



Reinforcement and Enforcement of Chapter Standards

A standard is something that is universally accepted as the baseline level for a group of people. It's a code of conduct that your entire group adheres to and holds each other accountable for. You may see this in your chapter's policies and practices. Specifically, there are 4 areas of standards:

- ❑ **Financial** – Your chapter requires you to pay dues. Upon joining the chapter, you agree to do so and are expected to fulfill your obligation.
- ❑ **Academic** – Minimum academic standards are voted on by the undergraduate legislation of the Grand Chapter Conclave every two years. Chapters, however, may choose set a higher academic standard than the Grand Chapter prescribes.
- ❑ **Behavior** – How we conduct ourselves as fraternity men affects not only each of us as individuals, but our chapter and national organization. Standards help us understand what is expected of us in terms of behavior.
- ❑ **Development** – SigEp's mission is to build balanced men. We achieve that mission through the Balanced Man Program and our development programming, but only when our brothers take advantages of the resources and opportunities available to them

The responsibilities of the Standards Board in these four areas can be both supportive and punitive. Too often, our Standards Boards are viewed as a method of punishment and negative consequence. Below is a brief list of times the Standards Board may act supportively or punitively.

- ❑ **Supportive**
 - Recognizing embodiment of the values
 - Academic success
 - Development accomplishments
 - Monitoring, updating, and communicating chapter bylaws to ensure they are understood and continuing to support the needs of the chapter
- ❑ **Punitive**
 - Enforcing local and Grand Chapter bylaws
 - Financial issues
 - Academic issues
 - Behavioral issues
 - Enforcing the membership agreement
 - Trials/punishments

There are two keys to successfully implementing a standard in your chapter and maintaining it for a sustained period of time. It's important to both enforce and reinforce your standards.

- ❑ **Reinforcing standards** is the recognition of those brothers who are meeting and exceeding standards, as well as reminding members of your standards. Some examples include:
 - Awards – Sound Mind/Body Awards, scholarships, etc...
 - Recognition lists – Top 10 GPA List, members with the most community service hours, etc...
 - Educational presentations – alcohol use, sexual assault prevention, bystander behavior, etc...
 - Postings – displaying your chapter's membership agreement, chapter and individual awards, and recognition lists
- ❑ **Enforcing standards** requires us to clearly communicate what is expected of our brothers, gain their commitment to uphold the standards, and holding them accountable when they fail to do so.
 - Communicating Standards – Membership agreements, chapter meetings, informal interactions
 - Gaining Commitment – *Oath of Obligation* and signing/submission of membership agreements
 - Accountability – Standards Board procedures