

# **Greek Chapter Accreditation Program**

## **I. Statement of Purpose**

The purpose of the Greek Chapter Accreditation Program is to ensure that our Greek associations understand the standards by which they should hold themselves accountable to promote the rich legacy and future of Greek life at Union College. The Greek Chapter Accreditation Program serves to (1) provide a clear, comprehensive set of minimum standards that each chapter must accomplish in order to establish and maintain recognition from the College, (2) provide a means through which fraternities and sororities can receive recognition for surpassing the minimum standards and their additional accomplishments, and (3) to encourage chapters to improve within their individual organizations and (4) to engage the Union College Greek community as a whole to determine the role they wish to play in the future of the College. The accreditation process is meant to provide a framework by which chapters can document their activities and successes, as well as to act as a mechanism by which chapters may be evaluated. At its core, the Greek Chapter Accreditation Program is intended to encourage quality and independence from the Union College Greek organizations so that our community may serve as a model to other Greek systems.

## **II. Statement of Tradition**

The fraternity and sorority system of Union College has acted as a community of men and women dedicated to the tradition of high standards for academic and social quality since the founding of Greek Life at the College in 1825. Union College Greek organizations support and complement the mission of the College to use our past as a source of inspiration in order to achieve academic quality, socially responsible innovation, and to act with strong ethics that reflect the values of Union College. Individually, our Greek organizations believe in and abide by the founding principles of our national organizations and our responsibilities associated with fraternity and sorority membership. Based on our commitment to tradition, the active Greek Chapters of Union College will promote individual commitment to the values of our community.

## **III. Statement of Values**

### **Independence**

- We believe in the right of self-governance of our chapter for recruitment, ritual, and leadership purposes.
- We believe in the independent governance of the Inter-fraternity Council, the Panhellenic Council, and the Multicultural Greek Council.
- We will participate fully in chapter and alumni/ae events.

### **Academic Quality**

- We believe in learning and scholarship.
- We believe in the academic mission of the College.
- We will strive to achieve the highest possible standard of academic quality and will strive to perform at or above the all-men's or all-women's grade point average.
- We will promote academic integrity and discourage academic dishonesty.

### **Social, Civic, and Ethical Responsibility**

- We will take personal responsibility and be accountable for our actions.
- We will follow all national, Inter-fraternity Council, the Panhellenic Council, and the Multicultural Greek Council risk management policies and procedures.

- We will promote positive, safe, and balanced social life.
- We will maintain and protect the reputation of our chapter and the Union College Greek community by behaving and acting respectfully of others, campus property, and personal property.
- We will bear an appropriate share of the financial burden of our chapter and the Greek community.
- We will maintain a safe and sanitary environment for our chapter's property that promotes a positive development of the community.
- We will be mindful of our role as active and ethical members of the College.

### **Diversity**

- We will promote a fraternity and sorority community that is diverse and representative of the general student body of Union College.
- We will be accepting and understanding of the differences of chapter and Greek community members.

### **Unity and Relationships**

- We believe in a common goal of contributing, supporting, and enhancing the quality of life on campus.
- We will join other student organizations and will work to become campus leaders.
- We will be lifelong members of our organization who will remain active throughout and after our college careers.
- We will be mutually supportive of other chapters and individual members.
- We believe in cooperative efforts and teamwork.

### **Service to Others**

- We believe in service to the local and global community.
- We will support and participate in activities for the benefit of our chapter's philanthropy.
- We understand and value the role of community service on our campus and within the Greek community.

### **Fun**

- We believe in the development of a Greek life experience that enhances and does not compete with the general social environment of Union College.
- We will participate in creating and organizing events that offer social opportunities for all members of the Union College community.

## **IV. Supervision and Modification of the Greek Chapter Accreditation Program**

The Greek Chapter Accreditation Program was designed and written by a committee consisting of members of the Greek and non-Greek communities of Union College. The Committee believes that the standards set forth are realistic and representative of the capabilities of our chapters. The Committee believes that the Greek Chapter Accreditation Program should be evaluated regularly after its implementation during the 2009 Winter Term. The first evaluation should occur at the beginning of the 2009 Fall Term by the Greek Awards and Accreditation Committee, Presidents of the Inter-fraternity Council, the Panhellenic Council, and the Multicultural Greek Council, and other members of the Office of Greek Affairs to ensure that the program still reflects the mission and capability of the Greek community. A second evaluation should occur the following Fall, to be followed by a report to the Senior Administration and Board of Trustees on the effectiveness and success of the program. The duties to evaluate, monitor, and recommend modifications to the Greek Chapter Accreditation Program to the Office of Greek Affairs rests with the Greek Awards and Accreditation Committee.

## **V. The Greek Chapter Accreditation Program Overview**

**1. The Accreditation Categories:** The Greek Chapters Accreditation Program focuses on eight specific categories, each of which has various qualifications necessary to meet Bronze, or minimum standards, and further qualifications in order for a chapter to be awarded Silver or Gold level recognition. The eight categories are:

- Academic Achievement
- Alumni/ae Relations
- Social Responsibility
- Campus Interaction
- Community Service and Philanthropy
- All-Greek Involvement
- Leadership Development
- Fiscal Responsibility

**2. Reviewer:** Each Chapter Accreditation packet shall be reviewed by the Director of Greek Affairs, Dean of First Year Students, and the Senior Associate Dean of Students.

## **VI. Evaluation Period**

The evaluation will cover the academic year. The accreditation process will evaluate a chapter's progress in a series of specific categories and criteria. A chapter may earn one of three levels of accreditation recognition:

1. Bronze Level Chapter – one that meets the minimum chapter standards.
2. Silver Level Chapter – one that meets and exceeds minimum chapter standards, as designated by Silver Level requirements.
3. Gold Level Chapter – one that meets and dramatically exceeds the minimum chapter standards, as designated by the Gold Level requirements.

The chapter's accreditation rating will be made available to alumni/ae and national offices, as well as published for the campus community.

## **VII. Failure to Meet Minimum Standards**

Any chapter that fails to meet the minimum standards set forth in this document will be placed on probation for two consecutive terms. Chapters which, after the probation period, still fail to meet the minimum standards will be suspended pending administrative review.

## **VIII. Appeals**

Appeals from the reviewers' decisions shall be made, in writing, directly to the Dean of Students. The appeal must clearly set forth legitimate reasons for failing to consistently meet minimum standards, a proposed plan for remediation, and a proposed time by which the minimum standards will be met. Decisions of the Dean of Students are final.

## **IX. Rewards**

Rewards for achieving Silver and Gold Level status will be determined and announced no later than April 1, 2009.

## **The Greek Chapter Accreditation Program Requirements**

The following categories will be evaluated according to the accreditation program each year:

1. Academic Achievement
2. Alumni/ae Relations
3. Social Responsibility
4. Campus Interaction
5. Community Service and Philanthropy
6. All-Greek Involvement
7. Leadership Development
8. Fiscal Responsibility

*The accreditation process is meant to provide a framework by which chapters can document their activities and successes, as well as to act as a mechanism by which chapters may be evaluated. At its core, the Greek Chapter Accreditation Program is intended to encourage quality and independence from the Union College Greek organizations so that our community may serve as a model to other Greek systems.*

### **Category 1: Academic Achievement**

*In accordance with the academic goals of Union College, the fraternity and sorority system will be held to the highest academic standards. Each chapter is expected to provide an enriching academic environment and keep academic affairs as the highest priority within the chapter.*

#### **Bronze Level Chapter Requirements**

1. **Chapter's Cumulative Grade Point Average:** must be 2.5 or higher.
2. **An Academic Program and Chair:** The Program shall include information on academic policies of the chapter, academic resources available for the members and support/consequences if a member should fall below the chapter requirements. This program shall be created and approved by the chapter and submitted to the Director of Greek Affairs no later than the third week of winter term.

#### **Silver Level Chapter Requirements**

1. Must meet the requirements of a Bronze Level Chapter, and:
2. **Chapter's Cumulative Grade Point Average:** must be minimally a 2.67 or higher.

#### **Gold Level Chapter Requirements**

1. Must meet the requirements of a Silver Level Chapter, and:
2. **Chapter's Cumulative Grade Point Average:** must be minimally a 3.0 or higher.

### **Category 2: Alumni/ae Relations**

*Union College recognizes the benefit of maintaining strong collaborative relationships with alumni/ae and therefore encourages all Greek chapters to actively develop relations with alumni/ae.*

#### **Bronze Level Chapter Requirements**

1. Each chapter will have an active member who holds the position of **alumni relations chair**.
2. Each chapter will publish an **alumni newsletter at least once per academic year**.

#### **Silver Level Chapter Requirements**

1. Must meet the requirements of a Bronze Level Chapter, and:
2. Each chapter will publish an **alumni newsletter at least twice per academic year**.

#### **Gold Level Chapter Requirements**

1. Must meet the requirements of a Silver Level Chapter, and:
2. Each chapter will publish an **alumni newsletter at least three times per academic year**.

3. Each chapter will participate in an **alumni event** at least **once per academic year** to take place on campus.
4. Each chapter will have an **alumni representative** with whom the alumni chair will maintain contact with at least **once a trimester**.

### **Category 3: Social Responsibility**

#### **Bronze Level Chapter Requirements**

1. Each chapter must abide by the rules and regulations set forth by Inter-fraternity Council, the Panhellenic Council, and the Multicultural Greek Council for social events.
2. The chapter may not be found responsible or accept responsibility for more than **6 separate occasions** of alcohol violations per academic term
3. The chapter must not be found responsible for or accept responsibility for more than **4 separate occasions** of risk management violations per academic term.
4. Chapter must host a minimum of **one** registered social event per year that is **alcohol-free** and open to the entire campus.

#### **Silver Level Chapter Requirements**

1. Must meet the requirements of a Bronze Level Chapter, and:
2. The chapter may not be found responsible or accept responsibility for more than **4 separate occasions** of alcohol violations per academic term
3. The chapter must not be found responsible for accept responsibility for more than **3 separate occasions** of risk management violations per academic term.

#### **Gold Level Chapter Requirements**

1. Must meet the requirements of a Silver Level Chapter, and:
2. The chapter may not be found responsible or accept responsibility for more than **2 separate occasions** of alcohol violations per academic term
3. The chapter must not be found responsible for accept responsibility for more than **1 occasion** of risk management violation per academic term.
4. Chapter must host a minimum of **one** registered social event per term that is **alcohol-free** and open to the entire campus.

### **Category 4: Campus Interaction**

#### **Bronze Level Chapter Requirements**

1. Chapter must provide evidence that all members must attend a **school-sponsored event** minimally **once a term**.
2. Chapter must show that at least **25% of members** actively participate in at least one other club, sport, or organization on campus.

#### **Silver Level Chapter Requirements**

1. Must meet the requirements of a Bronze Level Chapter, and:
2. Chapter must show that at least **50% of members** actively participate in at least one other club, sport, or organization on campus.
3. Chapter must **co-sponsor** at least **one campus-wide event per academic year**.

#### **Gold Level Chapter Requirements**

1. Must meet the requirements of a Silver Level Chapter, and:

2. Chapter must show that at least **75% of members** actively participate in at least one other club, sport, or organization on campus.
3. Chapter must **sponsor** at least **one campus-wide event per academic year**.

### **Category 5: Community Service and Philanthropy**

*Each Greek organization at Union College is expected to partake in active community service duties. As a collective group, chapters should engage their leadership efforts toward community service functions each year. The purpose of community service is to show how the chapter can make a significant impact on others. All community service events or functions must take place throughout the academic year, they cannot be part of an academic course, nor can they be for the monetary profit of the chapter.*

#### **Bronze Level Chapter Requirements**

1. Chapter must show that a majority of members independently participate in volunteer hours throughout the academic year.
2. Chapters must organize and host at least **two** philanthropic events per academic year.
3. Chapters must raise a minimum of **\$400.00** for the benefit of established charity organizations throughout the academic year. In lieu of raising funds, chapters may use an event to collect supplies, donations, shoes, etc to satisfy this requirement.

#### **Silver Level Chapter Requirements**

1. Must meet the requirements of a Bronze Level Chapter, and:
2. Chapters must organize and host at least **three** philanthropic events per academic year.
3. Chapters must raise a minimum of **\$600.00** for the benefit of established charity organizations throughout the academic year. In lieu of raising funds, chapters may use an event to collect supplies, donations, shoes, etc to satisfy this requirement.

#### **Gold Level Chapter Requirements**

1. Must meet the requirements of a Silver Level Chapter, and:
2. Chapters must organize and host at least **four** philanthropic events per academic year.
3. Chapters must raise a minimum of **\$800.00** for the benefit of established charity organizations throughout the academic year. In lieu of raising funds, chapters may use an event to collect supplies, donations, shoes, etc to satisfy this requirement.

### **Category 6: All-Greek Involvement**

#### **Bronze Level Chapter Requirements**

1. Chapter must elect a qualified member to serve on Inter-fraternity Council, the Panhellenic Council, and the Multicultural Greek Council, attend all required meetings, and report back to their chapter about information relevant to all Greeks.
2. Chapter must have at least **25%** of members in attendance at events hosted by the whole Greek community, excluding weekend social events (e.g. Greek Week events, Greek Awards Ceremony).

#### **Silver Level Chapter Requirements**

1. Must meet the requirements of a Bronze Level Chapter, and:
2. Chapter must have at least **50%** of members in attendance at events hosted by the whole Greek community, excluding weekend social events (e.g. Greek Week events, Greek Awards Ceremony).

#### **Gold Level Chapter Requirements**

1. Must meet the requirements of a Silver Level Chapter, and:

- Chapter must have at least **75%** of members in attendance at events hosted by the whole Greek community, excluding weekend social events (e.g. Greek Week events, Greek Awards Ceremony).
- Chapter must have active representation on the Greek Week Committee.

### **Category 7: Leadership Development**

#### **Bronze Level Chapter Requirements**

- Chapter leaders and/or members must attend all mandatory Greek Leadership Development Functions as required by the Office of Greek Affairs and/or the appropriate governing council.

#### **Silver Level Chapter Requirements**

- Must meet the requirements of a Bronze Level Chapter, and:
- Chapter must provide evidence of their participation in a National Greek Leadership Conference or an alternative Leadership Conference.

#### **Gold Level Chapter Requirements**

- Must meet the requirements of a Silver Level Chapter, and:
- Chapter must host a Leadership Development Session for their members at least once per academic year.

### **Category 8: Fiscal Responsibility**

#### **Bronze Level Chapter Requirements**

- Chapter must meet all financial responsibilities by stated deadlines. This includes council dues (IFC, MGC, Panhel), annual insurance payments, event services fees, and outside contracts.
- Chapter must adhere to all Greek Affairs financial policies (i.e. submitting receipts, returning Greek Affairs credit card 24 hours after sign-out).

#### **Silver Level Chapter Requirements**

- Chapter must meet all Bronze Level requirements, and:
- Maintain a positive balance in the Chapter's general operating account maintained by Union College.

#### **Gold Level Chapter Requirements**

- Chapter must meet all Silver Level requirements, and:
- Actively engage in fundraising efforts to increase available funds in the Chapter operating accounts, and, if applicable, the house renovation account.

### **The Greek Chapters Accreditation Program Overall Level Qualification**

As a means of rewarding the efforts of Union College's Greek organizations, the Greek Chapters Accreditation Program designates Bronze Medal, Silver Medal, and Gold Medal status based on overall achievement within all of the Accreditation categories. Under this Medal designation, Bronze Level achievement in any of the Accreditation categories will be awarded one (1) point, Silver Level achievement will be awarded two (2) points, and Gold Level achievement will be awarded three (3) points.

To be designated as a Bronze Medal Chapter, the organization must have completed all Bronze Level requirements for each of the Accreditation categories and have earned at least eight (8) points.

To be designated as a Silver Medal Chapter, the organization must have completed at least all Bronze Level requirements for each of the Accreditation categories and have earned at least thirteen (13) points.

To be designated as a Gold Medal Chapter, the organization must have completed at least all Bronze Level Requirements for each of the Accreditation categories and have earned at least twenty-one (21) points.