

Grand Valley State University
2026 Greek Awards
Awards Information Packet

THANK YOU!

Greek Awards provide us an invaluable opportunity to honor and celebrate the remarkable achievements of individuals and chapters within our Fraternity & Sorority Life community. Your participation in this process ensures that deserving individuals and chapters receive the recognition they deserve.

I encourage you to reflect on the outstanding contributions of your peers and consider nominating those who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, leadership, and service within our community. Your nominations acknowledge the hard work and commitment of your fellow members and serve as a source of inspiration for others to continue striving for excellence.

Celebrating success and recognizing the achievements of our peers is essential in fostering a culture of camaraderie, motivation, and mutual support within our Greek community. Your involvement in the nomination process contributes to cultivating a vibrant and inclusive environment where every member feels valued and appreciated.

Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you again for taking the time to recognize your peers—it does not go unnoticed!

- Office of Student Life

Individual Awards

Chapter President of the Year – Page 3

Emerging Leader of the Year – Page 4

New Member of the Year – Page 5

Advisor of the Year – Page 6

Fraternity Member of the Year – Page 7

Sorority Member of the Year – Page 8

Chapter Awards

Program of the Year – Page 9

Most Improved Chapter of the Year – Page 10

Chapter of the Year – Page 11

Individual Awards - Chapter President of the Year

Eligibility: Chapter Presidents whose terms end/ended at the end of the Fall 2025 or Winter 2026 semester.

Requirements: They must be in good standing or on a status their respective organization has approved.

Submission Requirements: Must be at least 250 words and no more than 750 words.

Submission Suggestions: Include specific examples of how the nominee meets the criteria below.

Judges are external to GVSU and have no context for your chapter – be sure to give appropriate context!

Criteria:

1. **Demonstrated Leadership:** The nominee should exhibit strong leadership qualities, including practical communication skills, strategic decision-making abilities, and the capacity to inspire and motivate others within their chapter and the broader FSL community.
2. **Commitment to Values:** The nominee should exemplify the core values of their fraternity or sorority and demonstrate a commitment to upholding these values in their actions and leadership style. This includes fostering a culture of integrity, respect, inclusivity, and service within their chapter.
3. **Organizational Impact:** Nominations should highlight the nominee's impact on their chapter's growth, development, and success during their tenure as president. This may include membership recruitment and retention achievements, academic excellence, philanthropy and service initiatives, and organizational sustainability.
4. **Advancement of FSL Community:** The nominee should demonstrate a proactive approach to advancing the FSL community at GVSU. This could involve participation in collaborative efforts with other chapters and FSL governing bodies, advocacy for the interests of the FSL community to university administration, and initiatives aimed at enhancing the overall reputation and impact of FSL organizations on campus.
5. **Innovation and Vision:** Judges will look for evidence of the nominee's innovative ideas, initiatives, and strategies implemented during their presidency. This could include introducing new programs or events, adopting best practices from within or outside the FSL community, and visionary leadership that anticipates and addresses future challenges and opportunities.

These criteria aim to recognize and celebrate chapter presidents who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, commitment to their organization's values, and dedication to advancing the FSL community at Grand Valley State University.

Individual Awards – Emerging Leader of the Year

Eligibility: Chapter members who are not serving in official capacities but demonstrate an ability to serve as a future leader within the chapter/community.

Requirements: They must be in good standing

Submission Requirements: Must be at least 250 words and no more than 750 words.

Submission Suggestions: Include specific examples of how the nominee meets the criteria below.

Judges are external to GVSU and have no context for your chapter – be sure to give appropriate context!

Criteria:

1. **Dedication to Organization:** The nominee should exhibit a strong commitment to their fraternity or sorority, actively participating in chapter activities, events, and initiatives. Nominations should provide examples of the nominee's contributions to their organization's success, regardless of their position within the chapter hierarchy.
2. **Leadership Potential:** Judges will look for evidence of the nominee's leadership potential, including initiative, problem-solving skills, collaboration, and the ability to motivate and inspire others. This could be demonstrated through their involvement in projects or activities showcasing their leadership abilities and capacity to take on increasing responsibilities within their chapter and the FSL community.
3. **Bridge Building:** The nominee should demonstrate a commitment to bridging gaps between new members (e.g., freshmen, transfers) and upper-class members within their chapter. This could involve mentorship programs, social events facilitating interaction between members of different class years, or educational workshops to foster understanding and collaboration among members at varying stages of their collegiate experience.
4. **Involvement and Engagement:** Nominations should highlight the nominee's active involvement in the FSL community beyond their chapter. This could include participation in FSL-sponsored events, leadership development workshops, or involvement in FSL governing bodies or committees.
5. **Positive Impact:** Judges will assess the nominee's impact on their chapter and the FSL community. This may include contributions to recruitment efforts, academic success initiatives, philanthropy, and service projects, or efforts to promote a positive and inclusive chapter culture.

These criteria aim to recognize and celebrate emerging GVSU Fraternity & Sorority Life community leaders who have demonstrated a strong commitment to their organization, displayed potential for future leadership roles, and actively worked to build connections and foster inclusivity among members.

Individual Awards – New Member of the Year

Eligibility: Chapter members who were new members during the Fall 2025 or Winter 2026 new member cycle.

Requirements: They must be in good standing and be initiated members of their respective organizations.

Submission Requirements: Must be at least 250 words and no more than 750 words.

Submission Suggestions: Include specific examples of how the nominee meets the criteria below.

Judges are external to GVSU and have no context for your chapter – be sure to give appropriate context!

Criteria:

1. **Commitment to Learning:** The nominee should demonstrate a genuine interest in learning about their organization's values, traditions, and history. This could include participation in new member education programs, engagement with alumni mentors, and active involvement in activities that promote a deeper understanding of the organization's principles and heritage.
2. **Living Organization's Values:** Judges will look for evidence of the nominee's alignment with their organization's values in everyday interactions. This could involve examples of how the nominee has demonstrated leadership, service, scholarship, brotherhood/sisterhood, or other core values of their organization in their personal and academic life.
3. **Integration into the Greek Community:** The nominee should be able to connect with and contribute to the larger Greek community at GVSU. This could include participation in interfraternal or intersorority events, collaboration with other chapters on service projects or social activities, and efforts to build positive relationships with members of other organizations.
4. **Leadership Potential:** Judges will assess the nominee's potential for future leadership roles within their organization and the FSL community. This could be demonstrated through their active participation in chapter activities, willingness to take on responsibilities, and positive influence on fellow new members and chapter members.
5. **Community Engagement:** Nominations should highlight the nominee's involvement in community service and philanthropic initiatives within their organization and the broader GVSU community. This could include participation in organized service projects, fundraising efforts for charitable causes, or volunteering with local organizations.

These criteria aim to recognize and celebrate emerging GVSU Fraternity & Sorority Life community leaders who have demonstrated a strong commitment to their organization, displayed potential for future leadership roles, and actively worked to build connections and foster inclusivity among members.

Individual Award - Advisor of the Year

Eligibility: Any chapter advisor (faculty, staff, alumni, or other volunteer) who has provided outstanding support and guidance to a fraternity or sorority at GVSU.

Submission Requirements: Must be at least 250 words and no more than 750 words.

Submission Suggestions: Include specific examples of how the nominee meets the criteria below.

Judges are external to GVSU and have no context for your chapter – be sure to give appropriate context!

Criteria:

1. **Commitment to Chapter Success** – The nominee has demonstrated unwavering dedication to the growth, values, and mission of the chapter. They actively support the organization's strategic goals, contribute to long-term planning, and help members uphold the values and standards of their fraternity or sorority. Their leadership plays a pivotal role in sustaining chapter excellence.
2. **Mentorship & Guidance** – The nominee serves as a trusted mentor, providing chapter leaders and members with sound advice, encouragement, and perspective. They foster leadership development, assist in problem-solving, and offer guidance on personal and organizational challenges. Their mentorship enhances the confidence and skills of chapter leaders, preparing them for success beyond their fraternity/sorority experience.
3. **Impact on Members** – The advisor positively influences members' personal and professional development. This may include helping members navigate their collegiate journey, offering career or academic support, and instilling a sense of responsibility and accountability. Strong nominations will provide examples of how the advisor has shaped members' growth as leaders and individuals.
4. **Collaboration & Advocacy** – The nominee actively collaborates with key stakeholders, including the university, the Office of Student Life, and inter/national headquarters. They advocate for the chapter's interests while ensuring alignment with institutional and national policies. Their efforts contribute to a stronger relationship between the chapter and the greater fraternity/sorority community.
5. **Sustained Involvement** – The nominee has maintained consistent engagement with the chapter, demonstrating a long-term commitment to its success. Whether through regular meetings, attending events, or providing behind-the-scenes support, they remain a reliable presence within the organization. Their dedication extends beyond a singular moment of service, ensuring lasting impact.

Individual Awards – Fraternity Member of the Year

Eligibility: Individuals who are members of recognized social fraternities.

Requirements: They must be in good standing and be initiated members of their respective organizations.

Submission Requirements: Must be at least 250 words and no more than 750 words.

Submission Suggestions: Include specific examples of how the nominee meets the criteria below.

Judges are external to GVSU and have no context for your chapter – be sure to give appropriate context!

Criteria:

1. **Commitment to the Organization's Values:** The nominee should exemplify the core values of their fraternity in their actions and interactions. This includes demonstrating qualities such as leadership, integrity, siblinghood, scholarship, and service in their everyday life.
2. **Community Betterment:** Judges will look for evidence of the nominee's efforts to impact the GVSU and the greater Grand Rapids community positively. This could include participation in philanthropic activities, volunteering with local organizations, or leading initiatives that address community needs.
3. **Legacy and Impact:** Nominations should highlight the nominee's lasting legacy on their chapter and the GVSU community. This may include significant achievements, initiatives, or improvements spearheaded by the nominee during their time as a fraternity member, as well as their positive influence on their peers and successors.
4. **Leadership:** The nominee should demonstrate exemplary leadership qualities, including the ability to inspire and motivate others, foster collaboration, and enact positive change. This could be evidenced by positions held within their fraternity, participation in campus leadership roles, or involvement in community organizations.
5. **Service and Philanthropy:** Judges will assess the nominee's dedication to service and philanthropy within their fraternity and the broader community. This could include organizing or participating in service projects, fundraising for charitable causes, or advocating for social justice initiatives.
6. **Academic Excellence:** Nominations should highlight the nominee's commitment to academic success and intellectual growth. This could include maintaining a high GPA, participating in educational enrichment programs, or supporting academic initiatives within their fraternity and the GVSU community.
7. **Positive Role Model:** The nominee should be a positive role model for their fraternity members, fellow students, and community members. This includes demonstrating ethical behavior, inclusivity, and respect for others in all aspects of their life.

Individual Awards – Sorority Member of the Year

Eligibility: Individuals who are members of recognized social sororities.

Requirements: They must be in good standing and be initiated members of their respective organizations.

Submission Requirements: Must be at least 250 words and no more than 750 words.

Submission Suggestions: Include specific examples of how the nominee meets the criteria below.

Judges are external to GVSU and have no context for your chapter – be sure to give appropriate context!

Criteria:

1. **Commitment to the Organization's Values:** The nominee should exemplify the core values of their sorority in their actions and interactions. This includes demonstrating qualities such as leadership, integrity, siblinghood, scholarship, and service in their everyday life.
2. **Community Betterment:** Judges will look for evidence of the nominee's efforts to impact the GVSU and the greater Grand Rapids community positively. This could include participation in philanthropic activities, volunteering with local organizations, or leading initiatives that address community needs.
3. **Legacy and Impact:** Nominations should highlight the nominee's lasting legacy on their chapter and the GVSU community. This may include significant achievements, initiatives, or improvements spearheaded by the nominee during their time as a sorority member, as well as their positive influence on their peers and successors.
4. **Leadership:** The nominee should demonstrate exemplary leadership qualities, including the ability to inspire and motivate others, foster collaboration, and enact positive change. This could be evidenced by positions held within their fraternity, participation in campus leadership roles, or involvement in community organizations.
5. **Service and Philanthropy:** Judges will assess the nominee's dedication to service and philanthropy within their fraternity and the broader community. This could include organizing or participating in service projects, fundraising for charitable causes, or advocating for social justice initiatives.
6. **Academic Excellence:** Nominations should highlight the nominee's commitment to academic success and intellectual growth. This could include maintaining a high GPA, participating in educational enrichment programs, or supporting academic initiatives within their fraternity and the GVSU community.
7. **Positive Role Model:** The nominee should be a positive role model for their sorority members, fellow students, and community members. This includes demonstrating ethical behavior, inclusivity, and respect for others in all aspects of their life.

Chapter Awards – Program of the Year

Eligibility: Program hosted or co-hosted by a recognized social fraternity or sorority at GVSU.

Submission Requirements: Must be at least 250 words and no more than 750 words.

Submission Suggestions: Include specific examples of how the nominee meets the criteria below.

Judges are external to GVSU and have no context for your chapter – be sure to give appropriate context!

Criteria:

- 1. Identified Need** – The program addresses a specific challenge or opportunity within the chapter or broader GVSU and Grand Rapids community. Strong nominations will provide clear evidence of the need for this program, supported by data, testimonials, or other relevant information that demonstrates why the initiative was necessary.
- 2. Chapter Impact** – The program should positively influence the hosting chapter by enhancing member engagement, strengthening chapter operations, or fostering a more supportive and inclusive culture. Judges will look for measurable improvements such as increased participation, leadership development, or strengthened organizational effectiveness.
- 3. Community Impact** – Beyond the chapter, the program should contribute to the greater GVSU and Grand Rapids community. This may include philanthropic efforts, service initiatives, or programs that promote inclusivity, diversity, and social change. Nominations should clearly outline how the program benefits those outside the hosting chapter.
- 4. Evidence of Success** – Successful programs provide tangible proof of their impact. Nominations should include quantitative (e.g., participation numbers, fundraising totals) and qualitative (e.g., testimonials, participant feedback) evidence. Supporting materials such as photos, media coverage, or formal evaluations strengthen the nomination.
- 5. Experiential Learning** – The program should provide meaningful learning experiences for participants, helping them develop leadership skills, professional competencies, or a greater sense of personal growth. This could include mentorship opportunities, skill-building workshops, or hands-on experiences that contribute to lifelong learning.
- 6. Innovation & Creativity** – Judges will look for programs that take a unique or novel approach to addressing challenges or engaging members. This could include creative event formats, new technology integration, or resourceful solutions that make a significant impact despite limited resources.
- 7. Sustainability & Legacy** – Strong programs should have a lasting impact beyond a one-time event. Sustainability can be demonstrated through recurring programming, long-term partnerships, or the development of resources that allow future leaders to continue the initiative. Judges will assess whether the program has the potential to be maintained and expanded over time.

Chapter Awards – Most Improved Chapter of the Year

Eligibility: Chapters in compliance with GVSU Relationship Policy and GSAP completion

Submission Requirements: Must be at least 250 words and no more than 750 words.

Submission Suggestions: Include specific examples of how the nominee meets the criteria below.

Judges are external to GVSU and have no context for your chapter – be sure to give appropriate context!

Criteria:

1. **Quantifiable Improvement:** The chapter should demonstrate measurable improvement in various aspects of chapter operations, membership engagement, and community involvement compared to the previous year. This could include increases in membership retention, academic achievement, philanthropic impact, or other relevant metrics.
2. **Leadership Development:** Nominations should highlight the chapter's efforts to develop leadership skills among its members and cultivate a leadership culture within the organization. This could include providing leadership training, mentorship programs, or opportunities for members to take on leadership roles within the chapter.
3. **Membership Engagement:** The chapter should demonstrate improved engagement and participation among its members in chapter activities, events, and initiatives. This could include increased attendance at meetings and events, greater involvement in planning and executing activities, and enhanced camaraderie and morale among members.
4. **Academic Achievement:** Judges will look for evidence of improvement in the chapter's academic performance and support for members' academic success. This could include increases in GPA averages, implementation of academic support programs, or recognition of educational achievements within the chapter.
5. **Community Impact:** Nominations should highlight the chapter's increased impact on the GVSU and greater Grand Rapids community through service projects, philanthropic efforts, and other community engagement initiatives. This could include expanded volunteer opportunities, higher levels of fundraising for charitable causes, or greater collaboration with local organizations.
6. **Organizational Development:** The chapter should demonstrate improvements in organizational management, planning, and execution of chapter activities and events. This could include enhanced communication and coordination among chapter officers, more efficient use of chapter resources, and greater adherence to organizational policies and procedures.
7. **Points of Pride:** Nominations should identify specific achievements or milestones that serve as points of pride for the chapter and highlight the progress made in these areas. This could include successful recruitment efforts, outstanding event planning, notable philanthropic contributions, or other noteworthy accomplishments.

Chapter Awards – Chapter of the Year

Eligibility: Chapters in compliance with GVSU Relationship Policy and GSAP completion

Submission Requirements: Must be at least 250 words and no more than 750 words.

Submission Suggestions: Include specific examples of how the nominee meets the criteria below.

Judges are external to GVSU and have no context for your chapter – be sure to give appropriate context!

Criteria:

1. **Demonstration of Values:** The chapter should exemplify and uphold the core values of their fraternity or sorority in their actions, events, and initiatives. This includes fostering a culture of integrity, leadership, scholarship, service, brotherhood/sisterhood, inclusivity, and personal growth within the chapter.
2. **Community Contributions:** Contributions to the greater GVSU and Grand Rapids community through service projects, philanthropic efforts, and other community engagement initiatives. This could include participation in organized volunteer activities, fundraising for charitable causes, and collaboration with local organizations to address community needs.
3. **Commitment to GVSU Greek Community:** The chapter should demonstrate a commitment to supporting and enhancing the GVSU Greek community. This could involve participation in interfraternal events, collaboration with other chapters on joint initiatives, and efforts to promote unity, inclusivity, and positive relationships among Greek organizations.
4. **Enhancement of College Experience:** Nominations should highlight the chapter's efforts to enhance the overall college experience provided to its members. This could include providing academic development opportunities such as tutoring programs or study groups, offering leadership development opportunities through workshops or training sessions, and creating a supportive and engaging social environment for members to thrive in.
5. **Innovation and Excellence:** Judges will look for evidence of the chapter's innovation, creativity, and excellence in programming, event planning, and organizational management. This could include the introduction of new initiatives, events, or programs that have positively impacted members and the broader community.
6. **Academic Achievement:** The chapter should prioritize academic success and support members in achieving their academic goals. This could include implementing academic support programs, recognizing academic achievements, and promoting a culture of academic excellence.
7. **Leadership Development:** Nominations should highlight the chapter's efforts to develop leadership skills among its members. This could include providing opportunities for members to take on leadership roles within the chapter, organizing leadership workshops or retreats, and encouraging participation in campus leadership positions.