
STANDARDS OF CHAPTER EXCELLENCE

2024-2025



ALPHA
GAMMA
RHO

STANDARDS OF CHAPTER EXCELLENCE

Since 1904, Alpha Gamma Rho has been defining what true brotherhood means. Honesty, fairness, hard work, and helping each other are all markers of brotherhood our founders believed in, and we continue to recruit men with these qualities today.

As a social-professional fraternity, we are bound not just by our values but by our professions — agriculture, natural resources, life sciences, and related fields. Our members come from a long line of the very best these industries have to offer. Our legacy is the story and impact of these men, and our success is in finding brothers who will carry this on.

Alpha Gamma Rho's seven standards are designed to assist individual brothers, chapters, and alumni. For a chapter to progress, it must evaluate its performance and set its sights on high, yet achievable, goals.

These standards provide an opportunity for short- and long-range planning, and establish a foundation for chapters to remain in Good Standing with the National Fraternity.

And, because no chapter should be satisfied by merely meeting minimum expectations, the standards share characteristics seen in AGR's strongest and most vibrant chapters. As such, each Standard has a set of expectations that all chapters should be striving to complete at 100%. The Standards is a point based system, where all chapters have the ability to attain points for each individual task listed per Standard on a 0-1-3-5 scale.

- 0 points = Did not meet expectation
- 1 = Met expectation
- 3 = Achieved above expectation required
- 5 = Achieved well above/beyond expectation required

This point based system allows all chapters to be recognized for their accomplishments earning a specific point value that directly correlates with an AGR recognition society as follows:

- 0-150: Does not meet expectations
- 151-250: Good Standing
- 251-500: Green status
- 501-750: Gold status

The seven Standards communicate the National Fraternity's expectations for what a modern, efficient, and effective AGR chapter looks like.

Fulfilling minimum expectations does not, by itself, make a chapter eligible for recognition. The Standards aim to complement annual awards and provide for reflection by the chapter for specific award criteria.

Fraternal Excellence Awards

AGR's *Fraternal Excellence Awards* recognize chapters for their hard work throughout the year. In addition to the Standards of Chapter Excellence completion, chapters will be asked to submit a reflection showcasing their successes and areas of improvement.

AGR Recognition Societies

Chapters who excel in tasks associated with each Standard earn a Good Standing, Green Status, and Gold Status recognition.

Biennial Chapter Awards

AGR recognizes its most exceptional chapters with the *Sleeter Bull Most Improved Chapter* and the *Maynard Coe Chapter Efficiency Awards*, given during National Convention. The Standards help to illuminate a strong path for chapters to aspire to achieve these prestigious awards.

ALPHA GAMMA RHO

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STANDARD 1: CHAPTER ORGANIZATION

- Comply with National Fraternity policies, and our Principles, Covenant, Values and Brotherhood Program.
- Comply with state and local laws, college/university policies, and AGR specific expectations, including all timely information/report submissions.
- Elect a Noble Ruler and at least five Vice Noble Rulers encompassing the eight functions including a hierarchy plan should Noble Ruler be absent.
- Follow an open and orderly process for elections and installation.
- Officers possess a cumulative GPA at least 0.5 points above their university's "C" average.
- Convene a weekly officers' meeting during the academic year.
- Maintain and communicate an appropriate and effective bylaws with the chapter annually.
- Conduct meetings on a regular schedule in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.
- Prepare for, and engage during, at least one annual visit with an Educational Leadership Consultant and consistently manage and respond to suggestions made during chapter visit.
- Post/share a master calendar of chapter activities, campus events, academic deadlines through AGRconnect at least a month in advance for all brothers, Adviser(s), and House Director (if applicable) to view.
- Exhibit exemplary behavior when attending National Fraternity events.
- At least two emerging leaders within the chapter attend a **Leadership Seminar**.
- At least two brothers attend **National Convention** (when convened) as voting delegates.
- All Executive Board members attend **Top Leaders Institute**.
- Chapter participates in a strategic planning process with a trained facilitator and has a written strategic plan that outlines its priorities, goals, timelines, and person responsible. Plan is discussed at weekly officers' meetings and reviewed with Advisers, RVP and ELC throughout the academic term.
- Adviser(s) participate in a weekly officers' meeting at least twice each semester.
- Agendas and anticipated business items are posted prior to all meetings.
- Host a fully structured **Officer Transitions Retreat** prior to attendance at Top Leaders Institute, facilitated by Adviser(s) or local alumni, that includes outgoing and incoming officers.
- Has a team of multiple Advisers who participate in alumni committee work and meetings – and have attended **Adviser Forum** at least once every three years.
- An alumnus or Adviser(s) attends **Recruitment School** with brothers.
- Execute a Semi-Annual Brotherhood Review to hold each brother accountable for meeting the Fraternity and chapter expectations and address behavior unbecoming of an AGR brother.
- Possess a current copy of AGR's Ritual, and an accurate delivery of AGR's Grip and Motto.
- Have an appropriate alterbox, which is the heart of the chapter.
- A complete set of Initiation robes and regalia in good repair.
- Noble Ruler and Chaplain can deliver AGR's opening and closing ceremonies by memory at all chapter meetings.
- At least one Alumni Board officer or Adviser should have administrative access to all social media outlets.
- Emergency contact information for Adviser(s), key alumni, and emergency services is prominently posted/shared and available at all AGR activities.
- Cumulative chapter GPA no less than 2.7 and above the college/university all men's and all IFC averages.
- New initiates possess a minimum 2.5 GPA or demonstrate the potential to achieve at that level at the time of Initiation.
- Less than 5% of brothers are on academic probation with the college/university.
- Cumulative GPA in the top 25% of the college/university all men's and all IFC averages.
- No outstanding invoices due over 90 days to Home Office.
- Identify a secure location to store physical and electronic chapter financial records.
- Identify at least one brother - in addition to VNR Finance - to be trusted with AGR billing system and bank account login information.
- Conduct an annual audit of financial records.
- Utilization of AGR billing system to keep adequate bookkeeping, reporting, and oversight of chapter finances.
- Accounts receivable are current - not exceeding 2% of budget.
- A reserve fund holds at least 25% of a chapter's annual (non-housing) operations budget.

- Comply with all policies as outlined in our Risk Management Policy Guide (ie, alcohol, drugs, hazing, sexual abuse, fire and life safety, etc.).
- Utilize the Big Brother Induction Ceremony and Graduation Ceremony to celebrate personal milestones.
- Maintain relevant and timely information distribution on chapter website and an appropriate presence on social media to include chapter news, events, photos, stories, and chapter/alumni activities.
- Identify brothers to organize and manage online services.
- Communicate with alumni through an email listserv (or similar tool) on a consistent basis, in addition to regular Crescents.
- Robust social media presence with at least one post per week.
- Discuss crisis management protocols with Adviser(s) each semester.
- Chapter has bystander behavior strategies in place for appropriate positive confrontations and conflict de-escalation to remove brothers from uncomfortable situations, remove unwanted guests from activities, etc.
- Chapter balances their social programs in relation to academics and service.
- Social events are organized at least three weeks in advance and displayed on the chapter's master calendar for all to see.
- Social program consists of a wide variety of activities that incorporate the personal interests, hobbies, and passions of brothers.
- Submit to the Home Office an annual report of the chapter's and IFC community's cumulative GPA.
- Use the college/university and/or chapter specific grade release form(s) to verify each brother's scholastic status and academic achievement.
- At least one brother applies for an AGR Educational Foundation scholarship each year.
- Appoint an additional adviser for Alumni Board position to specifically support financial management.
- Maintain a written budget that includes dedicated line items for recruitment, membership development and other VNR functions - presented to the chapter for formal adoption at least 60 days prior to the start of each semester and reviewed by an Adviser.
- Financial records are regularly monitored on AGR's billing system by Alumni leaders.
- A reserve fund holds at least 10% of a chapter's annual (non-housing) operations budget.
- Host financial literacy workshop facilitated by alumnus.

STANDARD 3: RECRUITMENT

- Set recruitment goals, metrics, and monthly milestones each academic semester.
- Create Summer recruitment plans.
- Coordinate a sufficient recruitment budget.
- Use of Chapter Builder.
- Consistent, courteous, and prompt communication with prospective brothers and their family - and alumni making recommendations.
- Set dates for pre-planned recruitment events, develop strategies to individually (one-on-one) recruit men in their homes prior to their arrival on campus.
- Strategies to solicit recruitment recommendations from alumni and collegiate brothers.
- Strategies to recruit men with diverse experiences, all majors, hometowns, etc. - including incoming, non-first year and transfer students that are academically outstanding students.
- Follow all AGR, college/university, and IFC recruitment policies (including dry alcohol-free practices).
- Participate in campus or IFC sponsored recruitment programs.
- At least two brothers attend **Recruitment School** each academic year.
- Share information with prospective brothers regarding time, financial, behavioral and academic required commitments.
- Implement a recruitment committee - or Assistant VNR role(s) - to assist VNR Recruitment.
- Implement an additional Alumni leader to specifically assist with recruitment efforts.
- Chapter Size: Total membership at least 80% of the IFC average.
- Recruit 20% of chapter size of new members each academic year.
- New Members class size is no less than 75% of the IFC average each academic year.
- At least 5 brothers are Certified Phired Up Recruiters.
- Have a formal policy or statement on legacy members.
- Formal process for prospect evaluation and screening prior to offering a membership bid.
- VNR Recruitment plans for monthly calls or check-in conversations with Adviser(s), Alumni Board members, and/or House Director.

- Chapter programming is consistent with our Covenant, Values, and Brotherhood Program.
- Brotherhood Program: Every new brother receives a Golden Crescent book as quickly as feasible after Initiation.
- Brotherhood Program: Incorporate the New Member Education learning modules from AGRconnect.
- Brotherhood Program: Dates for the pre-planned new brother activities that stress total integration.
- Brotherhood Program: Documented New Member education curriculum and chapter membership development that plans to encourage all brothers to remain engaged throughout their collegiate experience.
- Brotherhood Program: Clearly communicated Big Brother program that promotes mentorship, academic success, personal growth, and positive interactions between new brothers and outstanding upperclassmen.
- Chapter retains 80% of its non-graduating brothers from the previous year.
- Maintain a written academic plan that promotes and encourages habits that produces success in the classroom and includes an awards/scholarship program to recognize and reward academic excellence.
- Provide relevant and ongoing education on alcohol, hazing, sexual misconduct, and bystander intervention.
- Host personal and professional development educational opportunities at least once a semester (ie. study skills, time management, career planning and development, etiquette, career fair, etc.) to be facilitated by undergraduate brothers, guest speakers, alumni, campus representatives.
- Host monthly formal dinner or brotherhood event with the whole chapter present.
- Conduct a full or half day Brotherhood Retreat with 80% of brothers in attendance.
- At least 1/3 of men complete one or more AGRconnect modules each academic year beyond new member education.
- Chapter programs enhance cultural awareness.
- Chapter programs promote AGR's connection to agriculture, life sciences, and related careers.
- Creative activities are scheduled regularly to build morale, spirit, and self-confidence and discourage the development of factions/cliques.
- Identify a brother(s) to serve as health advocate, education coordinator, or similar role(s).
- Host regular brothers only activities and events.
- Implement a "Brother of the Week" award to recognize an outstanding man for positive contributions to AGR, his studies, or behavior that men should model.
- Design and sponsor a career mentorship program that includes alumni of varying ages and career paths supporting membership development.

STANDARD 5: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

- Respect neighbors' rights to quiet and peaceful enjoyment of their property and meet all community standards and legal responsibilities.
- Organize a community service event with 75% of brothers in attendance, encouraging brothers to be civically active and engaged in the campus community.
- Organize a service event that engage the state' agriculture department, USDA representatives, Farm Bureau and/or Farmers Union, conservation leaders, and related groups and encourages other students to participate.
- Encourage members to participate in local, state, and federal elections.
- Connect with community leaders and elected officials.
- Communicate at least monthly with your college/university Fraternity/Sorority Life Adviser.
- Invite your college/university administrators, Deans, and Directors to AGR events to maintain positive relationships with chapter officers, alumni and Adviser(s).
- Comply with all expectations as a registered student organization on your campus.
- Host an annual faculty dinner/event to recognize your college's outstanding teachers and mentors.
- Chapter has at least one engaged faculty Adviser - who, perhaps, may not be an AGR alumnus.
- At least one brother holds a campus position on IFC, College of Ag student group, or college/university Student Government.
- At least 50% of brothers are involved in campus organizations and/or activities.
- At least 10% of brothers hold leadership positions in campus organizations and/or activities.
- Maintain a positive image on campus, including with other fraternities and sororities.
- Collaborate with other agriculture-centered organizations to offer at least one educational or ag awareness event each academic year - and involve alumni from both organizations.
- Consider and pursue initiation of Alumnus Initiates from the university and/or community who will bring credit to AGR.
- Chapter recognizes and honors brothers for their exemplary involvement in campus activities.
- Brothers are involved in new student orientation/new student activities.

- Maintain a written alumni relations plan with regular annual events and goals.
- Communicate at least monthly with Alumni Board leaders.
- Have undergraduate representation (formal or informal) at Alumni Board meetings.
- Invite alumni to appropriate chapter activities.
- VNR Alumni Relations should work with Alumni Board to publish (print or electronic) a current alumni directory at least once every five years.
- Direct alumni to AGRconnect for address/contact information changes.
- Submit Graduation Reports through AGRconnect.
- Appoint additional Alumni leaders for specific areas where the chapter need extra assistance.
- Crescent articles regularly feature stories of outstanding and accomplished alumni.
- Submit content that could be highlighted in Fraternity publications (ie. Sickie & Sheaf or S&S E-Brief).
- Host two or more joint collegiate/alumni functions that welcome alumni returning to campus.
- Chapter recognizes and honors outstanding alumni for their service to agriculture.
- Nominate outstanding alumni for National AGR Hall of Fame, the Grand President's Award, and other National Fraternity recognition opportunities.

STANDARD 7: CHAPTER FACILITY

- Sign a formal chapter house lease agreement with your Alumni Board.
- Have written housing contracts signed by all brothers living in the chapter facility that include house behavior expectations.
- Have written non-resident/out of house member agreement for all members not living in chapter facility that include house behavior expectations.
- Maintain and follow a written maintenance plan in partnership with your Alumni Board.
- Alumni Board and VNR Management & Operations are in regular communication, including regular reporting to – and attendance at – Alumni Board meetings.
- Appoint a house operations committee – or Assistant VNR role(s) or food/kitchen manager (when applicable) – to assist VNR Management & Operations.
- Appoint an additional Alumni leader position to regularly assess the chapter house's condition, cleanliness, and maintenance from the Housing Corp./Alumni Board.
- Enforce a strong cleaning program – including daily/weekly duties and regularly-scheduled deeper work sessions.
- Identify an additional brother as Emergency Coordinator to work with VNR Management & Operations.
- Comply with local fire and building codes and pass fire inspection by college/university officials and/or local authorities on an annual basis.
- Write, post, and practice fire, weather, and emergency related procedures; conduct safety drills.
- Serve a well-balanced and nutritious meals.
- Prepare adequate budget for and proper maintenance of kitchen, storage spaces, and dining areas.
- Comply with good sanitation expectations, health, and food preparation standards and pass a kitchen inspection by college/university officials and/or local authorities on an annual basis.
- Observe proper decorum and respectable conduct at meals.
- Consult with Housing Corp./Alumni Board to ensure cook or food service company has a written contract and provides insurance coverage.
- Chapter house is within 10% of its lodging capacity (determined by local fire/building codes).
- Chapter officers plan for proper security when the university is not in session in consultation with Housing Corp./Alumni Board.
- Written plans are in place regarding summer occupants and/or temporary guests in consultation with Housing Corp./Alumni Board.
- Plans are in place for short- and long-term renovations of the chapter house in consultation with Housing Corp./Alumni Board.

STANDARDS OF CHAPTER EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

The Standards of Chapter Excellence are one component of AGR’s ongoing evaluation of our undergraduate chapters to maintain Local Chapter Excellence. Most often, they are reviewed during a chapter’s annual visit by an Educational Leadership Consultant, with consistent follow-through throughout the academic year by chapter’s full leadership team.

Resources available on AGRconnect

The Standards of Chapter Excellence reference several written plans and programs that chapters are required or encouraged to have in place. Terrific examples for many of these plans are available on AGRconnect for chapters to use as inspiration and guidance in creating their programs.

Resources:

- AGR’s National Constitution & Statutes
- AGR’s Covenant, Values, Purpose, and Brotherhood Program
- AGR’s Risk Management Policy
- Adviser appointment procedures
- Sample chapter bylaws and rules
- Resources and job descriptions for chapter officers, Chapter Adviser, and Regional Vice Presidents
- Fraternal Excellence Award applications
- Branding and logo standards
- Officer Transition Retreat Guide
- Educational Leadership Consultant and National Officer visit planning guides

Sample documents from AGR chapters:

- Recruitment plans
- Membership development plans
- Big Brother programs
- Points systems and accountability structures
- Academic/scholarship plans
- Grade contracts
- Scholarship awards
- Social programs
- Service and philanthropy event ideas
- Emergency and crisis procedures
- Contracts and lease agreements
- Budgets and financial practices

Alpha Gamma Rho fully recognizes that each chapter is unique and distinctive – and each must balance the culture and policies of the campus they call “home”, the interests and passions of its men, the capacity of local alumni to support the chapter, and its housing situation.

The *Standards of Chapter Excellence* provide some flexibility for chapters to be unique, while establishing a common understanding of their relationship with the National Fraternity and the National Board’s expectations for the membership experience we promise all men who join our brotherhood.

STANDARDS OF CHAPTER EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

Good Standing: Meets all expectations is one component of a chapter's Good Standing within the Fraternity. Most chapters in Good Standing not only meet basic expectations, but likely far surpass expectations in multiple areas. Chapters in Good Standing carry on the work of AGR with the full privileges afforded them by the National Constitution.

Unsatisfactory progress: Chapters not meeting expectations in several areas work with the Home Office staff, Adviser(s), alumni, and stakeholders to address their challenges.

First Year (Watch Status): Chapter retains Good Standing with Unsatisfactory Progress, but identifies and acknowledges areas for improvement. When the Senior Director of Operations becomes aware that a chapter is not achieving minimum expectations, he will direct Home Office staff to help the chapter create a Chapter Improvement Plan to address challenges, spark new ideas, and overcome obstacles.

- Home Office staff communicate a deadline for a Chapter Improvement Plan to be in place.
- An Educational Leadership Consultant or National Officer visits as early in the coming semester as possible to help officers and Adviser(s), and Chapter Coach (when applicable) implement their Chapter Improvement Plan. Consistent communication will occur with all parties involved to make sure plan is being completed on time.

Second Year (Supervision Status): Chapter retains Good Standing with Unsatisfactory Progress, but deficiencies require immediate remedy. One year later, the chapter's progress is reviewed by Home Office staff during a visit to the chapter.

- If the chapter is not advancing, the Chapter Improvement Plan is reviewed and revised — and shared with the National Board for discussion.
- An Educational Leadership Consultant or National Officer visits as early in the coming semester as possible to help officers implement their Chapter Improvement Plan.
- Chapter officers, Adviser(s), alumni leaders, and Chapter Coach (when applicable) receive specific training to address the chapter's deficiencies.
- The Senior Director of Operations may consider recommending the chapter be placed on probation.
- Home Office staff inform the chapter's college/university stakeholders of the chapter's status.
- The chapter's Alumni Board(s) are asked to submit a written commitment to assist the Home Office in helping the chapter meet minimum expectations.

Third Year (Suspension Status): Chapter is no longer considered to be in Good Standing with the Fraternity. One year later, the chapter's progress is again reviewed during a visit to the chapter. If the chapter has not attained minimum expectations it is immediately placed on Suspension, and, per the provisions of the National Constitution, the Grand President shall convene a hearing on its status.

- The chapter is reviewed and must present good cause for retaining its Charter.
- If the National Board allows the Charter to remain in place, the chapter is placed on Probation until it can demonstrate satisfactory progress toward minimum expectations – and regain Good Standing.
- Educational Leadership Consultant and National Officer visits to the chapter remain at high priority for the following academic semester.
- If the chapter falls below Good Standing during the following year, it will again be immediately placed on suspension and reviewed. The National Board will determine if the Charter is revoked or allowed to continue with such conditions as it may impose.