

About the Accreditation Program

The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life at James Madison University has implemented a chapter evaluation program for many years. In order to align itself with best practices in the Fraternity & Sorority Life field, the office unveiled the Fraternity & Sorority Life Accreditation Program beginning in the Fall 2015 semester. Chapters are evaluated according to benchmarks in each of four categories: Academic Achievement, Citizenship and Social Responsibility, Member Development, and Philanthropy and Service. Fraternity & Sorority Life staff members review each submission which is based on each colony/chapter's performance over one calendar year.

Although top scoring colonies/chapters are awarded bronze, silver, or gold status for their success in each functional area and overall, the purpose of the Accreditation Program is not to create competition among colonies/chapters. Instead, the purpose is to provide colonies/chapters with an accurate "snapshot" of how well they perform according to Fraternity & Sorority Life standards. Colonies/chapters are encouraged to compete against themselves to improve scores from previous calendar years.

The Role of the Chapter Advisor in the Accreditation Program

The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life recognizes that one of the keys to a healthy colony/chapter is an active and engaged chapter advisor, whether they are campus-based or an alumnus. To that end, colonies/chapters must review the Accreditation Program packet with an advisor and have the advisor sign on the Advisor Signature page verifying that they have reviewed this information and either confirms, denies, or is not familiar with the information being presented in the Accreditation Program packet. If the chapter advisor signature is missing, ten points will be deducted from the colony/chapter's final score.

Submission of the Accreditation Program Packet

The Accreditation Program packet (with supporting documentation) must be submitted annually by February 1st. Colonies/chapters that do not submit the accreditation packet by the due date will be placed on social suspension until submission is complete, and their inter/national headquarters will be notified of the delinquent Accreditation Program packet.

**Colonies/chapters in their first year of existence will not be held responsible for completion of the program.*

Questions about the Accreditation Program should be directed to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life prior to the submission deadline.

Accreditation Program Scoring

Based on how thoroughly the colony/chapter has completed each benchmark, each colony/chapter will receive a numerical score associated with that benchmark. The numerical scores will be calculated for each benchmark, resulting in a numerical score for that category overall. Each category is weighted differently and as follows:

Academic Achievement 38

This section assesses the chapter's :

- Scholarship Plan
- Cumulative GPA
- Recognition for exemplary member academic performance
- Connection to JMU and organization academic resources
- Accountability for the academic performance of new members

Citizenship and Social Responsibility 32

This section assesses the chapter's :

- Webpage and social media
- Campus and community involvement
- Engagement in non-Greek programs
- Engagement with their governing council
- Adherence to all applicable policies

Member Development 17

This section assesses the chapter's :

- Efforts to implement a brotherhood/sisterhood retreat or goal setting retreat
- New Member Education Program
- Commitment to regular meetings among chapter members and executive members
- Attendance at regional or national leadership experiences and/ or conventions
- Engagement in educational programs
- Engagement with organization alumni/nae

Philanthropy and Service 13

This section assesses the chapter's :

- Culture of philanthropy and service
- Individual member engagement with community service
- Production of philanthropic events

SCORING



Academic Achievement	38
Citizenship & Social Responsibility	32
Member Development	17
Philanthropy & Service	13

TOTAL 100

Accreditation Program Tiers

Score Range

Status

80-100

Accredited

Chapter development plan implemented

**focused on developing past standard expectations for performance*

65-79

Unsatisfactory

Chapter improvement plan implemented

**focused on improving performance to meet standard expectations*

50-64

Warning

- Chapter development plan implemented
- Social events suspended for remainder of semester
- HQ notification

< 50

Severe

- Chapter development plan implemented
- Social events suspended for remainder of semester
- HQ notification