

**WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE
2024 CHAPTER ACCREDITATION PACKET**

EVALUATION PERIOD: January 2024 - December 2024

Chapter Statuses will be publicly published on our website under Accountability.

**For member chapters of the WIU Fraternity and Sorority Community
Accreditation Program Purpose and Overview**

The purpose of the Western Illinois University Fraternity and Sorority Life Chapter Accreditation Program is designed to gather information about the excellent work our community is doing. The information gathered will be immensely valuable. First, this will give our council leadership and staff that support the community important information to develop more intentional programs, workshops, and opportunities to help each chapter continue to improve. Second, it is our hope that this program will provide a spark to help each member, chapter, and council continue to elevate themselves to new heights. This packet outlines the basic expectations of fraternities and sororities at Western Illinois University. In addition, this program allows and challenges chapters in monitoring and improve their own activity and performance through recognition. The accreditation criteria have been found to promote a healthy foundation for fraternities and sororities.

The requirements are based upon the core values & learning outcomes of the Western Illinois University fraternity and sorority community; leadership, scholarship, friendship, accountability, unity, community involvement, diversity, and inclusion.

Revisions to this program are made annually by chapter representatives, along with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Input from all members of FSL is encouraged and appreciated.



Community Values & Learning Outcomes:

Leadership

Fraternity and Sorority Life provide students with a wide variety of leadership opportunities. Members can participate within their chapter as an officer or on one of three governing councils, Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, and United Greek Council. Our fraternities and sororities encourage active participation in leadership experiences within and outside of our community. We believe in leading by example by exemplifying the values upon which we were founded.

Scholarship

Our community supports and believes in academic excellence. FSL and each chapter maintain grade point average (GPA) requirements for individuals looking to join and maintain membership. Additionally, in regard to housing releases for FSL chapters, chapters must achieve a semester GPA of 2.75 and members must receive a 2.5 cumulative GPA to be eligible. To assure continuing academic growth, chapters and councils provide scholastic assistance through various academic plans including study hours, tutoring, study groups specific to majors, and educational programming.

Community Service

The opportunity to give is one of the most rewarding experiences in our community. We believe that it is a rewarding part of the human experience to work together to help others. By striving to raise awareness of social issues throughout the community, we make service a part of the way we live and part of who we are.

True Friendship

Being a member of a fraternity or sorority creates deep bonds of friendship and loyalty that provide an individual with a sense of family throughout their lifetime. We believe that the true friendship associated with fraternity and sorority life moves beyond individual chapters and reaches out to include chapters from each council.

Accountability

In our community, we believe we share a set of common values. We work together as peers and as a community to support each other and hold each other accountable according to University standards, council standards, and each chapter's standards and values. The



members of the WIU fraternity and sorority community will be able to recognize what accountability means to themselves, their chapter, their council, and the greater community and apply it to their daily actions.

Unity

The members of the WIU fraternity and sorority community will be able to articulate what Unity means to them and be able to integrate it into their daily actions, and chapter and council activities.

Diversity & Inclusion

The members of the WIU fraternity and sorority community will be able to recognize the importance of a diverse fraternity and sorority community and work to create the inclusion and acceptance of all individuals into the community.

How do I complete the Chapter Accreditation process?

- Items required for submission will be done through Leatherneck Link via [this form](#).
- Everything you need to do and submit has been outlined below. Read through this packet and submit the required items in the outlined places.
- This accreditation program is meant to be done throughout the calendar year. There are check-ins and collections of information at the end of the spring and fall semesters. **Do not wait until the end to complete this!**
 - **Best practice:** Have a chair or assign the process to an e-board position, in advance, so that person has the entire semester/year to collect & organize information for submission. This person does not need to be the Chapter President.
- Don't be afraid to reach out and ask questions as well as provide constructive feedback.



Scoring Criterion

The 2024 FSL Chapter Accreditation Scoring Criterion can be viewed below. Scoring is out of 100 points.

Scoring Component	Component Total	Requirement	Requirement	Requirement		Bonus Areas
Academic Achievement	10% (10 points)	Scholarship Plan - Spring 2023 - 5 Points	Scholarship Plan - Fall 2023- 5 Points			BONUS EVENT - up to 5 points
Diversity & Inclusion	10% (10 points)	Diversity & Inclusion Plan - 10 points				BONUS EVENT - up to 5 points
Leadership Development	20% (20 points)	Presidential 1:1s & Community Meetings - 10 points	President Retreat - 5 points	FSL Emerging Leaders Retreat - 5 points		BONUS EVENT - up to 5 points
Membership Development	15% (15 points)	FSL Speaker/Event Spring 2023 - 5 points	FSL Speaker/Event Fall 2023 - 5 points	National Hazing Prevention Week - up to 5 points		BONUS EVENT - up to 5 points
Community Impact & Relations	10% (10 points)	Service Hours - 5 points (2.5 points per semester)	Philanthropic Donations - 5 points (2.5 points per semester)			
Chapter Operations	20% (20 points)	No outstanding financial obligations - 5 points	Roster is up to date- 5 points	Officers Contact Info is up to date- 5 points	Chapter Action Plan (one for Fall & one for Spring)- 5 points	N/A
Wellness & Safety	15% (15 points)	Wellness, Health, & Safety presentation for members (one for Fall & one for Spring) - 5 points	No outstanding policy violations or sanctions - 5 points	Crisis & Risk Management Plan - 5 points		BONUS EVENT - up to 5 points
TOTAL POINTS:	100% (100 points)					up to 25 bonus points can be awarded

Chapter Status Definitions

All chapter accreditation statuses will be shared on the FSL Website

“5 Star Chapter”

- In order to achieve a chapter status of “5 Star Chapter”, the chapter must score an 85% or higher on their submission.
- The chapter met goals in each of the components and has added value to the WIU fraternity and sorority community over the past year! The FSL Staff will look for the chapter to set goals that require them to stretch even further for continued success.
- The chapter will receive special recognition on social media, through University communication, and at any end-of-year award ceremonies.

“4 Star Chapter”

- In order to achieve a chapter status of “4 Star Chapter”, the chapter must score between 70% - 84.99% on their submission.
- “4 Star Chapters” chapters are those that have successfully met the requirements and are considered in “Good Standing” with the university. This means they will have access to University facilities and all privileges granted to chapters such as awards recognition. The FSL Staff will look for the chapter to set goals that



require them to stretch even further for greater success.

“3 Star Chapter”

- In order to achieve a chapter status of “3 Star Chapter”, the chapter must score between 50% - 69.99% on their submission.
- “3 Star Chapters” chapters are those that have successfully met the requirements and are considered in “Good Standing” with the university. This means they will have access to University facilities and all privileges granted to chapters such as awards recognition. The FSL Staff will look for the chapter to set goals that require them to achieve greater success.

“2 Star Chapter”

- Chapters that score less than 50% on their submission will receive a status of “2 Star Chapter”
- “2 Star Chapters ” are those that failed to meet the minimum requirements. Those chapters would not be eligible to receive any recognition through FSL awards.
- The committee noted that the chapter had strived to reach its goals but still had some work to do and needed to focus on improving the core areas of operation.
- “2 Star Chapter” status does not reflect the loss of chapter privileges. Instead, it reflects the time allocated for growth and achievement within the chapter. Inter/National Organizations will be notified of the local chapter not meeting expectations. A meeting between the president, chapter advisor, and FSL Coordinator will be required to outline a course of action to receive accreditation the following year and the limitations of the chapter.
- A chapter receiving “2 Star Chapter” status for three consecutive years will be under review with the university and an intentional discussion will be had involving advisors, chapter leaders, and Headquarters staff regarding the chapter’s relevancy at WIU.

“1 Star Chapter”

- Any organization that fails to complete the Chapter Accreditation process will automatically be a “1 Star Chapter” chapter, regardless of efforts throughout the year.
- Any chapter that fails to submit a Chapter Accreditation packet is subject to a hearing with the FSL Accountability Board.



Accreditation Components

Academic Achievement:

1. **Scholarship Plan**

- a. A written program outlining the academic plan for the semester. One for Spring 2024 and one for Fall 2024
 - i. [Example Here](#)
- b. Submit via Leatherneck Link & name the file type (ie. XYZ ORG SCHOLARSHIP SP24)

Diversity and Inclusion:

1. **Diversity & Inclusion Plan**

- a. A written strategic plan of how to create an inclusive chapter. This can include but is not limited to membership accessibility, accommodations for members and events, education and training, intentional committees, and any bylaw/constitution amendments.
 - i. Include goal and any completion dates for the entire year of 2024
 - ii. [Example Here](#)
- b. Submit via Leatherneck Link & name the file type (ie. XYZ ORG DEI 24)

Leadership Development:

1. **Presidential Meetings**

- a. *(No Documentation Needed- Taylor Zeigler tracks Attendance)*
 - i. Chapter Presidents are required to schedule at least three meetings with the FSL Coordinator (Taylor Zeigler) each semester. It should be scheduled at the start of a semester, the middle of the semester, and the end of the semester. Presidents should use this time to go over any chapter action plan, challenges they are facing within the chapter, updates, or other information.

2. **Required attendance and the following Fraternity and Sorority Life sponsored events:**

- a. *No Documentation Needed-Attendance and Completion Rate will be tracked*
 - i. Emerging FSL Leadership Retreat *(Fall 2024- 1 chapter member)*
 - ii. FSL President's/Leadership Retreat *(Spring 2024- 1 Chapter*



President)

- iii. FSL Community meetings (1 chapter leader must be present, up to 6 in a calendar year)

Membership Development:

1. Required attendance at the following Fraternity and Sorority Life sponsored events:

- a. *No Documentation Needed-Attendance will be tracked*
 - i. FSL Speaker &/or Event (50% of chapter attendance)
 1. Both Fall & Spring semesters (2 total)
 2. The mandatory event will be announced by the FSL Coordinator
 - ii. Hazing Prevention & Education Week event attendance (50% of chapter total in attendance)

Community Impact and Relations:

1. Chapters are required to submit service hours and philanthropic donations

- a. *No additional documentation beyond Leatherneck Link submissions*
- b. Chapters must submit to the form each semester for both community service hours completed by members and fundraising/philanthropy events.

Chapter Operations:

It is imperative that chapters work to create communication lines throughout the semester. These are basic expectations for all student organizations in addition to Fraternities and Sororities.

1. The chapter is up to date on university and council financial obligations

- a. No Documentation Needed

2. Roster updates each semester

- a. Each semester, chapters must maintain and update their roster using the forms on Leatherneck Linkt. It is imperative that these rosters accurately reflect the current state of the chapter within 24 hours of any changes. This could be due to



the termination of membership or the addition of new members.

3. Officer Update

- a. If there are changes made within chapters to leadership, it is the chapter's responsibility to make the correction (within 2 business days) via the Leatherneck Link form.

4. Chapter Action Plan

- a. Chapters should submit a detailed plan including lists of goals and expectations for each semester. This will be used during the presidential meetings to ensure that each chapter is supported to reach its goals.
- b. Submit via Leatherneck Link & name the file type (ie. XYZ ORG ACTION PLANI SP or FL 24)
 - i. [Example Here](#)

Wellness and Safety:

1. Health, Wellness, and Safety Presentation each semester for all members

- a. The presentation should include information about University and organizational policy & procedures and available wellness resources to members
- b. The presentations & attendance must be uploaded via the form on Leatherneck Link (Labeled Health/Safety Presentation SP/FL 2024)

2. The chapter does not have any outstanding violations or sanctions of FSL or University policies

- a. No Documentation Needed
 - i. Will be verified with Fraternity & Sorority Life Accountability Board and Student Rights & Responsibilities

3. Crisis & Risk Management Plan

- a. Chapters should upload their Crisis and Risk Management Plan each semester. Any changes that are made from one semester to another should be noted for reference. This should include local and inter/national policies and plans. This should also include how the local chapter handles communication with the university and the national



organization.

- b. Submit via Leatherneck Link & name the file type (ie. XYZ ORG RISK PLAN 24)

Bonus Programming for Accreditation

1. Points will be allocated based on the percentage number of members who attended the approved program.
 - a. **Chapter Attendance % at event**
 - i. 100 - 85% = 5 points
 - ii. 84.99 - 70% = 4 points
 - iii. 69.99 - 55% = 3 points
 - iv. 54.99 - 40% = 2 point
 - v. 39.99 - 25% = 1 point
2. An approved program must represent FSL core values/learning outcomes
 - a. Chapters must submit bonus programs to the FSL Coordinator for “bonus point” approval.
3. The chapter President must email Taylor Zeigler for the event to be approved as
4. Attendance is tracked when members sign in through Leatherneck Link at the event or a participant list is recorded (ie. Sign in sheet or Screenshot on Zoom)
 - a. **Attendance must be verified & uploaded to the form on Leatherneck Link**
5. Utilize campus, community, & National Resources
6. Chapters can receive a maximum of 25 points total (1 event per category at 5 points each)

Bonus Programming Areas

Academic Achievement:

> Academic Achievement Event

- o The goal of this category is to help each member improve their academics by attending an educational event.

Diversity and Inclusion:

> Diversity and Inclusion Event

- o The goal of this category is to expose & educate each member of



populations who are different from them in numerous ways. These ways may include but are not limited to: age, disability, familial status, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status.

Leadership Development:

➤ **Leadership Development Event**

- o The goal of this category is to focus on how to build leadership skills and tools. By focusing on how to become a more efficient leader, each chapter should excel.

Individual (Membership) Development:

➤ **Membership Development Events**

- o These programs are meant to help assist your members in their individual needs and foster personal and growth. These are not leadership opportunities, but ways to create well-rounded citizens. This could include professional development opportunities and a variety of brotherhood and sisterhood programming, events, and workshops. Often tailored to education beyond the new member experience and grounded in chapter values.

Wellness and Safety:

➤ **Wellness and Safety Events**

- o These programs aid in learning how to create safe environments for members and for the community. They can focus on an individual or a cultural norm.

