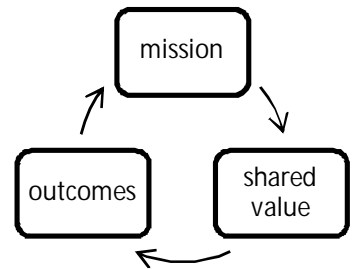


# Fraternal Relevance Accreditation and Minimum Expectations

Kansas State University Greek Affairs, Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council

**the program** The Kansas State University Fraternal Relevance Accreditation and Recognition process is a two-fold system of evaluating the member chapters of the Kansas State University Greek community. Chapters are reviewed for the attainment of minimum expectations as well as chapter-focused outcomes. The intent of the program is to ensure local chapters are relevant to their national or international organization, the university and Manhattan community, the Kansas State University undergraduate student body, and therefore their governing councils. All chapters are expected to take part in the annual review.

**accreditation proposal** Chapters will submit an accreditation proposal annually between December and January. Criteria for accreditation are based on fraternal relevance as well as the mission and action congruence of each organization. Those reviewing the proposal will evaluate and assess cultural influences and member outcomes rather than performance indicators. Chapters will review their own (inter)national organization's mission and prove that they are achieving outcomes in relation to their mission. Chapters should consider the mission of their (inter)national organization as they relate to shared values (areas of expectations) when developing and exploring achievement of outcomes. Areas of Expectations include sustainability, risk management, academic health, membership development, relationships, engagement, chapter development, and advancement. Chapters will have the option to make their fraternity experience their own as long as it supports the mission of their organization and therefore reinforces fraternal relevance.



**minimum expectations** Several items will not be a part of the mission and action congruence assessment because they are minimum expectations that simply must be achieved. Minimum expectations are not an attempt at assessment, but an attempt to monitor basic chapter performance as well as offer opportunity for proper community record-keeping.

**chapter development and recognition recommendations** Chapters will be given a mark of Clearly Relevant, Relevant, Building Relevance, or Irrelevant in each of the Areas of Expectations. Additionally, the Accreditation Committee will consider feedback offered through a public forum. Chapters believed to be underperforming in any of the Areas of Expectations will be asked to develop a plan to build relevance in the underperforming area. The chapter is encouraged to work with the chapter's advising team and Greek Affairs to develop such a plan. Underperforming chapters must show signs of progress to achieve continued accreditation/remain in a developmental status. Progress is defined as meeting outcomes as outlined in the plan to build relevance. Developmental status does not reflect the loss of chapter privileges, but instead reflects a time allocated for the growth and advancement of the chapter. Chapters placed on developmental status are expected to work to improve in areas where they are underperforming. Chapters underperforming for more than one year without sign of progress will be further reviewed. The Accreditation Committee may recommend a chapter's recognition be removed by the council where membership is held. Exemplary chapters in relation to relevance will be recognized via the Greek Awards program.

**points to consider** ► The first action items of the 2007-2012 K-State Greek Strategic Plan called for the development of a "minimum expectations document inclusive of chapter-specific action plans," the creation of "a diagnostic tool to assess chapter performance and operation against their stated mission," and the revamping of "annual awards to reflect recognition of success with organizational and community mission" (Mission and Action Congruence, points 1-3). The Fraternal Relevance Accreditation and Minimum Expectations program will address these three strategic issues and support the achievement of many others.

► The Fraternal Relevance Accreditation and Minimum Expectations program establishes shared metrics and a shared focus area while allowing chapters flexibility as they decide how to best build and grow their own programs.

► It is believed the Fraternal Relevance Accreditation and Minimum Expectations program will aid chapters in preparing for their (inter)national organization's award program as criteria are defined and developed by the chapter as a reference to (inter)national objectives.

► The Fraternal Relevance Accreditation and Minimum Expectations program will be utilized as a cutting-edge advising tool by the office of Greek Affairs staff. Professional staff members will be able to better help the chapter meet outcomes (both stated and implied) as well as encourage continued progress and growth.

► One of the greatest assets of the Fraternal Relevance Accreditation and Minimum Expectations program is found in the plan's purposeful development not as a punitive accreditation, minimum expectations, or awards program. Chapters are awarded for progress. Chapters are expected to progress. Chapters are evaluated against chapter-specific outcomes.

► In all cases a recommendation is made to a governing council encouraging the loss of a chapter's recognition, the voting body will have the power to approve or disapprove of the recommendation.

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