Relationship Statement of Essential Requirements and Services

Middle Tennessee State University and members of fraternities and sororities recognize the significance of our interdependent relationship. We respect the educational value and student development opportunities of organizations that are striving for individual member and organizational excellence.

The success of the fraternity/sorority community is a shared responsibility between its collegiate members, governing councils, the University, Greek alumni/nae, advisors, and inter/national organizations. Using the guiding principles of fraternity and sorority shared core values, expectations listed as “essential requirements” will monitor basic chapter performance, and “recommended good practices” that foster organizational excellence. The University is committed to the success of the fraternity/sorority community and will provide advisory support and additional services to ensure our mutual success.

Chapter performance will be monitored jointly by the appropriate governing council and the Office of Greek Affairs. Sanctions and rewards will be the primary responsibility of the governing councils as defined in their constitution and bylaws, and may vary by council. All fraternities and sororities will submit an annual review document by completing the Gold Standard Assessment Report. The Gold Standard Assessment will monitor compliance with all essential requirements.

The Relationship Statement of Essential Requirements and Services is a fluid document that will evolve as our community embraces the vision, mission and shared core values of the fraternity/sorority community as the foundation for excellence.

Shared Core Values of Fraternities and Sororities

**Education** – We demonstrate academic excellence and life-long learning.

**Leadership** – We practice ethical leadership, and empower students to positively impact the University and campus community.

**Service/Philanthropy** – We give selflessly for the betterment of the campus, local, and global communities.

**Brotherhood/Sisterhood** – We foster life-long relationships and unity through respect, trust, and the ideals of the Greek Community.

**Integrity** – We endorse ethical standards and exemplary character, accountability, and values congruence.

**Diversity** – We embrace the deeper understanding and appreciation of all persons.

**Collaboration** – We cultivate inter-organizational, campus, and community partnerships.

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Essential Requirements and Recommended Good Practices identified as components in existing documents are coded as follows:

GS= Current Gold Standard Assessment requirement  
UR= Current University requirement  
SP= Strategic Plan objective  
OGA= Current Office of Greek Affairs administrative requirement

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**Education/Scholarship**

*We demonstrate academic excellence and life-long learning.*

*To this end, chapter essential requirements are:*

- Chapter maintains a GPA at or above the All Men’s/All Women’s average (GS, SP)
- Chapter maintains a New Member GPA at or above the All Men’s/All Women’s average (GS, SP)
- Chapter has a written scholarship plan with academic incentives, sanctions, and rewards (GS)
- Chapter has an active Faculty Advisor (UR/SP)

*Recommended good practices:*

- Chapter has a member in charge of scholarship/academics (GS)
- Chapter sponsors/hosts at least one program/event each semester that promotes interaction between the MTSU faculty and chapter members (GS)

*MTSU will provide the following support:*

- The Office of Greek Affairs will provide a Comprehensive Scholarship Report for the fall and spring academic semesters
- The Office of Greek Affairs will provide a GPA listing of individual chapter members for fall and spring academic semesters
- The Office of Greek Affairs will annually recognize Dean’s List chapter members (SP)
- The Office of Greek Affairs will inform chapters of campus academic resources
Leadership

We practice ethical leadership, and empowerment students to positively impact the University and campus community

To this end, chapter essential requirements are:

- Chapter President attends Presidium (UR)
- Chapter President attends monthly Presidents’ Meetings (OGA)
- Chapter President attends Greek Leadership Summit (OGA)
- Chapter has an active Alumni/nae Advisor (OGA)
- Chapter representative attends Inter/National Fraternity/Sorority local or regional meetings or conventions.

Recommended good practices:

- Chapter sends 2 emerging leaders to Blue Raider Leadership Summit (SP)

MTSU will provide the following support:

- The Office of Greek Affairs will provide a leadership honor society, Order of Omega
- The Office of Greek Affairs will provide verification of eligibility for Order of Omega
- The Office of Greek Affairs will provide leadership training for chapter presidents and governing council officers; Greek Leadership Summit.
- The Office of Leadership and Service will provide an emerging leaders retreat for potential leaders; Blue Raider Leadership Summit
- The Office of Leadership and Service will provide an annual retreat for Presidents and Governing Council Officers, Presidium
- The Center for Student Involvement and Leadership will offer a credit bearing class for Fraternity and Sorority leaders’ contingent on approval by academic unit.
- A representative of the Office of Greek Affairs will accompany governing council officers to the appropriate regional or national student leadership conferences.

Service/Philanthropy

We give selflessly for the betterment of the campus, local, and global communities.

To this end, chapter essential requirements are:

- Chapter holds at least 1 community service/philanthropy event/activity per semester (GS)
- Chapter participates in at least 1 philanthropy/community service project that was sponsored by another MTSU organization per year (GS/SP)
Recommended good practices:

- Chapter holds at least 1 philanthropic/community service project in conjunction with your organization’s national philanthropy per year (GS)
- Chapter has a member in charge of community service/philanthropy events for the chapter (GS)

MTSU will provide the following support:

- The Office of Greek Affairs will provide reporting forms for Community Service/Philanthropy tracking
- The Office of Greek Affairs will promote campus and community service/philanthropy opportunities

Brotherhood/Sisterhood

We foster life-long relationships and unity through respect, trust, and the ideals of the Greek Community.

To this end, chapter essential requirements are:

- Chapter maintains membership of at least 5 undergraduate members (UR)
- Chapter plans and holds an officer transition following elections

Recommended good practices:

- Chapter plans and holds an annual chapter retreat

MTSU will provide the following support:

- The Office of Greek Affairs will serve as a resource to chapters assisting them in developing personal and organizational excellence using the guiding principles of their shared core values.

Integrity

We endorse ethical standards and character, accountability, and values congruence.

To this end, chapter essential requirements are:

- Chapter abides by Inter/National organization’s policies and procedures (GS/UR)
- Chapter abides by MTSU’s Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook (GS/UR)
- Chapter abides by MTSU and their Inter/National organization’s Alcohol Policy (GS/UR)
- Chapter abides by MTSU and their Inter/National organization’s Hazing Policy (GS/UR)

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- All chapter’s new members sign the Hazing Agreement Form (OGA)
- President and New Member Educator/Intake Coordinator sign the Hazing Agreement Form for each new member class
- Chapter maintains liability insurance policy

**MTSU will provide the following support:**

- The Office of Greek Affairs will promote and uphold the *Student Rights and Responsibility Handbook (UR)*
- The Office of Greek Affairs will promote National Hazing Prevention Week and create programming, as necessary.
- The Office of Greek Affairs will distribute and promote the Greek Affairs’ Crisis Plan (SP)
- The Office of Greek Affairs will collaborate with other campus departments to provide relevant programming.

**Diversity**

*We embrace the deeper understanding and appreciation of all persons.*

**To this end, chapter essential requirements are:**

- Chapter honors the anti-discrimination policies set forth by their Inter/National organization and the University
- Chapter co/sponsors or attends an activity or educational event that celebrates the diverse composition of the University community, e.g., attend another council’s event, participate in events/activities sponsored by, but not limited to: Intercultural and Diversity Affairs, Disabled Student Services, Intercultural and Diversity Affairs, June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students, etc.

**MTSU will provide the following support:**

- The Office of Greek Affairs will promote campus resources for diversity education and events
- The Office of Greek Affairs will create diversity programming, as needed

**Collaboration**

*We promote inter-organizational, campus, and community partnerships.*

**To this end, chapter essential requirements are:**

- Governing Council
Chapter abides by the policies of their respective governing council (GS)
Chapter representative attends governing council’s weekly meeting (GS)
Chapter meets council financial obligations (GS)

Fraternity and Sorority Affairs
Chapter participates in another Fraternity or Sorority’s event (GS)
Chapter co-sponsors an on-campus event/activity with another Fraternity/Sorority from another council (GS)

University Relations/Campus Participation
Chapter registers as a student organization with MTSU’s Office of Leadership and Service (Fall semester) (UR)
All chapter members participate in at least 1 non-Greek, on-campus event. (GS/SP)

Office of Greek Affairs Relations
Chapter submits a New Member Roster immediately following recruitment/intake (OGA)
Chapter submits signed grade release form for all new members (OGA)
Chapter submits current chapter roster for each semester by due date (OGA)
Chapter submits Gold Standard Assessment Report by due date (GS/UR)
Chapter submits completed Dance/Party Forms 14 (fourteen) business days prior to the scheduled event. (OGA)
New Members attend New Member Education Programming (OGA)
Chapter members attend all required Gold Standard programming
NPHC/MGC chapter submits Intake paperwork, as requested (OGA)
Chapters with Housing (on and off campus)
Chapter has a member who serves as House Manager (UR)
Chapter submits a current room roster, as requested (UR)
Chapter submits a Winter Break Checklist, as requested (Greek Row only) (UR)
Chapter submits timely work requests, as needed (Greek Row only)
Chapter maintains an active House Corporation that meets with the Office of Greek Affairs at scheduled meetings (Greek Row only) (UR)
Chapter compliance with fire-life safety standards (UR)
Chapter maintains financial solvency (UR)
Chapter allows periodic facility and property walk-through and assessment (Greek Row only) (OGA)
Chapter prohibits illegal drugs on chapter property
Chapter prohibits use of alcohol on chapter property (Greek Row only; off-campus housing must follow National organization policies regarding alcohol in chapter housing) (UR)
Chapter maintains sanitary living conditions inside the house, surrounding chapter property, and Greek Row area.
Recommended good practices:

- Chapter participates in another Governing Council’s event (GS)
- Chapter co/sponsors at least 1 on-campus, publicized, open event/program per year. (GS/SP)
- All initiated Chapter members are involved in at least 1 other student organization (GS/SP)
- Chapter President schedules a meeting with Director/Coordinator of Greek Affairs to discuss goals and assess progress/problems. (GS)

MTSU will provide the following support:

- The Office of Greek Affairs will provide appropriate staffing levels to serve the size of the community
- The Office of Greek Affairs will advise all recognized governing councils
- The Office of Greek Affairs will provide a comprehensive web site
- The Office of Greek Affairs will provide a web page for each governing council
- The Office of Greek Affairs will provide a web page for each fraternity and sorority
- The Office of Greek Affairs will provide assistance to the councils in recruiting new members
- The Office of Greek Affairs will hold Chapter Advisor meetings at least twice a semester
- The Office of Greek Affairs will hold House Corporation meetings at least twice a semester
- The Office of Greek Affairs will provide New Member Education Programming each semester. (SP)
- The Office of Greek Affairs will provide required Gold Standard programming with input from chapters and governing councils.
- The Office of Greek Affairs will provide a comprehensive awards program; Greek Awards
- The Office of Greek Affairs will create a Comprehensive Annual Report, for distribution to all constituents, highlighting the status of Greek Community at MTSU. (SP)
- The Office of Greek Affairs will provide support to Greek Row

Consequences for failure to achieve requirements

- Failure to register as a student organization will result in the organization’s inactivity.
- Failure to complete Gold Standard Assessment Report by due date will result in a 30-day social probation (social privileges will be suspended) with additional probation of one week for every day the document is late; i.e. Office of Greek Affairs will not sign forms.
- Violations of Governing Council Policy will be addressed by appropriate Governing Council; policies may vary by council.
- Violations of University Policy will be addressed by Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services.
Rewards for surpassing the essential requirements

- Governing Councils will provide recognition for chapters and individual members; recognition may vary by council.
- Office of Greek Affairs will provide recognition and awards for chapter and individual members.
- Other University departments may recognize chapter and individual member excellence.

Fraternity and Sorority Review Process

- Governing Councils will monitor chapters’ and individual member’s adherence to their respective constitution and bylaws.
- All fraternities and sororities will complete an annual review process by completing the Gold Standard Assessment Report. The assessment will be reviewed and graded by the Office of Greek Affairs.

Review and Revision

Review and Revision of the relationship statement will be completed annually, or as needed, in conjunction with revision of the Gold Standard Assessment process by the Office of Greek Affairs.

Agreed to and adopted as policy:

Dr. Debra Sells, Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Enrollment and Academic Services Date

Dr. Danny Kelley, Associate Dean of Student Life Date

Angela King, Director of Greek Affairs Date

President, MTSU Interfraternity Council Date

President, MTSU Multicultural Greek Council Date

President, MTSU National Pan-Hellenic Council Date

President, MTSU Panhellenic Council Date

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