

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

ALPHA

PROMOTING:
ACADEMICS, SERVICE, LEADERSHIP,
CITIZENSHIP, AND VALUES CONGRUENCE

TO ENSURE:
RELEVANCE

Ensuring Relevance

PURPOSE

The Purpose of the ALPHA program is to encourage the Mines Greek Community to achieve higher standards, which showcase a positive image, successful operations and management, and chapter achievements. The ALPHA program is a collection of standards that chapters are encouraged to accomplish in five key categories. Chapters will earn a star for each category in which the established requirements are accomplished. A total of five stars may be earned by each chapter (one star may be earned in each category). Chapters achieving 3 or more stars will be eligible for a set of incentive rewards determined on an annual basis. The program will be administered on an academic year basis, running from August to May of each year. Chapters will be awarded their stars at the yearly awards program in September of each year.

RATIONALE

The standards set in this proposal have been set in conjunction with NIC and NPC standards for member organizations. They have been determined to be best practices in creating a positive and constructive fraternity and sorority community that is firmly based in its founding values.

1. Positively affecting intellectual development.
2. Developing leadership skills and abilities.
3. Developing citizenship through service and outreach.
4. Instilling the values of their organizations and Colorado School of Mines.
5. Developing positive relationships (brotherhood/sisterhood).

ALPHA

In order to promote these 5 tenets of fraternity and sorority life, the ALPHA program is separated into 5 areas:

1. **A**cademic Excellence
2. **L**eadership Development
3. **P**hilanthropy & Community Service
4. **H**onoring Values
5. **A**ttaining Brotherhood/Sisterhood

Chapters completing all Meets Expectations objectives in a category in addition to 50% (rounded up) of the Exceeds Expectations objectives for that category will receive a star.

ACADEMIC ACHEIVEMENT

Meets Expectations

1. The chapter's overall GPA meets or exceeds the all men's or all women's GPA.
2. The chapter provides academic programming to new members. This programming may be in combination with another Greek and/or campus organization, or attendance at a campus sponsored program. It may include but not be limited to teaching study skills, providing tutoring, and recognizing scholastic achievement.
3. The chapter provides academic programming to active members (may be the same program as above).
4. The chapter has established written minimum standards for membership (good standing) and/or initiation that include a minimum GPA component.
5. A percentage of the chapter's budget is dedicated to academic programming.
6. The chapter has established goals related to academic achievement.

Exceeds Expectations (5)

1. The chapter's new members meet or exceed the all men's or all women's GPA.
2. The Chapter has 15% or more of its members also holding membership in one or more of the academic honoraries on campus.
3. Chapter Active member GPA is above a 3.0.
4. The chapter's new member GPA is above a 3.0.
5. Chapter has 20% or more of its members on the Dean's List (≥ 3.50 GPA & ≥ 12 credit hours) each semester.
6. The chapter seeks faculty assistance with the chapter's academic programming and scholarship goals.
7. The chapter has minimum GPA requirements for leadership positions (officers, exec members).
8. The Chapter has an active officer whose main responsibility is the scholastic enhancement of the chapter. Such a position has a written job description, including specific responsibilities and duties.
9. Describe one program or policy in this area that the chapter has improved upon from last year. List the previous program or policy (if applicable), the new program or policy and how it has helped to improve the chapter.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Meets Expectations

1. The chapter educates its members (including new members) on policies pertaining to the issues of alcohol and substance abuse, underage drinking, and all inter/national policies pertaining to risk management.
2. The chapter hosts at least one non-alcoholic social event per semester.
3. The chapter provides at least one leadership development program annually for its members. Co-sponsoring a program with another Greek and/or campus organization or attending a campus-sponsored program is encouraged
4. The chapter has at least one local alumna/us serving as an advisor.
5. The chapter has a New Member educator with a written job description including their responsibilities and expectations.
6. The chapter has 100% new member participation in Greek 101, and Greek 102.
7. The chapter's new member education period does not exceed 12 weeks.
8. The chapter president or designated member attends monthly president's meetings.

Exceeds Expectations (4)

1. The Chapter has one or more members who have won inter/national awards (including fraternity/sorority scholarships) during the last year. CSM delivered scholarships do not count toward this criterion.
2. The chapter sends at least one member to a leadership conference or program. Examples of such programs include but are not limited to UIFI, Leadershape, and Futures Quest, CSM Leadership Summit, Fraternity/Sorority Regional Leadership Conference, or National Convention.
3. The New Member Educator attends the Greek 101 and 102 sessions.
4. The chapter has a written new member education plan that includes education on each of the following topics: Hazing, Academics, Brotherhood/Sisterhood, Fraternal Values, Service/Philanthropy, and Leadership/Involvement.
5. The chapter requires at least one chapter officer to attend the inter/national organization's annual Convention/Leadership Conference, National or Regional Leadership Academy, or other officer training.
6. At least 20% of the chapter holds executive office positions in officially recognized student organizations or as peer mentors, resident assistants, or admissions ambassadors.
7. Describe one program or policy in this area that the chapter has improved upon from last year. List the previous program or policy (if applicable), the new program or policy and how it has helped to improve the chapter.

PHILANTHROPY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Meets Expectations

1. The chapter participates in at least one community service project of hands-on assistance each semester. Examples include such things as Serving at a Soup Kitchen, Habitat for Humanity, tutoring in schools, mentoring a youth team, participating in Big Brothers/Big Sisters, etc...
2. The chapter members each complete at least 8 hours per semester of community service. This can be in conjunction with inter/national service project, chapter specific projects, or projects sponsored by other organizations or the University. *Note: participation in a walk or thon does not count toward service hours unless the chapter members helped to plan the event or volunteered to help run it.
3. The chapter participates in one IFC/PHC sponsored community service project each semester according to the requirements set forth by the sponsoring council(s).
4. The chapter appoints/elects a Community Service/Philanthropy chair who coordinates all service projects. This position must have a written job description, including specific responsibilities.
5. The chapter participates in at least one Philanthropy project each semester.

Exceeds Expectations (4)

1. The chapter participates in "Nightmare on Greek Street."
2. The chapter's members all meet or exceed 15 hours per semester of community service.
3. The chapter participates in "Delta Days" or "National Philanthropy Day."
4. The chapter averages over \$20/member per semester for philanthropic causes. This can be in conjunction with inter/national philanthropy project, chapter specific projects, or projects sponsored by other organizations or the University.
5. The chapter holds an event that at least 75% of the members (new and active) participate in.
6. The chapter participates in at least one cooperative project a semester (i.e. helping out at another organization or chapter's event).
7. Describe one program or policy in this area that the chapter has improved upon from last year. List the previous program or policy (if applicable), the new program or policy and how it has helped to improve the chapter.

HONORING VALUES

Meets Expectations

1. The chapter documents the existence and function of an internal judicial system to enforce their own values, policies, and procedures. Documentation may include a copy of the policies, or an email from the national headquarters stating that there is a system in place.
2. The chapter submits all applicable paperwork to IFC/PHC and/or the Student Activities office within two business days of an update, or by the stated deadline. Examples of such forms include but are not limited to membership updates, organization registration forms, officer updates, grade release and hazing forms, housing contracts, check-in/check-out/room change forms.
3. The chapter has developed a budget and bookkeeping system for finances. Documentation should include a copy of the budget and a written narrative as to how the books are kept (Quicken, Excel, Omega Financial, Bill Highway, etc...) or an email from a national/regional officer with a brief description of the program.
4. The chapter has a yearly executive board training/transition workshop for new officers.
5. The chapter maintains a safe living environment via holding annual fire drills and passing annual fire inspections with the local fire department.
6. The chapter is in good financial standing with their inter/national organization and IFC/PHC.

Exceeds Expectations (3)

1. The chapter has been recognized on an inter/national level for achievements within one calendar year previous to the awards submission date. Documentation may include article in fraternity magazine, receiving awards (individual/chapter).
2. The chapter maintains an updated (at least quarterly) website that is linked to the CSM Student Activities page.
3. The chapter hosts at least one program annually that deals with the topic of Diversity and/or Social Justice.
4. The chapter conducts at least one values education program annually.
5. Chapter Members participate in trainings, workshops, or retreats related to diversity (Safe Zone Training, Delta Days lectures, etc...)
6. Describe one program or policy in this area that the chapter has improved upon from last year. List the previous program or policy (if applicable), the new program or policy and how it has helped to improve the chapter.

ATTAINING BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD

Meets Expectations

1. At least 70% of the chapter actively participates in Greek Week programs. Attendance at events counts toward participation.
2. At least 70% of the chapter actively participates in Homecoming Events. Attendance at events counts toward participation.
3. The chapter participates in at least 5 intramural team sporting events each semester.
4. Chapter remains in good standing with the IM sports office (no fights or suspensions).
5. The chapter has at least one program a year that involves alumni/ae.
6. The chapter has at least one program a year that involves parents.
7. At least 90% of the chapter members are affiliated with at least one club/organization, Social service agency/Not-for-Profit, and/or workplace outside of their Greek organization.

Exceeds Expectations (3)

1. The chapter participates in 10 or more Intramural sporting events each semester. For individual events provide the participant's name and/or a copy of their registration.
2. 100% of the chapter is affiliated with at least one club/organization, agency, and/or workplace outside of their Greek organization.
3. The chapter actively supports other student organizations/athletic teams. Events such as a chapter night at the basketball game with 50% + attendance of the chapter, or 50% + participation in Up 'Til Dawn letter writing campaign could fulfill this requirement.
4. The chapter provides at least one program annually on the topic of health and wellness, co-sponsoring a program with another Greek and/or campus organization or attending a campus-sponsored program.
5. Describe one program or policy in this area that the chapter has improved upon from last year. List the previous program or policy (if applicable), the new program or policy and how it has helped to improve the chapter.

CHAPTER INCENTIVE REWARDS for 2014:

*Chapters receiving **three** or more stars are eligible for the following incentives:*

- Correspondence will be sent to the chapter's Inter/National Headquarters informing the office staff of the chapter's success
- Recognition at the information sessions held during Parent Orientation each summer
- Ability to verbalize the benefits of Greek life to potential new members, as represented in the ALPHA Program
- Email sent on chapter's behalf to Accepted Students/Intent to Enroll to be used for summer recruitment and scholarship opportunities (IFC Chapters only)

*Chapters receiving **four** or more stars are eligible for the following incentives (in addition to the ones listed above):*

- Publicly recognized via Student Organization Awards and Recognition Event.
- Receive Leadership funding (up to \$250) from Student Activities to be used to send delegates to National/Regional leadership conferences

*Chapters receiving all **five** stars (ALPHA status) are eligible for the following incentives (in addition to the ones listed above):*

- Receive a plaque indicating their ALPHA status, that may be displayed in their chapter house
- Receive Leadership funding (up to \$750) from Student Activities to be used to send delegates to National/Regional leadership conferences
- May apply for "Chapter of the Year" award (the award comes with \$1000 to be used for housing/chapter improvement projects)

All events and documentation will be judged by the Associate Director of Student Activities at the end of the Spring Semester. His/Her discretion on whether or not a criterion statement is met is final. Chapters are strongly encouraged to contact the Associate Director if they have any questions regarding requirements to fulfill any criterion statement. Appeals may be filed within 10 business days of notification of status. All appeals must be in writing and clearly state the nature of the appeal.

If at any time after the status is achieved a chapter is placed on probation with the university or its governing council all remaining incentives (funding, move-ins, etc...) will be forfeited by the chapter.