

*Fraternity and Sorority Life*  
*Virginia Commonwealth University*



V i r g i n i a   C o m m o n w e a l t h   U n i v e r s i t y

**Fraternity and Sorority Chapter**  
**Academic Policy**

Revised July 19, 2016

**Fraternity and Sorority Life**  
**Virginia Commonwealth University**  
**Fraternity & Sorority Chapter Academic Policy**  
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Academic success is a standard of Virginia Commonwealth University and is an essential element of a fraternity or sorority's contribution to and support of the University's mission. Academic excellence is emphasized by all fraternity and sorority chapters. Fraternity and sorority members should consistently achieve higher academically than non-members. The fraternity and sorority experience is designed to provide a community which supports the development and promotion of high academic achievement in a values based setting.

**Fraternity and Sorority Academic Policy:**

Every fraternity or sorority at VCU will meet or exceed a required 2.5 semester grade point average every semester for both the total chapter performance and the new member class performance.

The VCU Fraternity and Sorority Academic Report is produced by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life after both the fall and spring semester, and this report will be made available to all chapters and advisors. It will be the responsibility of the chapter to edit the roster appropriately and submit it each semester by the required date.

The Academic Policy will be implemented in addition to the guidelines established by each inter/national organization which specifies minimum grade point average requirement for membership, initiation, holding office, and good standing of a chapter.

**Academic Excellence Recognition:**

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will provide awards and recognition to chapters on an annual basis at the VCU Fraternity and Sorority Life awards ceremony. The awards are designed to recognize chapters that excel academically and embody the academic mission of the university.

The following are a list of annual awards and recognition designed to highlight outstanding academic achievement from fraternity and sorority members as well as their respective organizations.

- Fraternity & Sorority Award recognition will be given in the following areas:
  - Highest Chapter GPA (1 Sorority, 1 Fraternity)
  - Most Improved GPA (1 Sorority, 1 Fraternity)
  - Highest New Member Class GPA (1 Sorority, 1 Fraternity)

**Academic Performance Discipline**

Failure to meet the required minimum 2.5 grade point average for the semester by a chapter or a new member class will result in the chapter being placed on some level of Academic Warning/Probation/Suspension.

### **Academic Warning**

Failure to meet the required minimum 2.5 grade point average for the semester by a chapter or a new member class for the first semester will result in the chapter being placed on *Academic Warning*. The chapter will be notified in writing of the failure to meet the expectations of the Fraternity and Sorority Academic Policy and the placement of the chapter on Academic Warning, which will include the following:

- The chapter will complete a comprehensive review of their Scholarship Plan by September 1/February 1, depending on the appropriate semester.
  - The revised Scholarship Plan must include two study skills/enhancement programs per semester, led by someone outside of the chapter.
  - The revised Scholarship Plan must be signed by the chapter president, scholarship officer, and chapter advisor.
- The chapter president and scholarship chair will meet with their Fraternity and Sorority Life advisor to review the Scholarship Plan.
- The Office will inform the inter/national organization as to the Academic Warning status.
- The chapter will only be allowed to host two (2) social events, one of which may include alcohol, and a maximum of three (3) chapter events per week, to include chapter meetings, programs, community service, or required attendance at any other events.
- The chapter president and the scholarship chair must meet once a month to discuss successes and challenges of the new academic plan and inform the Office of any updates.

Failure to comply with any of the above conditions will result in the chapter being referred to the governing council Judicial Board for failure to comply.

### **Academic Probation**

Failure to meet the required minimum 2.5 grade point average for the semester by a chapter or a new member class for the second consecutive semester will result in the chapter being placed on *Academic Probation*. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will notify the chapter in writing of the failure to meet the expectations of the Fraternity and Sorority Academic Policy and the placement of the chapter on Academic Probation, which will include the following:

- The chapter will complete a comprehensive review of their submitted Scholarship Plan by September 1/February 1, depending on the appropriate semester.
  - The revised Scholarship Plan must include two study skills/enhancement programs per semester, led by someone outside of the chapter.
  - The revised Scholarship Plan must be signed by the chapter president, scholarship officer, and chapter advisor.
- The chapter president and scholarship chair will meet with their Fraternity and Sorority Life advisor to review the Scholarship Plan.
- The Office will inform the inter/national organization as to the Academic Probation status.

- The revised Scholarship Plan should provide an assessment of the two academic success workshops hosted the previous semester and a description of what two scholarship programs will be implemented during the upcoming semester. The revised Scholarship Plan must be signed by the chapter president, scholarship officer, and the advisor.
- Chapter leadership is encouraged to collaborate with the Campus Learning and Writing Center, their inter/national organization, graduate chapter and/or advisors and the governing council when revising the Scholarship Plan.
- As a result of Academic Probation, the chapter will be placed on social restriction. During the Academic Probation period the chapter may not host or participate in any social events or participate in any of the following: VCU Intramurals, Greek Week, Fall Block Step Show, MGC Stroll-Off, Homecoming Tailgate, or the Spring Memorial Step Show. *If unclear of what constitutes a social event, chapter leadership must consult with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.*
- The chapter will submit a chapter calendar of all meetings, events, and programs for approval by the Fraternity and Sorority Life Advisor.
- The President, Scholarship Chair, and Chapter Advisor must meet once a month to discuss the on-going efforts to bring the chapter and/or new member class GPA to the required 2.5 semester grade point average. Any updates must be relayed to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.
- Chapters can present documentation that their chapter is above the 2.5 GPA at the semester mid-term with a request to be removed from Academic Probation. This request must include documentation, mid-semester grades, and any other accompanying materials. This may result in moving the chapter back to an Academic Warning status.

Failure to comply with any of the above conditions will result in the chapter being referred to the governing council Judicial Board for failure to comply.

### **Academic Suspension**

Failure to meet the required minimum 2.5 grade point average for the semester by a chapter or a new member class for the third consecutive semester will result in the chapter being referred to the governing council judicial board for consideration of suspension of student organization registration.