: April 15 or November 15 (end of year depending on chapter's election cycle)
 - How to Submit: OSFL Coach will track meetings
- **Financial Good Standing:**
 - How to earn points:
 - **Headquarters (1 point), University (1 point), Council (1 point)**
 - 1 point in each category for financial good standing with each entity
 - 0 points for financial bad standing with any of the 3 entities
 - Note: Financial Good Standing is defined as...
 - Due Date: April 15 or November 15 (end of year depending on chapter's election cycle)
 - How to Submit: OSFL will collect financial status from each entity
- **Conduct & Judicial Standings (15 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - Each chapter will start the year with 15 points. For each violation that a chapter collects over the year, points will be deducted.
 - -2 points for Council or Code violations
 - -5 points for alcohol violations
 - -10 points for hazing violations
 - Due Date: April 15 or November 15 (end of year depending on chapter's election cycle)
 - How to Submit: OSFL, in partnership with the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards and respective councils, will track conduct and judicial standings. Chapters will be notified of point deductions.

Academics *(total points possible: 6)*

- **Chapter GPA at or above 2.50 (2 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 2 points for fall and spring chapter average GPAs at or above 2.50
 - 1 point for fall or spring chapter average GPA at or above 2.50
 - 0 points for neither fall or spring chapter average GPA at or above 2.50
 - Due Date: End of each semester
 - How to Submit: OSFL will track GPA data for each chapter
- **New Member GPA at or above 2.50 (2 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 2 points for fall and spring new member average GPAs at or above 2.50
 - 1 point for fall or spring new member average GPA at or above 2.50
 - 0 points for neither fall or spring new member average GPA at or above 2.50
 - Note: if a chapter only has one new member class per year, the chapter will earn 2 or 0 points based on that new member class's GPA
 - Due Date: End of each semester (if applicable)
 - How to Submit: OSFL will track GPA data for each chapter
- **Chapter Academic/Scholarship Program (2 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - Provide a written document that outlines a comprehensive scholarship program. Program should describe individual member academic requirements, incentives, programs, and academic goals. Inter/national scholarship programs used by organizations may serve as this documentation.
 - 2 points for on-time submission with all content provided
 - 1 point for late submission (within 15 days) and/or missing content
 - 0 points for not submitting the program

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- Due Date: April 15 or November 15 (end of year depending on chapter's election cycle)
- How to Submit: Complete [SOFE Reporting Form](#)

Civic Engagement (total points possible: 4)

- **Average of 4 hours per member (2 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 2 points for averaging 4 hours of service per member
 - 0 points for averaging less than 4 hours per member
 - Due Date: April 15 or November 15 (end of year depending on chapter's election cycle)
 - How to Submit: hours need to be tracked through the Jones Center for Leadership and Service. An [hour tracker is hosted on their website](#).
- **Philanthropy Event (2 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 2 points for hosting a philanthropic event
 - 0 points for not hosting a philanthropic event
 - Note: Philanthropic events require a donation to be made to a nonprofit/charitable organization. Proof of donation is required to receive points.
 - Due Date: April 15 or November 15 (end of year depending on chapter's election cycle)
 - How to Submit: Complete [SOFE Reporting Form](#)

Excellence (total bonus points possible: 30)

- **Campus Involvement (5 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 5 points for 90-100% of the chapter involved in non-chapter activities
 - 4 points for 80-89.9% of the chapter involved in non-chapter activities
 - 3 points for 70-79.9% of the chapter involved in non-chapter activities
 - 2 points for 60-69.9% of the chapter involved in non-chapter activities
 - 1 point for 50-59.9% of the chapter involved in non-chapter activities
 - 0 points for >50% of the chapter involved in non-chapter activities
 - Note: Non-chapter activities are defined as activities affiliated at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and/or organizations that are registered student organizations (RSOs) or athletic programs.
 - Due Date: April 15 or November 15 (end of year depending on chapter's election cycle)
 - How to Submit: Complete [SOFE Reporting Form](#)
- **Immersive Leadership & Service (3 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 3 points for at least 10% of the chapter participating in immersive service opportunities
 - 2 points for 7-9.9% of the chapter participating in immersive service opportunities
 - 1 point for 5-6.9% of the chapter participating in immersive service opportunities
 - 0 points for 0-4.9% of the chapter participating in immersive service opportunities
 - Note: The Jones Center for Leadership and Service offers service opportunities that are direct, immersive, and experiential such as MLK Day of Service, VOLserve, and VOLbreaks. Within OSFL, opportunities for members to experience immersive leadership and service would be participating in the Greek Leadership Class, Meeting in the Middle, or being a Gamma Chi or Recruitment Captain. Additional leadership and service would be approved on a case-by-case basis.
 - Due Date: April 15 or November 15 (end of year depending on chapter's election cycle)
 - How to Submit: Combination of OSFL Tracking and completing [SOFE Reporting Form](#)
- **Additional Service Hours Over 4 hours/member (3 points)**
 - How to earn points:

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- 3 points for averaging 10+ hours of service per member
 - 2 points for averaging 6.51-9.99 hours of service per member
 - 1 point for averaging 4.01-6.50 hours of service per member
 - 0 points for averaging 0-4.00 hours of service per member
 - Due Date: April 15 or November 15 (end of year depending on chapter's election cycle)
 - How to Submit: How to Submit: hours need to be tracked through the Jones Center for Leadership and Service. An [hour tracker is hosted on their website](#).
- **Fall Chapter GPA at or above the AMA/AWA (2 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 2 points for fall chapter average GPA at or above the All-Men's Average (AMA) or All-Women's Average (AWA)
 - 0 points for fall chapter average GPA below the All-Men's Average (AMA) or All-Women's Average (AWA)
 - Due Date: End of each semester
 - How to Submit: OSFL will track GPA data for each chapter
- **Spring Chapter GPA at or above the AMA/AWA (2 points)**
 - How to earn points:
 - 2 points for spring chapter average GPA at or above the All-Men's Average (AMA) or All-Women's Average (AWA)
 - 0 points for spring chapter average GPA below the All-Men's Average (AMA) or All-Women's Average (AWA)
 - Due Date: End of each semester
 - How to Submit: OSFL will track GPA data for each chapter
- **Chapter Attendance & Additional Programming**
 - **Academic, Leadership, and/or Career (4 Points)**
 - 4 points for 80-100% of the chapter attending an Academic, Leadership, Career, or Health & Safety themed program
 - 3 points for 70-79.9% of the chapter attending the program
 - 2 points for 60-69.9% of the chapter attending the program
 - 1 point for 50-59.9% of the chapter attending the program
 - 0 points for >50% of the chapter attending the program
 - **University Sponsored DEI Program (4 points)**
 - 4 points for 80-100% of the chapter attending a University sponsored Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program
 - 3 points for 70-79.9% of the chapter attending the program
 - 2 points for 60-69.9% of the chapter attending the program
 - 1 point for 50-59.9% of the chapter attending the program
 - 0 points for >50% of the chapter attending the program
 - **Health and Safety (4 points)**
 - 4 points for 80-100% of the chapter attending a Sexual Misconduct and/or Title IX program
 - 3 points for 70-79.9% of the chapter attending the program
 - 2 points for 60-69.9% of the chapter attending the program
 - 1 point for 50-59.9% of the chapter attending the program
 - 0 points for >50% of the chapter attending the program
 - Note: Health and safety programming would be programming surrounding the five main priorities of health and safety through OSFL: alcohol, drugs, hazing, mental health, and sexual misconduct.
 - Due Date: April 15 or November 15 (end of year depending on chapter's election cycle)
 - How to Submit: Complete [SOFE Reporting Form](#)
- **End of Year Meeting (3 points)**

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- How to earn points:
 - The end of year meeting will happen at the end of the election cycle for your chapter. The meeting will be held with the chapter's **council advisor, incoming president, outgoing president, and a chapter advisor**
 - 3 points for all 3 chapter representatives present
 - 2 points for 2/3 chapter representatives present
 - 1 point for 1/3 chapter representatives present
 - 0 points for no meeting
- Due Date: Before the end of the semester that elections take place.
- How to Submit: Schedule a meeting with your chapter's advisor through email or their [scheduling link](#)