



TO W E R O F E X C E L L E N C E
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Introduction

The purpose of the **Lander Tower of Excellence Program** is to establish standards to ensure that every fraternal organization at Lander University is fully committed to providing the highest quality student experience for each of its members, with particular emphasis on academic achievement and campus involvement as defined by each organization.

Lander University believes this program will form a basic standard for all fraternal organizations and assist in supporting each organization's development. The Lander Tower of Excellence Program will provide a framework for self-assessment, individual and group accountability, greater achievement of organizational goals, and the development of programs and practices that will lead to substantial enrichment of the fraternity and sorority experience. This program recognizes and rewards those organizations that consistently exceed expectations as well as provides guidance and support to those organizations that fail to meet the expectations of the University and the Greek Community.

Time Frame

The Lander Tower of Excellence will be based on the **Calendar Year** and run from the 1st day of Spring Semester to November 1st of each year. There are two submission dates: May 13 and November 1. All submissions (with the exception of documentation provided by the OFSL) will be **due by November 1 of each year*****. All submissions must be submitted electronically via Presence.

All individual award nominations are due at time by November 1 via the using the link below. All awards nominations must be submitted electronically, and nominations open September 1.

**** Specific Items that are time sensitive will be due throughout the year. These items and due dates will be provided at the start of (or throughout) each semester.*

Assessment

Chapters will receive several means of assessment for the Lander Tower of Excellence Program. Chapters will be informed whether they met the standard requirement within the first two weeks of the following Spring Semester.

1). **Requirements Met** – Chapters must complete the requirements for each category to meet the minimum requirements. Chapters who fail to meet the standard requirement will be placed on Advisory or Restrictive Status at the time of notification.

1st Year Minimum Requirements Not Met = LEVEL 1 “Advisory Status”

Chapter executive board will participate in regular meetings with the Coordinator of Student Life for Fraternities and Sororities or their designee in order to work toward meeting minimum standards by end of the second year. At these meetings, strategies for success will be negotiated between the executive board and the Coordinator as well as establish deadlines to manage requirements throughout year 2.

2nd Year Minimum Requirements Not Met = LEVEL 2 “Restrictive Status”

Chapter will be placed on restrictive status and participate in regular meetings with the Coordinator of Student Life for Fraternities and Sororities or their designee in order to work toward meeting minimum standards by end of the third year. The Director of Student Life, the Coordinator of Student Life for Fraternities and Sororities, the chapter president, and the chapter advisor will determine the specifics of the restrictive status. This may include suspending social privileges or participation in university sponsored events (Greek Week, Homecoming, FSL Awards, etc.).

3rd Year Minimum Requirements Not Met = LEVEL 3

The Director of Student Life will evaluate student organization recognition of the chapter after not meeting standards for three years.

2). **Feedback** – Chapters will be provided with feedback from the Coordinator of Student Life for Fraternities and Sororities on each of their submitted categories (suggestions for improvement, potential resources, etc.) upon request. This will allow chapters to strive for excellence in all categories each year.

3). **Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) Awards** – Chapter Awards will be based on submissions from the Lander Tower of Excellence Program, awarded during the Fall Semester.

Chapter Awards

The Chapter Awards recognize outstanding achievement in specific areas of chapter operations.

Excellence Awards – Excellence Awards recognize a chapter who has achieved a high level of excellence in the specific category. An award is given for each of the eight categories.

- Excellence in Academics Award
- Excellence in Leadership Award
- Excellence in Risk Management Award
- Excellence in Chapter Membership
- Award Excellence in Interfraternalism
- Award Excellence in Service Award
- Excellence in Engagement Award
- Excellence in Management Award

Lander Awards of Distinction – the Lander Awards of Distinction are the highest honor and may be awarded to one chapter of each council per year. This award takes into consideration all categories.

Note: General performance by the organization, Greek Week and Homecoming Week sportsmanship, as well as conduct records will also be taken into consideration when bestowing these awards.

Individual Awards

The Individual Awards are presented each year to community members who have demonstrated outstanding achievements as either an officer, leaders or volunteer for the Greek Community and the University. Awards may be given recognition of one member per council. Chapters will submit separate applications for Individual Awards during the Fall Semester, and can submit multiple applications for each award, if applicable.

Chapter President of the Year

These influential student leaders have gone beyond to improve both their individual chapter and the Greek community. This man or woman will have demonstrated worthiness in overcoming great odds or in pushing their chapter to new heights. This may be awarded per governing council.

Chapter Officer of the Year

This student leader has performed above and beyond the call of duty as a chapter officer. The recipient must be nominated by his or her chapter and has served as an executive officer of his or her organization. This may be awarded per governing council.

Council Member of the Year

These dedicated student leaders have gone above and beyond to serve their council and leave a lasting impact on the Greek community. This man or woman will have demonstrated worthiness in taking their position or council to new heights. Applicants must have served in an elected or appointed position on the Collegiate Panhellenic Association, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, or Greek Week Committee. This may be awarded per governing council/committee.

Rising Star of the Year

This award is presented annually to the Greek underclassmen man or woman who has shown great leadership potential in their chapter or council. They have shown initiative, leadership, and dedication regardless of role in chapter and have inspired others with their desire to better the Greek community.

Outstanding New Member of the Year

Outstanding New Member of the Year recognizes a member who has been initiated within the last year and is actively involved in contributing time and energy to learning leadership and bettering out Greek community. This may be awarded per governing council.

Outstanding Senior of the Year

Outstanding Senior of the Year recognizes a senior leader who has continued to carry out what it means to be Greek even as their time as a collegiate ends. This may be award per governing council.

Selfless Helper Award

The Selfless Helper Award is presented to a student who has exemplified a commitment to enhancing campus life through their behind the scene involvement in the Greek Community. This may be awarded per governing council.

Campus Involvement Award

The Campus Involvement Award recognizes individuals in the Greek community for demonstrating excellence in involvement in the greater college community, for activities not necessarily related to Greek Life. This may be awards per governing council.

Exemplary Values Award

The Exemplary Values Award recognizes individuals who live their chapter's values and principles as described by their ritual and challenge the chapter and community members to do the same. Examples include combating hazing, challenging the Greek Life stereotypes, supporting education programs, etc. This may be awarded per governing council

FSL Advisor of the Year

The FSL Advisor of the Year Award recognizes the efforts of the volunteers that give of their time and talents to our chapters and the Greek Community.

Faculty Mentor of the Year

The Faculty Mentor of the Year Award recognizes the efforts of the faculty/staff members that give of their time and talents to our chapters and the Greek Community.

Lander Tower of Excellence

The Director of Student Life or their designee holds the right to waive any of the below requirements or accept an alternate submission when it deems appropriate.

Chapters may request to demonstrate excellence in a category through different means by submitting a proposal for approval to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life prior to the deadline of submission.

1). ACADEMICS

Chapters must fulfill at least **one** of the following requirements:

- Chapter's Spring GPA equals or exceeds the all University GPA.
 - **Documentation: OFSL will provide documentation.*
- Chapter's Fall GPA equals or exceeds the all University GPA.
 - **Documentation: OFSL will provide documentation.*

Chapters must fulfill at least **three** of the following requirements:

- **Academic Success Plan** – Have a written academic success/chapter scholarship program for initiated and new members.
 - **Documentation: Submit a copy of the written academic success plan through Presence-Tower of Excellence Submission Form. May be inter/national program but must demonstrate localization to the Lander University chapter.*
- **Academic Success Presentation** – Chapters will be awarded for academic related presentations hosted with at least 60% attendance of the entire chapter. Presentations should be conducted by a trained presenter (i.e. University staff, faculty, or peer facilitator, etc.) and may include, but is not limited to, the following topics: study abroad, study skills, time management, graduate school presentations, alumni mentor program, career development, etc. Other topics should be cleared by the OFSL prior to being scheduled.
 - ** Documentation: Register the event on PRESENCE (scan in members).*
- **Individual Member Standards** – Establish and enforce minimum individual expectations for academic performance and make use of a process of constructive activities to identify and help those members who fail to meet the standard.
 - **Documentation: Submit a description of standards, enforcement mechanisms, and assistance programs through Presence-Tower of Excellence Submission Form. Must also provide chapter advisor information to verify that the requirements are enforced and that an academic assistance program has been utilized.*
- **Faculty/ Staff Advisor** – Have an active Lander University faculty/staff member as a mentor.
 - **Documentation: Submit a document with 1). The faculty/staff advisor's name, department, campus address, campus phone, and email 2). Written job description outlining the role and/or duties of the faculty/staff advisor, and 3). Brief statement from the faculty/staff advisor documenting how the mentor was involved with the chapter through Presence-Tower of Excellence Submission Form*
- **Scholastic Achievement Event** – Chapter hosts an event that recognizes scholastic achievement and accomplishments among members.

- ** Documentation: Register the event on PRESENCE (scan in members).*

2). LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Chapters must fulfill the following requirements:

- **Lander Leadership Conference**-The chapter has at least two representatives participating in the Lander Leadership Summit in the fall semester.
 - **Documentation: OFSL will provide documentation.*
- **DSL Organization Executive Board Workshop**-The chapter has 80% of their executive board participating in the fall semester.
 - **Documentation: OFSL will provide documentation.*
- **OFSL Leadership Conference**-The chapter has 100% of their executive board participating in the spring semester.
 - **Documentation: OFSL will provide documentation.*

Chapters must fulfill **five** of the following requirements:

- **Campus Involvement** – All Chapter members are involved in at least one other campus organization or work 10+ hours/week within a campus department.
 - **Documentation: Chapter should provide a list of members and their involvements, including all leadership positions held. Chapter advisor must sign to verify approval. Submissions should be sent through Presence-Tower of Excellence Submission Form.*
- **Bearcat Pride** – Chapters have at least 75% of active members attend the same sponsored athletic event through the Department of Athletics during BOTH the fall and spring semesters.
 - **Documentation: Register the event on PRESENCE (scan in members).*
- **Workshops/Programs** – Chapter hosts a leadership development workshop or program with a minimum of 60% attendance of the chapter.
 - **Documentation: Register the event on PRESENCE (scan in members).*
- **Chapter Leadership Retreat** – Chapter hosts a leadership development or goal setting retreat with a minimum of 80% attendance of the chapter.
 - **Documentation: Register the event on PRESENCE (scan in members).*
- **Officer Transitions** – Chapter hosts an Officer Transition retreat/meeting to successfully transition new officers. **This is separate from a Chapter Leadership Retreat as detailed above.**
 - **Documentation: Submit a Presence-Tower of Excellence Submission. Attach a copy of the meeting minutes.*
- **National Involvement** – Chapter has at least two members attend a regional or national workshops/programs/institutes hosted by an Inter/National organization each year. (Convention/Drive-Ins, UIFI, LeaderShape, SEIFC, CCWL, etc.)
 - **Documentation: Submit a Presence- Tower of Excellence Submission. Members should submit a one-page reflection on their experience: Include name, program attended, dates, etc. Please include an agenda of events or program.*
- **Greek to Grad: Connecting Classroom to Career**- The chapter ensures that at least 50% of their senior membership participates/participated in the graduate engagement

program coordinated by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

**Documentation: OSFL will provide documentation.*

3). RISK MANAGEMENT

Chapters must fulfill the following requirement:

- **Greek Athlete Program**- The chapter participates Greek/Athlete Program sponsored by the university with at least 80% chapter attendance at the program in both the spring and fall semesters.
 - **Documentation: OFSL will provide documentation.*
- **Social Event Risk Management Workshop**- *The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will sponsor the workshop during the fall and spring semester. The workshop is facilitated by the Director of Student Life, or their designee with 100% of the executive board in attendance.*
 - **Documentation: OFSL will provide documentation.*
- **Mental Health Wellness Program Speaker**- *The chapter attends one mental health speaker with at least 80% of the members in attendance. The program may be facilitated by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.*
 - ** Documentation: OFSL will provide documentation.*

Chapters must fulfill at least **five** of the following requirements:

- **Risk Management Representative** - The chapter has an elected/appointed risk management officer/chair/representative whose duties include, but are not limited to, coordinating risk management programs, overseeing chapter functions, being responsible for adherence to the University, local chapter, and (inter)national risk management policies, and if applicable, fire code/safety compliance.
 - **Documentation: Submit a copy of the section's bylaws that indicate the duties of the position through PRESENCE: Tower of Excellence Submission Form. Include the name of the member(s) who held the position during the year.*
- **Risk Management Plan** – The chapter has a written risk management plan that addresses how the Risk Manager executes chapter safety and well-being.
 - **Documentation: Submit a copy of the risk management plan through PRESENCE: Tower of Excellence Submission Form. May be the inter/national plan, but must demonstrate localization by the Lander University chapter.*
- **Chapter Code of Conduct** - The chapter has a written Code of Conduct or membership contract, which includes member expectations regarding alcohol and drugs, hazing, fighting and other risk management issues.
 - **Documentation: Submit a copy of the Code of Conduct through PRESENCE: Tower of Excellence Submission Form, along with a statement of compliance signed by each chapter member annually.*
- **Chapter Judicial/Standards Board** - The chapter has an internal discipline board or process that handles violations of the chapter's Code of Conduct. It is strongly recommended that an advisor be part of the process or aware of the actions of the board.
 - **Documentation: Submit a copy of the chapter's judicial procedures and sanctioning guidelines or a brief description of the chapter's process for internal discipline through PRESENCE: Tower of Excellence Submission Form.*
- **Alcohol Education Session** - The chapter sponsors/attends one alcohol-awareness

- related program with at least 80% chapter attendance at the program.
 - **Documentation: Register the event on PRESENCE (scan in members).*
- **Beyond Abuse Educational Program**- The chapter sponsors or co-sponsors an educational program with a representative from Beyond Abuse on sexual violence awareness, advocacy, and action with at least 60% of chapter membership in attendance.
 - ** Documentation: Register the event on PRESENCE (scan in members).*
- **Hazing Prevention Week** –80% or more of the chapter attends two or more events sponsored in the Hazing Prevention Week program.
 - **Documentation: OFSL will provide documentation.*
- **General Risk Management Session** – The chapter sponsors/attends one risk management related program with at least 80% chapter attendance at each program. (Topics could include alcohol/drug issues, hazing issues, fire safety, crisis management, bystander training, etc.)
 - ** Documentation: Register the event on PRESENCE (scan in members).*

4). RECRUITMENT & MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

Chapters must fulfill the following requirements:

- **Recruitment/ Intake Plan** - The chapter has a written recruitment/intake program/plan. This program/plan should include a description of recruitment/intake preparation, standards for membership, and dates and descriptions of any recruitment/intake events.
 - **Documentation: A rush/recruitment/interest meeting flyer or schedule will suffice by submitting a Presence-Tower of Excellence Submission.*
- **New Member Development Program** – The chapter has a new member development program for new member education.
 - **Documentation: Submit a calendar of new member education events and activities per semester where applicable through PRESENCE: Tower of Excellence Submission Form.*

Chapters must fulfill at least **two** of the following requirements:

- **Member Development Program** – The chapter has a member development program for continuing education among all members.
 - **Documentation: Submit description of program through PRESENCE: Tower of Excellence Submission Form. Note- guidelines for this is typically provided by your national organization.*
- **Fall Chapter Development Event** - Host, co-host, sponsor, or co-sponsor a personal development educational program per semester, with a minimum of 60% attendance of the chapter at each program. Acceptable programs include but are not limited to Brotherhood/Sisterhood Retreat, leadership development, personal financial management, service learning, career development, campus involvement, social etiquette, values and ethics, etc.
 - **Documentation: Register the event on PRESENCE (scan in members).*
- **Spring Chapter Development Event** - Host, co-host, sponsor, or co-sponsor a personal development educational program per semester, with a minimum of 60% attendance of the chapter at each program. Acceptable programs include but are not limited to Brotherhood/Sisterhood Retreat, leadership development, personal financial management, service learning, career development, campus involvement, social etiquette, values and ethics, etc.
 - **Documentation: Register the event on PRESENCE (scan in members).*

5). INTERFRATERNALISM & CULTURAL AWARENESS

Chapters must fulfill the following requirement:

- **Cultural Awareness Education Program** - Host, co-host, sponsor, or co-sponsor a diversity education program, with a minimum of 60% attendance of the chapter at each program. Acceptable programs include but are not limited to multiculturalism education, racial/ethnic education, LGBTQ Safe Zone training, etc.
 - **Documentation: Register the event on PRESENCE (scan in members).*

Chapters must fulfill **two** of the following requirements:

- **Council Programming** – Host a non-alcoholic event with an organization of the same council.
 - **Documentation: Register the event on PRESENCE (scan in members).*
- **All-Greek Programming** – Host a non-alcoholic event with an organization of a different council (NPHC, IFC, & CPC).
 - **Documentation: Register the event on PRESENCE (scan in members).*
- **Community Programming** – Host a non-alcoholic event with a student organization on campus or an organization in the Lander community.
 - **Documentation: Register the event on PRESENCE (scan in members).*

6). COMMUNITY SERVICE & PHILANTHROPY

Chapters must fulfill the following requirement:

- **Community Service** – The chapter establishes and encourages a community service requirement for each member of the chapter.
 - **Documentation: Submit a copy of the Community Service requirement and a list of all completed service hours (by member) through PRESENCE: Tower of Excellence Submission Form.*

Chapters must fulfill **three** of the following requirements:

- **Chapter Service Project** – At least 60% of the chapter participates in a chapter-wide community service project.
 - **Documentation: Submit a summary of the service project, a list of the members who participated, with contact information of the representative from the benefiting organization. Chapters should also submit a service project request form and receive approval. Forms should be submitted through PRESENCE with the Department of Student Life.*
- **Philanthropy Event** – The chapter plans an activity that raises money for a not-for-profit organization.
 - **Documentation: Submit a summary of the philanthropy event and the contribution to the benefiting organization via the Fundraising Summary Form. Chapters must submit complete the fundraiser request form and seek approval. Forms should be submitted through PRESENCE with the Department of Student Life.*
- **Campus Service Involvement-Moonshine Run** – At least 50% of the chapter participates in the Moonshine Run. To participate, chapter members may volunteer working for the event or participating in the run itself.
 - **Documentation: Submit through PRESENCE: Tower of Excellence Submission Form*
- **Campus Service Involvement- Service Saturday** – At least 50% of the chapter participates during the Habitat for Humanity at the Lander build site.
 - **Documentation: Submit through PRESENCE: Tower of Excellence Submission Form*

7). ALUMNI & PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Chapter must fulfill **two** of the following requirements:

- **Alumni Event** – Chapter hosts an event targeted towards alumni.

- **Documentation: Register the event on PRESENCE (scan in members).*
- **Alumni Newsletter** – Chapter produces an alumni newsletter at least once per semester.
 - **Documentation: Submit a copy of the newsletters through PRESENCE: Tower of Excellence Submission Form.*
- **Parent Event** – Chapter hosts an event targeted towards parents/families.
 - **Documentation: Register the event on PRESENCE (scan in members).*

8).CHAPTER MANAGEMENT

Chapters must fulfill the following requirements:

- Submit a copy of the chapter’s Constitution and By-Laws (Department of Student Life- Annual Registration/Transition will be announced by the Department of Student Life).
- Submit the Treasurer Report and Budget.
- Submit Chapter Goals and Objectives.
- Submit Chapter Leadership Contact Information Sheet (each semester).
- Submit chapter grade release sheet with member signatures (each semester).
- Submit all necessary recruitment/intake and new member education forms to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life (each semester as needed).
- Chapter presidents schedule and attend bi-weekly meetings with the director of Fraternity and Sorority Life each semester.
- Have at least 90% attendance at Fraternity and Sorority Life 101-New Member Education.
- Have a representative at weekly-designated council meetings.
- Chapter presidents attend each monthly Greek President’s Council (GPC) meeting.
- Attend 80% of the bi-weekly meetings with the Coordinator of Student Life for Fraternities and Sororities or their designee.

OVERALL SELF-ASSESSMENT

- 1). How does your chapter currently demonstrate your organizational values?
- 2). What category do you feel is your chapter’s biggest strength?
- 3). What category do you feel your chapter needs to most improve?
- 4). What has been your chapter’s biggest achievement this year?
- 5). What has been your chapter’s biggest challenge this year? What steps have you taken to tackle this challenge?
- 6). What is your chapter’s contribution to the Fraternity and Sorority Community, Lander University, the city of Greenwood, and the fraternal movement?

**Chapter leaders should complete this section through PRESENCE form-Tower for Excellence Self-Assessment; questions should be answered in paragraph form.*

Appropriate Links

[FSL Award Nominations](#)

[Tower of Excellence Submission Form](#)

[Tower of Excellence Self-Assessment Form](#)