

# Trojan Greek Standards & Accreditation

2017-2018

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# Trojan Greek Standards & Accreditation

Established 1986, revised 1992 and 2016

Fraternities and sororities are an integral part of the University of Southern California, since their founding in 1889. Founding principles of well-being, community, academics, service, and leadership are the guiding values in which chapters strive for locally and nationally.

The Trojan Greek Standards provide a framework for learning, growth, and development of individual chapters and the community. This framework reflects the founding principles of fraternities and sororities in providing a set of accountability standards to ensure the Trojan Greek community is committed and demonstrating the highest quality membership experience focused on academics, civic engagement, well-being & safety, and leadership and cultural understanding. The Trojan Greek Standards serve as a way to document and demonstrate growth and guide strategic planning for chapters, the council, and community.

The Trojan Greek Standards & Accreditation process serves as the annual recognition process for fraternities and sororities at USC. Fraternities and sororities remain in good standing with USC by completing the USC Registered Student Organization (RSO) recognition process with the Office of Campus Activities, completing the Trojan Greek Standards & Accreditation process, and remaining in good standing with their respective council and inter/national organization.

Within these frameworks, membership in a fraternity or sorority is considered to be a privilege, and with this privilege comes the responsibility to perform in a manner exemplifying the ideals of the Trojan: faithful, scholarly, skillful, courageous, and ambitious.

# Trojan Greek Standards

In creating shared accountability and self-governance, the Trojan Greek Standards outline the expectations for chapters and members. The Trojan Greek Standards section describes the standards and expectations and the Trojan Greek Standards & Accreditation concisely highlights the criteria for meeting the standard.

To strengthen the chapter experience, The Trojan Greek Standards & Accreditation and inter/national organization awards should have overlapping themes and expectations. The chapter president should work with their FSLD advisor, advisory board, and regional/national representative to ensure accountability for both programs.

## University Policies

Fraternities and sororities at the University of Southern California are expected to understand and follow rules and regulations dictated in SCampus, student conduct code, and the agreement between the recognized chapter and the USC Office of Campus Activities. Chapters are both responsible for their organizational behavior as a whole as well as individual member actions and are expected to adhere to any regulations, sanctions, or probationary status set forth by USC Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards, the Office for Fraternity and Sorority Leadership Development, inter/national organizations, and the councils under which a particular chapter is governed.

## Academic Standards

Chapters should strive for, practice, and demonstrate:

- **Performance:** Employ behaviors to achieve academic goals that meet organization and university standards and engage students in academic resources
- **Faculty Partnerships:** Establish and foster relationships with faculty through partnerships, involvement, and recognition

### Academic Status

Students involved in a Greek organization are expected to have full time academic status and are fully matriculated into the University at the time invitation for membership is extended. The focus of this standard is to ensure members maintain a primary focus of education at the University of Southern California; members with outside internships, family issues, or other academic agreements may be exempt on a per-person basis at the discretion of chapter leadership per their Bylaws, under the advisement of the inter/national organization.

### Minimum Grade Point Average Standards

In order to continue progression of academic means by members of the Trojan Greek community, minimum requirements are expected of individuals, chapter officers, and chapters as a whole:

- Individuals: members of fraternities/sororities are expected to maintain a per-semester GPA above 2.0, the threshold for Academic Probation by the University. It is expected chapter leadership will hold individual members accountable.
- Chapter officers: It is recommended all chapter officers maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA enforced by the Chapter President or standards/accountability boards.
- Chapters: Chapters as a whole must maintain a per-semester GPA at or above the University per-semester undergraduate GPA, detailed below.

### **Probationary Periods and Status**

Chapters as a whole are expected to maintain a GPA above the all-University undergraduate GPA per semester. Failure to maintain this standard will result in a probationary status at the discretion of their governing council. Chapters under the all-University undergraduate GPA will remain on probation until they reach that minimum. Progress during this process is defined as a .05-point increase in GPA per semester towards the minimum all-University undergraduate GPA level.

## **Civic Engagement**

Chapters should strive for, practice, and demonstrate:

- Community Awareness: Engage as a responsible citizen by increasing awareness and education of charitable organizations and causes through events and programs
- Philanthropy/Fundraising: Utilize personal skills and abilities to contribute to community efforts through raising funds for a charitable organization
- Service: Identify and engage in opportunities to support communities, charitable organizations, and causes

### **Community Service/Fundraising Programs**

Fraternities and sororities are committed to developing citizenship through service and outreach. Philanthropy and community service should continue to be a core focus of all fraternities/sororities. Events and programs should raise awareness and provide education about charitable causes. Chapters should maintain documentation to demonstrate attendance and content of program and evaluate/assess for learning and future needs.

A service-based event is defined as one that involves time and participation into a cause including, but not limited to, tutoring at local schools, volunteering at a food bank or soup kitchen, or other community engagement projects.

A fundraising based event is defined as one that raises funds for a charity and 100% of money raised is donated to charitable cause(s).

Each chapter should complete at least one service and one fundraising project/event per semester. Chapters should maintain documentation to demonstrate attendance and content of program.

75% of each chapter's membership should volunteer 10+ hours of community service per semester tracked in OrgSync. Working on or attending a philanthropy event does not count towards service hours.

## **Well-Being & Safety**

Chapters should strive for, practice, and demonstrate:

- Care and concern for self and others: Assess and take action in cultivating environments of well-being, safety, and intervention
- Demonstrate healthy practices and lifestyles in education, work, and leisure

### **Well-Being & Safety Programming**

The chapter will sponsor, co-sponsor, or participate in at least one programming event each semester pertaining to a topic of health, safety, and well-being with a minimum of 75%-member attendance. Chapters should maintain documentation to demonstrate attendance and content of program and evaluate/assess for learning and future needs.

These types of events should not only reflect excellence in content alone, but a deep connection and relationship with on-campus resources including, but not limited to, the USC Department of Public Safety in conjunction with the Los Angeles Police Department, the Office of Wellness and Health Promotion, Student Counseling Services, Equity and Diversity and Title IX, Disability Services, Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention & Services, other university departments, or inter/national organization experts.

### **Events**

Events hosted by fraternities and sororities are to follow policies set forth by FSLD, university policies and student conduct code, and council governing policies. During the event, a chapter should respectfully accommodate requests for health and safety checks by the USC Department of Public Safety, USC fire services, Los Angeles Police Department, or Los Angeles Fire Department.

### **Emergency Response Protocol**

Chapters should have a local and or inter/national emergency response plan that details how chapter leadership will respond, communicate, and follow through on crises, natural disaster, and emergency situations. Chapters should review and practice these plans and protocol at least once an academic year with full membership to be sure members are prepared to respond.

### **Standards of Residential Experience**

For organizations with a recognized chapter facility, it is the expectation each chapter create and maintain a productive and healthy living-learning environment.

This standard is focused on utilizing chapters' physical locations as a tool for member and chapter development as well as a complement to the academic mission of the university. USC organizations should

have pride in their physical structures and be up to date in maintenance of their exterior, interior, and any alleys surrounding the property, and before, during, and after any events at the chapter facility.

USC-owned properties should be in full compliance with USC Housing standards as well as these standards. Chapters are to complete all required life safety compliance as outlined in the university, city, and state standards. As recommended by fire and safety personnel, chapters should develop, practice, and educate members on their emergency response protocols and conduct fire drills at least once a semester. All organizations with a chapter facility, university or privately owned, should have a member serve in the role of house manager.

As part of the agreement between USC and its fraternities and sororities, access to facilities with 24 hours' notice should be accommodated for university officials for health and safety purposes only. In an emergency, immediate access should be given to university officials, USC Department of Public Safety, USC fire services, or local emergency personnel.

## **Leadership & Cultural Understanding**

Chapters should strive for, practice, and demonstrate:

- Self-Governance by understanding and demonstrating principles of governance
- Ethical & Personal Responsibility: Exemplify the courage to make decisions congruent with personal values, the principles of their inter/national organizations, and university
- Cultural Understanding: Understand and respect themselves and others in order to develop and broaden their knowledge, skills, and attitudes of diversity, inclusion, and equity

### **Cultural Understanding**

USC is a global institution and community. As defined in this section as both a process and a goal which includes knowledge, skills, and attitudes, USC and the Trojan Greek community strives for a learning environment that fosters equity, diversity, inclusion, and access for all students. Each semester, chapters, councils, and FSLD will strive to provide or engage in programming around identity development, self-awareness, cultural capacity, and competency of members.

At least one programming event each semester pertaining to cultural understanding and awareness with a minimum of 75%-member attendance. Chapters should maintain documentation to demonstrate attendance and content of program and evaluate/assess for learning and future needs.

These types of events should not only reflect excellence in content alone, but a deep connection and relationship with on-campus resources including, but not limited to, Asian Pacific American Student Services (APASS), Center for Black Cultural & Student Affairs (CBCSA), Disability Services & Programs, El Centro Chicano, LGBT Resource Center, Veterans Resource Center, Equity and Diversity and Title IX, Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention & Services, local community groups, or academic school faculty and staff.

## **Campus Involvement**

Fraternity and sorority life is an impactful and important complement to academic life at USC. It is important that fraternity/sorority members have substantial connections in other facets of university student life. Chapters must facilitate and encourage involvement in organizations on campus including but not limited to:

- Involvement of the chapter in at least two all-campus events per year with 50% minimum member attendance. This includes both university sponsored events and events developed by other student organizations on campus. Involvement in these activities should be properly tracked and accounted for by chapter leadership and reported to FSLD.
- Individual member involvement in at least one non-Greek organization by 75% of the chapter. These affiliations with student organizations should be properly tracked and accounted for by chapter leadership and reported to the FSLD through OrgSync and Trojan Greek Awards.

## **Recruitment/Intake & New Member Plans**

Recruitment or membership intake should follow the guidelines of the chapter's council, inter/national organization, and FSLD Intake Guidelines (if applicable). Recruitment and intake activities, including recruitment/intake events and membership extension, may only occur during the fall and spring semester. Chapters may not conduct membership recruitment or intake without approval from FSLD and their inter/national organization. Within 48 hours of a membership invite being accepted/a student officially joining the organization, the chapter's membership roster must be updated.

Chapters should evaluate their written plan for their new member/aspirant process and follow all inter/national organization guidelines for new member processes and Ritual. Chapter new member/aspirant plans should be submitted for the academic year in the fall semester, and if applicable, with updates submitted in January for spring semester.

## **Risk Prevention**

The FSLD will coordinate risk management sessions each semester/year, designed to educate risk managers and chapters of the duties of the chapter to manage social and large events, risk prevention strategies, intake of new members, obligation of residents in on-campus facilities, and the student conduct process. Each chapter is responsible for ensuring attendance to these sessions by officers including, but not limited to, the Social Chair, Risk Manager, Recruitment Chair, New Member Educator, Chapter President, and House Manager (if applicable).

## **Administration and Finance**

Each chapter must maintain an accurate roster of their membership at all times, including reporting of members aligned leadership positions and membership statuses. The membership roster must include all new and active members and other applicable categories, including, those members who live in the recognized chapter facility, studying abroad, inactive, alumni/ae, and membership removal. The membership roster serves many functions, including accurate record keeping, emergency response protocol, and academic reports. The membership roster must be update twice a semester, at the

beginning and the end. Chapters are to update their OrgSync profile at least once an academic year before the fall semester and within 48 hours of any changes.

It is an expectation each chapter leadership creates and maintains a responsible and complete budget. Though actual budgets with line items are not monitored by FSLD, a chapter must confirm its existence. It is the expectation each chapter educates its members on the budget and financial operations and obligations of organization, in particular those looking to join their organization.

### **Training and Meeting Attendance**

Education and proactive prevention is critical in creating environments grounded in well-being and safety. To accomplish this, every chapter is expected to attend all required trainings or meetings set forth by the FSLD and/or councils.

### **National and Regional Conferences**

To ensure engagement in national organizations, chapters are expected to send an appropriate delegation of members to their inter/national organization local and national conferences, if applicable. Chapters should share the recognition earned and learning from conferences with chapter, council, and FSLD within one week of returning. Chapters should maintain documentation to demonstrate attendance.

### **New Officer Transition**

To ensure continuity in operations and progress towards organization goals, each chapter should hold officer transitions. In this transition, chapter leadership should plan a retreat/meeting time for newly elected officers to be properly transitioned by outgoing officers. Chapters should submit Officer Transition Plans the semester prior to elections.

### **Alumni/ae Advisory Board**

Continued alumni/ae involvement is critical to the sustainability and growth of a chapter and the community. To ensure this relationship continues, each chapter must have an alumni/ae advisory board recognized by the inter/national organization. Alumni/ae advisors are expected to attend university, FSLD, and council sponsored meetings for advisors. Chapters should submit a list of their alumni/ae advisory board at the beginning of the academic year in OrgSync.

## **Accountability**

Alignment of chapter operations and education with the Trojan Greek Standards challenges chapters to provide and demonstrate commitment to the highest quality membership experience focused on academics, civic engagement, well-being and safety, and leadership and cultural understanding.

Chapters not meeting expectations within the Trojan Greek Standards & Accreditation process will be held accountable with additional expectations, potential limitations, or loss of recognition. This could include a temporary pause of recognition and all activities until demonstration of adequate growth and completion

of standards. Chapter leadership will work with FSLD staff, council leadership, and inter/national organization leadership to develop a plan of action for attaining growth and completion of standards within a specific time frame. If the plan of action terms is not met, a temporary pause or loss of recognition could be available for a specific timeframe.

# Trojan Greek Standards & Accreditation

The Trojan Greek Standards & Accreditation process serves as the annual recognition process for fraternities and sororities. Fraternities and sororities are to remain in good standing with USC by completing the USC Registered Student Organization Recognition process with the Office of Campus Activities and remain in good standing with their respective council and inter/national organization.

The Trojan Greek Standards & Accreditation serve as a way to document growth and guide strategic planning for chapters, the council, and community. Items are due at the beginning of the fall semester and reviewed at meetings with FSLD advisor.

## Academic Excellence

- Submitted Academic Enhancement Plan
- Maintained semester GPA at or above the university semester undergraduate GPA
- Officers maintained a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA
- Chapter has a current USC faculty/staff advisor

## Civic Engagement

- Community Service Program/Event
  - Fall Semester \_\_\_\_\_
  - Spring Semester \_\_\_\_\_
- Fundraising Program/Event
  - Fall Semester \_\_\_\_\_
  - Spring Semester \_\_\_\_\_
- 75% of each chapter's membership completed 10+ hours of community service/semester

## Well-Being & Safety

- Sponsored or participated in at least one on health, safety, and well-being event each semester with a minimum of 75% member attendance
  - Fall Semester
  - Spring Semester
- Participated in Event Review Process
  - Fall Semester
  - Spring Semester
- Attended Risk Prevention Trainings
  - Fall Semester
  - Spring Semester
- Submitted Emergency Response Protocol
- Submitted Signed Anti-Hazing Commitment Form
- Submitted certificate of liability insurance (*sent from insurance company*)

## Leadership & Cultural Understanding

- Sponsored or participated in at least one cultural understanding/ awareness event each semester with a minimum of 75%-member attendance
  - Fall Semester
  - Spring Semester
- Member involvement in at least one non-Greek organization by 75% of the chapter
- Submitted recruitment/intake guidelines and/or followed council recruitment rules
- Submitted new member/candidate/aspirant plans
- Membership roster updated within 48 hours of membership extension/acceptance
- Membership Roster & Member Retention
  - Updated Fall Roster \_\_\_\_\_ Retention %
  - Updated Spring Roster \_\_\_\_\_ Retention %
- Updated chapter OrgSync Profile
- Submitted chapter strategic plan
- Submitted chapter calendar
- Chapter website updated
- Involvement in at least two all-campus events per year with 50% minimum member attendance
  - Event One
  - Event Two
- Attended President Meetings (Community & 1:1 with FSLD Advisor)
  - Fall Semester
  - Spring Semester
- Attended Required Officer Meetings/Trainings
  - Fall Semester
  - Spring Semester
- Attended regional or Inter/national conferences/meetings and shared recognition received
- Submitted local or regional inter/national awards packet
- Submitted new officer transition meeting/retreat plans
- Active alumni/ae advisory board recognized by the inter/national organization
- Completed the Registered Student Organization process with USC Campus Activities

## Standards of Residential Experience *(for organizations with a recognized chapter facility)*

- House manager officer
- House director

# Trojan Greek Standards Due Dates

Items are submitted through OrgSync, either through the Standards & Accreditation collection forms or while updating the chapter's OrgSync profile.

Part	Due Date	Item(s)
Part 1	Due Wednesday before fall semester begins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Membership roster updated in OrgSync</li> <li>- OrgSync chapter profile updated</li> <li>- Chapter calendar</li> <li>- Chapter strategic plan</li> <li>- Academic enhancement plan</li> <li>- Chapter website updated</li> <li>- Chapter emergency response protocols</li> <li>- Signed Anti-Hazing Commitment Form</li> <li>- Certificate of liability insurance</li> <li>- New member/candidate/aspirant education plans</li> <li>- Officer transition plans (<i>chapters with fall elections</i>)</li> <li>- Record of chapter attendance and recognition received local and/or inter/national organization conference/meeting</li> <li>- Regional inter/national awards packet (<i>Either last year's completed version or current version</i>)</li> <li>- Retention percentages</li> </ul>
Membership Roster	Due 2 weeks before start of study days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Membership roster updated in OrgSync</li> </ul>
Part 2	Due the Friday before classes begin in January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Any changes in plans or documents submitted in fall semester</li> <li>- Officer transition plans (<i>chapters with spring elections</i>)</li> <li>- Community service program details for fall</li> <li>- Fundraising program details for fall</li> <li>- Record of 75% member with 10+ community service hours for fall</li> <li>- Chapter well-being &amp; safety program details for fall</li> <li>- Chapter cultural understanding program details for fall</li> <li>- Retention percentages</li> </ul>
Part 3	Due the Friday before the last week of classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Membership roster updated in OrgSync</li> <li>- Community service program details for spring</li> <li>- Fundraising program details for spring</li> <li>- Record of 75% member with 10+ community service hours for spring</li> <li>- Chapter well-being &amp; safety program details for spring</li> <li>- Chapter cultural understanding program details for spring</li> <li>- Record of 75% of chapter in non-Greek organization(s)</li> <li>- Chapter participation of 50% in 2 campus events details</li> <li>- Campus Activities Registered Student Organization Recognition</li> </ul>

Trojan Greek Awards	March 1	Trojan Greek Awards Packet
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# Trojan Greek Standards & Accreditation

## Acknowledgement Agreement

As chapter president, I understand these standards are vital to my organization's growth and success. I will ensure chapter members, alumni/ae advisors, and inter/national leadership are aware of the Trojan Greek Standards & Accreditation at the University of Southern California.

I understand chapters not meeting expectations within the Trojan Greek Standards & Accreditation process will be held accountable with additional expectations, potential limitations, or loss of recognition.

By signing below, our chapter agrees to align with the Trojan Greek Standards & Accreditation.

-----  
**Fraternity/Sorority Name**

-----  
**President Name**

-----  
**President Signature**

-----  
**Date**

## Anti-Hazing Commitment Form

As members of the Trojan Greek community, we are committed to providing a safe, healthy, and educational environment for students joining a fraternity or sorority at USC.

We certify all tasks and activities required of our new members (pledges, associate members, candidates, aspirants etc.) by our chapter or our inter/national fraternity/sorority shall comply with the University of Southern California Hazing Policy, and with local, state, and federal laws.

We shall inform our chapter's active and new members of the contents of University of Southern California Hazing Policy before any recruitment or intake activities begin.

We understand allegations of hazing will be investigated and may result in formal university charges being assigned to the organization and/or the individual(s) committing the act(s) of hazing. Any finding that hazing did occur will result in appropriate sanctions by USC and/or Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards.

We understand participation in, or knowledge of, hazing and taking no action to stop it is in effect giving our approval to haze. We understand our responsibility not to allow any members of our organization (active members, inactive members, alumni/ae, or affiliates from other institutions) to haze our new members. Failure to report any such activity of which you become aware may cause personal referral to the Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards.

Our signatures below certify that we have read, understand, and agree to abide by the University of Southern California Hazing Policy and this Anti-Hazing Commitment Form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fraternity/Sorority Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter Designation

\_\_\_\_\_  
New Member Educator  
(Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
New Member Educator  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter President  
(Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter President  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter Advisor  
(Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter Advisor  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date