

## Relationship Statement of Essential Requirements and Services

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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 Fraternity and Sorority Life. Sanctions and rewards will be the primary responsibility of the governing councils as defined in their constitution and bylaws, and may vary by council. The university will additionally sanction any violations of university policy. All fraternities and sororities will submit an annual presentation within the True Blue Accreditation requirements. FSL Staff 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

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**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 FSL 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.

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

TBA = True Blue Accreditation requirement/suggestion

UR = Current University requirement

SP = Strategic Plan objective

OFSL = Current Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life administrative requirement

### **Essential Requirements**

### **Recommended Good Practices**

### **MTSU Support**

### **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
- Chapter maintains a New Member GPA at or above the All Men's/All Women's average
- Chapter must have a minimum yearly GPA of 2.5. (TBA)
- Chapter has a written scholarship plan with academic incentives, sanctions, and rewards (SP)
- Chapter has an active Faculty Advisor (UR)

*Recommended good practices:*

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

*MTSU will provide the following support:*

- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will provide a Comprehensive Scholarship Report for the fall and spring academic semesters
- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will provide a GPA listing of individual chapter members for fall and spring academic semesters
- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will annually recognize Dean's List chapter members
- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will inform chapters of campus academic resources
- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will provide an honor society, Order of Omega
- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will provide verification of eligibility for Order of Omega

### **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 (FSL)

- Chapter President attends FSL Presidents' Summit (FSL)
- Chapter elected officers attend FSL Academy (FSL)
- Chapter plans and holds an officer transition following elections
- Chapter has an active Alumni/nae Advisor (FSL)
- Chapter representative attends Inter/National Fraternity/Sorority local or regional meetings or conventions.

*Recommended good practices:*

- Chapter sends 2 emerging leaders to The Bridge (TBA)
- Chapter encourages its members to join at least one outside organization.

*MTSU will provide the following support:*

- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will provide leadership training for chapter presidents and governing council officers – FSL Presidents' Summit, FSL Academy, Governing Council Work Days.
- The Office of Student Organizations and Service will provide an emerging leaders retreat for potential leaders - The Bridge
- The Office of Student Organizations and Service will provide an annual retreat for Presidents and Governing Council Officers - Presidium
- A representative of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will accompany governing council officers to the appropriate regional or national student leadership conferences – AFLV Central

**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 (TBA)
- Chapter participates in at least 1 philanthropy/community service project that was sponsored by another MTSU organization per year (TBA)

*Recommended good practices:*

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

*MTSU will provide the following support:*

- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will track Community Service hours and Philanthropy dollars raised through the Annual Report
- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life 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 FSL Community.***To this end, chapter essential requirements are:*

- Chapter maintains membership of at least 5 undergraduate members (UR)

*Recommended good practices:*

- Chapter plans and holds an annual chapter retreat

*MTSU will provide the following support:*

- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life 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 (UR)
- Chapter abides by MTSU's *Student Code of Conduct* (UR/TBA)
- Chapter abides by MTSU and their Inter/National organization's Alcohol Policy (UR/FSL)
- Chapter abides by MTSU and their Inter/National organization's Hazing Policy (UR/FSL)
- All chapter's new members sign the Hazing Agreement Form (FSL)
- President and New Member Educator/Intake Coordinator sign the Hazing Agreement Form for each new member class (FSL)
- Chapter officers participate in trainings including social event training and new member educators training (TBA)
- Chapter maintains liability insurance policy

*MTSU will provide the following support:*

- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will promote and uphold the *Student Code of Conduct* (UR)
- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will provide trainings related to specific officer areas including social event training and new member educators training
- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will promote National Hazing Prevention Week and create programming, as necessary.
- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will promote National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week and create programming, as necessary.
- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life 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, June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students, etc. (TBA)

*MTSU will provide the following support:*

- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will promote campus resources for diversity education and events
- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life 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 (FSL)
  - Chapter representative attends governing council's weekly meeting (FSL)
  - Chapter meets council financial obligations (FSL)
- Fraternity and Sorority Relations
  - Chapter participates in another fraternity or sorority's event (TBA)
  - Chapter co-sponsors an on-campus event/activity with another fraternity/sorority from another council (TBA)
- University Relations/Campus Participation
  - Chapter registers as a student organization with MTSU's Office of Student Organizations and Service through MyMT (Fall semester) (UR)
  - All chapter members participate in at least 1 non-Greek, on-campus event.
- Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life
  - Chapter submits a New Member Roster immediately following recruitment/intake (FSL)
  - Chapter submits signed grade release form for all new members (FSL)
  - Chapter submits current chapter roster for each semester by due date (FSL)
  - Chapter schedules TBA Presentation by deadline. (FSL/TBA)
  - New Members attend New Member Education Programming (FSL)
  - Chapter members attend all required True Blue Accreditation programming (TBA)
  - NPHC chapter submits Intake paperwork, as requested (FSL)
- 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 timely work requests, as needed (Greek Row only)
- 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) (FSL)
- 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 (TBA)
- Chapter co/sponsors at least 1 on-campus, publicized, open event/program per year.
- All initiated Chapter members are involved in at least 1 other student organization
- Chapter President schedules a meeting with Director/Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life to discuss goals and assess progress/problems (TBA)

*MTSU will provide the following support:*

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

**Consequences for failure to achieve requirements**

- Failure to register as a student organization through MyMT will result in the organization's inactivity.
- Failure to complete True Blue Accreditation Presentation by deadline will in an automatic Does Not Meet

Expectations status.

- Violations of Governing Council Policy will be addressed by appropriate Governing Council with the exception of the NPHC which will be handled by the Office of FSL; policies may vary by council.
- Violations of University Policy will be addressed by Student Conduct.

### **Rewards for surpassing the essential requirements**

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- Governing Councils will provide recognition for chapters and individual members; recognition may vary by council.
- Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life 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**

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- 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 True Blue Accreditation presentation. The presentation will be evaluated by the TBA Committee comprised of MTSU faculty and staff.

### **Review and Revision**

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Review and Revision of the relationship statement will be completed annually, or as needed, in conjunction with revision of the True Blue Accreditation process by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.