Academic success is a standard of the University and is a necessary element of a fraternity or sorority’s contribution to and support of the University mission. The fraternity and sorority experience is designed to provide a community which supports the development and promotion of high academic achievement. Chapters are charged to:

- Coordinate academic support services for its members using University support services and resources.
- Develop programs that encourage and recognize academic achievement and stimulate intellectual growth for their members.

**Academic Policy:**
Chapters must meet or exceed a required 2.5 semester grade point average. A fraternity and sorority scholarship performance report will be calculated at the end of the fall and spring semesters. The report will be pulled when grades are made available no earlier than the last day of finals and prior to the start of the next semester with membership taken from the rosters. Chapters should strive to be above the all men’s/women’s semester GPA. The ODU Fraternity and Sorority Life Academic Policy is an addition to the guidelines established by each inter/national organization, which specifies a minimum grade point average requirement for joining, initiation, holding office, and good standing of a chapter member.

**Summary of Academic Statuses**
- Academic Excellence (2.8-4.0 Semester GPA)
- Academic Progress (2.5-2.79 Semester GPA)
- Academic Transition (first semester for chapters who were removed from Academic Support/Probation/Suspension)
- Academic Support (first semester below 2.5)
- Academic Probation (second consecutive semester below 2.5)
- Academic Suspension (third consecutive semester below 2.5)
- Loss of Recognition (fourth consecutive semester below 2.5)

*Failure to comply with any of the requirements automatically and immediately places the chapter on next lower Academic Status*

**New Member Grades**
- Chapters with the highest New Member GPA will be recognized at the Annual Fraternity & Sorority Life Awards Program.
- Chapter’s with a new member class below a 2.5 semester GPA:
  - Will be required to meet with the Associate Director or designee to discuss strategies for improvement. The initial meeting must take place within the first two week of the subsequent semester. Progress meetings should take place twice in that semester.
  - Will need to complete a **SWOT** (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis specifically for their new member process and its impact on academics prior to the initial meeting.
  - Create a **Scholarship Plan** specifically for new members.
  - All new members who have below a 2.5 semester GPA will need to fill out an **Individual Academic Plan**.
- Chapter’s with a new member class below a 2.5 semester GPA for a second consecutive semester:
  - Complete all previous semester expectations.
• Inter/national Headquarters will be notified.
• All recruitment/membership intake activities will be restricted to the following: The chapter will only be allowed to extend bids/invitations for membership to individuals with a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA. Perspective students failing to meet this requirement must receive permission from both the chapter’s advisor and the Associate Director.

**Academic Excellence (2.8-4.0 Semester GPA)**
Fraternity & Sorority Life Academic Awards are designed to recognize chapters who excel academically, and embody the academic mission of fraternities and sororities. The following are a list of awards and recognition designed to highlight the outstanding academic achievement from fraternities and sororities.

- At the Annual Fraternity & Sorority Awards program recognition will be given in the following areas:
  - Highest Chapter GPA – A chapter from each council will receive this award.
  - Excellence in Scholarship- All chapters with a high average rating through Standards Evaluations in the Scholarship category will receive this award.
- Certificates will be given to chapters who achieve Academic Excellence.
- Monetary Awards will be given to chapters in the Academic Excellence category. These funds can be used for chapter operations and academic incentives. These funds are also subject to state purchasing guidelines. Any chapters eligible for these awards will receive some initial guidance on the process for purchasing but all purchases should be discussed and approved in advance with LSI Finance Staff and Associate Director. **Basic instructions are included below on what types of expenses will qualify and how to access these funds.**

Amounts awarded according to the below scale:
- Semester GPA 3.0 or higher: $200
- Semester GPA between 2.9-2.99: $100
- Semester GPA between 2.8-2.89: $75

- Fraternity & Sorority Life Staff will contact inter/national headquarters regarding Academic Excellence Status.
- Chapters have the option to submit a chapter spotlight regarding academic success and strategies that will be shared via available platforms.

Even in the Academic Excellence category, chapters are still encouraged to have individuals who have below a 2.5 semester GPA complete an **Individual Academic Plan.**

**Academic Progress (2.5-2.79 Semester GPA)**
Chapters that have a semester GPA of 2.5-2.79 will be required to:
- Create a **Scholarship Plan**
- Meet with the Associate Director or designee regarding scholarship plan within the first six weeks of the subsequent semester.
- All members who have below a 2.5 semester GPA will need to fill out an **Individual Academic Plan.**

**Academic Transition (Semester after Chapter is removed from Academic Support/Probation/Suspension)**
In order to ensure continued Academic Success, chapters who are removed from Academic Support, Probation, or Suspension will be moved to the Academic Transition category. In Academic Transition, chapters are required to:
- Make any necessary changes to their current **Scholarship Plan.**
- Meet with the Associate Director or designee regarding scholarship plan within the first two weeks of the subsequent semester. Progress meetings with Associate Director or designee will need to take place twice in the semester. It is the chapter’s responsibility to schedule these meetings.
- All members who have below a 2.5 semester GPA will need to fill out an **Individual Academic Plan.**
**ODU Fraternity & Sorority Life Academic Policy**

**Academic Support (Below 2.5 Semester GPA First Academic Term)**

A notice in the form of an e-mail/letter will be issued from the Associate Director or designee to the chapter president, chapter advisors, and inter/national office stating the conditions of academic support, which include:

- Develop and submit chapter [Scholarship Plan](#) in the first two weeks of the semester in which the chapter is placed on academic support. A minimum of [two academic success workshops](#) for chapter members during the academic support term must be included in the scholarship plan. The scholarship plan must be signed by the chapter president, scholarship officer, and the advisor.

- Set-up a meeting between the Associate Director or designee, the chapter president, scholarship officer, and the advisor to discuss the seriousness of the poor academic performance and the scholarship plan. The scholarship plan will need to be sent in advance of the meeting and it will be reviewed during the meeting.

- Implement [Individual Academic Plan](#) for chapter members with a semester GPA below 2.5. Performance plans must be submitted to the Associate Director or designee within the first two weeks of the subsequent semester.

- The President and the Scholarship chair must meet once a month with the Associate Director or designee, to discuss successes and challenges of the new academic plan. It is the chapter’s responsibility to schedule these meetings.

- If grades do not meet the required standard at the end of the Academic support period the organization will be placed on Academic Probation.
  - Chapters with less than 10 members whose semester GPA is below 2.5 for two consecutive semester will be allowed to have the chapter’s cumulative GPA considered. If the chapter’s cumulative GPA is a 2.8 or higher, the chapter can remain on Academic Support for one additional semester.

**Academic Probation (Below 2.5 Semester GPA Second Academic Term)**

A notice in the form of an e-mail/letter will be issued from the Associate Director or designee to the chapter president, chapter advisors, and inter/national office stating the conditions of academic probation which include:

- Request from the University to the inter/national office for a meeting between representatives of the inter/national office, chapter president, chapter advisor and University official(s).

- Review and revise the current chapter [Scholarship Plan](#) within the first two weeks of the semester in which the chapter status progresses from academic support to academic probation. The updated scholarship plan must include a reflection of what components were missing in the previous scholarship plan since the previously established plan did not result in raising the chapter GPA back to the minimum requirement. The revised plan should provide an assessment of the two academic success workshops hosted the previous semester and a description of what [two academic success workshops](#) will be implemented this semester and why the officers/advisors/chapter believe the programs meet the current chapter need. The revised scholarship plan must be signed by the chapter president, scholarship officer, and the advisor. Chapter leadership is encouraged to collaborate with LSI staff when revising the academic plan. The scholarship plan will need to be sent in advance of the meeting and it will be reviewed during the meeting.

- As a result of academic probation the chapter will be placed on social probation. During the probation period the chapter may not participate in social events to be defined as socials/mixers/date parties/semi-formal/formal/homecoming/Greek Week etc. If unclear of what constitutes a social event, chapter leadership must consult with LSI staff. The Associate Director or designee will notify all councils of this status.

- Continue implementation of [Individual Academic Plan](#) for chapter members with a semester GPA below 2.5. Performance plans must be submitted to the Associate Director or designee within the first two weeks of the subsequent semester.

- Appropriate chapter officer must attend mandatory meetings as required by the Associate Director.

- The President, scholarship chair, and advisor must meet once a month with the Associate Director or designee to discuss on-going efforts to raise the chapter GPA to the required 2.5 semester grade point average. It is the responsibility of the chapter to schedule these meetings.
• All recruitment/membership intake activities will be restricted to the following: The chapter will only be allowed to extend bids/invitations for membership to individuals with a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA. Perspective students failing to meet this requirement must receive permission from both the chapter’s advisor and the Associate Director.

• During the Academic Probation term, there is an opportunity to be allowed one restriction lift if certain criteria is met.
  o Restriction lift request must be submitted in writing to the Associate Director.
  o Chapter must meet all the minimum expectation as listed in the policy without reminders from the Fraternity & Sorority Life Staff.
  o As a chapter, a commitment must be demonstrated for exceeding the minimum expectations listed in the Fraternity & Sorority Life Academic policy including new initiatives and the demonstrated, active implementation of an updated scholarship plan.
  o An evaluation will be conducted in mid-October for Fall and early March for Spring.
  o If granted, the restriction lift will be provided by the Associate Director in writing.

• If grades do not meet the required standard at the end of the Academic probation period the organization will be suspended for a period of one semester.

**Academic Suspension (Below 2.5 Semester GPA Third Academic Term)**

A notice in the form of an e-mail/letter will be issued from the Associate Director or designee to the chapter president, chapter advisors, and inter/national office stating the conditions of academic suspension which include:

• Request from the University to the inter/national office for a meeting between representatives of the inter/national office, chapter president, chapter advisor and University official(s).

• For the academic suspension term, chapters are not permitted to participate in intramurals or social events to be defined as socials/mixers/date parties/semi-formal/formal/homecoming/Greek Week, etc. Hosting large philanthropic events or participating in other chapter’s events that require prior preparation for participation may be restricted during the chapter calendar review. If unclear of what constitutes a social event, chapter leadership must consult with LSI staff. The Associate Director or designee will notify all councils of this status.

• All recruitment/membership intake activities will be restricted to the following: The chapter will only be allowed to extend bids/invitations for membership to individuals with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA. All perspective member GPA’s must be earned at Old Dominion University or another 4 year degree granting institution. Perspective students failing to meet this requirement must receive permission from both the chapter’s advisor and the Associate Director.

• The chapter will be allowed to hold meetings on campus however the chapter must submit a calendar of all chapter activities to the Associate Director for review and approval within the first two weeks of the subsequent semester. Any wish to adjust the calendar after approval must be submitted to and be approved in writing by the Associate Director.

• Before the suspension has been lifted the chapter must do a formal presentation outlining a new plan for academic success and present national support (in the form of writing) for continuing as a chapter.

• During the Academic Suspension term, there is an opportunity to be allowed one restriction lift if certain criteria is met.
  o Restriction lift request must be submitted in writing to the Associate Director.
  o Chapter must meet all the minimum expectation as listed in the policy without reminders from the Fraternity & Sorority Life Staff.
  o As a chapter, a commitment must be demonstrated for exceeding the minimum expectations listed in the Fraternity & Sorority Life Academic policy including new initiatives and the demonstrated, active implementation of an updated scholarship plan.
  o An evaluation will be conducted in mid-October for Fall and early March for Spring.
ODU Fraternity & Sorority Life Academic Policy

- If granted, the restriction lift will be provided by the Associate Director in writing.

- If grades do not meet the required standard by the end of the suspension period the chapter will lose University recognition.

**Loss of Recognition (Below 2.5 Semester GPA Fourth Academic Term)**

A notice in the form of a letter will be issued from the Associate Director to the chapter president, chapter advisors, and inter/national office stating the conditions of loss of recognition which include:

- Meeting with the Associate Director, chapter advisor, chapter president, inter/national office to discuss loss of recognition.
- Revocation of university recognition of the chapter including loss of chapter ability to utilize University facilities and participate in University events.
- The chapter will not be allowed to extend bids, host/participate in informational events, or conduct new member education/intake.

**Scholarship Plan Components**

A scholarship plan can be defined as a plan that the chapter will implement to help raise the chapter GPA back to the minimum requirement or higher. Below are some components that may be helpful in a scholarship plan:

- Should include components relevant to all members including those who are doing well, those who are maintaining, and those who may need assistance.
- Incentive program to reward members that are doing well academically.
- Have members complete a [learning style assessment](#) to understand their best method of learning.
- Members engage in Academic Hours which include utilizing writing/math centers, tutoring, meeting with professors, etc.
- Chapter to send academic progress reports to Fraternity & Sorority Life staff and/or Faculty Advisor.
- Faculty/staff advisor is actively engaged with the academic progress of individuals.
- Utilize the [Peer Educator Program](#).
- Host academic success workshops.
- Form a scholarship committee.
- Consider University academic schedule during calendar planning.
- Establish a scholarship contract between members and the chapter.

**Student Success Related Resources**

In addition to individual student services these offices offer programs related to student success and may conduct workshops for your chapter on a variety of success related topics:

- [Career Development Services](#)
- [Student Success Center](#)
  - Tutoring
  - Tips of the Week
- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Center for Major Exploration](#)
- [Educational Accessibility](#)
- [Math & Science Resource Center](#)
- [Writing Center](#)
- [Student Outreach & Support](#)
- [Counseling Services](#)
- [Health Promotion](#)

**Topic Suggestions for Academic Success Workshops:**

- Communication Skills
- Developing a Success Strategy
- Goal Setting Workshop
- Learning Styles
- Major Exploration
- Notetaking Skills
- Personal Motivation
- Personal Wellness
- Presentation Skills
- PROCRASTINATION PREVENTION
- Stress Management
- Study Skills
- Test Taking Skills/Test Anxiety
- Time Management
**SWOT Analysis Example:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- New Members meet regularly with Faculty Advisor.</td>
<td>- New members can attend workshops or programs hosted by the chapter focused on academic success.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- New Members create individual study plans related to their academics.</td>
<td>- Specific new member related academic interventions have been created to include in the scholarship plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- New Members are incorporated into the chapter’s overall scholarship plan.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
<th>Threats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Chapter failed to take into consideration the academic calendar when planning events that new members are expected to attend.</td>
<td>- Older members demonstrating poor academic behaviors and this creates a perception of acceptance of these behaviors within the chapter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- New member educator and academics chair did not communicate regularly about new member academic progress.</td>
<td>- Some new members may feel uncomfortable sharing their true academic status until it was too late.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- New member GPA’s were not verified prior to extending membership.</td>
<td>- There is a lot of expectations from our organization to complete many objectives related to new members within a short amount of time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Chapter placed too many time commitments on new members, sometimes not intentionally.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LSI Finance Instructions for Academic Excellence:**

These funds can be used for chapter operations and academic incentives. These funds are also subject to state purchasing guidelines. Any chapters eligible for these awards will receive some initial guidance on the process for purchasing but all purchases should be discussed and approved in advance with LSI Finance Staff ([LSIFinance@odu.edu](mailto:LSIFinance@odu.edu)) and Associate Director.

Only items that can be purchased in advance on behalf of the organization will be approved, no reimbursements are allowed.

Suggested uses:
- ARAMARK catering for an event where academic success is celebrated
- ODU Bookstore items to be obtained as giveaways/incentives for members
- Office supply related items either for chapter operations or giveaways/incentives
- Direct online purchases of items in some cases can be processed, please communicate in advance with LSI Finance Staff and Associate Director regarding this as a possibility.

Chapters have until the last day of classes during the semester when Academic Excellence is awarded in order to make a request.

**Review of Policy**

This policy should be reviewed on a regular basis (annually or every other year) to ensure that the content provides a structure to best support the fraternity and sorority community.