



2025 STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

WHAT IS ACCREDITATION?

Standards of Excellence is an accreditation program - a mandatory process that evaluates chapters to determine if they meet certain organizational standards. Accreditation is earned annually.

Why should my Chapter care about being accredited?

Accreditation ensures quality, provides public accountability, and recognizes chapters that strive to meet and exceed those standards. Accreditation shows current brothers and their families, alumni, potential brothers and their families, and the general public that your chapter satisfactorily performs and executes a comprehensive member experience. This is great for recruitment, philanthropy, and building campus and community partnerships!

Accreditation is required by ZBT's Supreme Council. If a Chapter is not accredited for three years in a row, they will have to present a show-cause presentation to the Council in order for the Chapter to maintain its Charter.

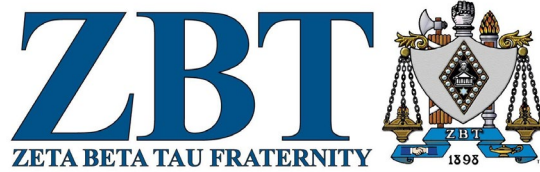
How is SOE different this year?

SOE has been revamped to streamline and incentivize the process of accreditation for all chapters. Chapters can:

- Complete **Foundational Elements**, which outline base-level Fraternity expectations regarding Intellectual Awareness, Social Responsibility, Integrity, and Brotherly Love; and, if desired,
- Complete additional **Excellence Elements**, which recognize above-and-beyond efforts and make the chapter eligible for awards at International Convention.

As always, chapters are strongly encouraged to submit for SOE evidence of participation in campus-sponsored events that also satisfy SOE elements. For example, if the host institution requires participation in an anti-hazing program, the chapter can submit its attendance list and description of the program for SOE credit, rather than host its own workshop.

Evidence related to Standards of Excellence elements must ONLY be submitted through the members-only portal in MyZBT.



Accreditation has its perks!

Incentives that accredited chapters can receive include, but are not limited to:

- Travel stipend: Covered travel for one brother to an IHQ-hosted event.
- “Free” chapter-based workshop: One IHQ-sponsored workshop of chapter’s choice, no charge for facilitator travel.
- \$500 credit toward supplies or swag for recruitment or philanthropic purposes (i.e. new tablecloths, pop-up tent, buttons, ball for GOTB, shirts (approved by HQ), etc.) OR for social event purposes (lighting, speakers, Sober Monitor shirts, etc.).
- \$250 credit toward food or supplies for any program or activity associated with THE JOURNEY.

Non-accredited chapters can expect the following repercussions, among other potential actions:

- Five percent (5%) insurance surcharge.
- Accreditation Plan created between the chapter executive board and IHQ staff with required steps toward achieving accreditation in the next calendar year.



FOUNDATIONAL ELEMENTS

Foundational Elements are core to the active chapter experience in Zeta Beta Tau. Chapters seeking recognition for performance beyond baseline expectations can also complete “Excellence Elements” (see page 6) for additional points.

Foundational Element codes begin with an “F”. Some Foundational Elements have possible additional points possible and are marked with an asterisk (*) in the “Points Possible” column.

**Only Accredited and 1, 2, or 3-Star chapters will be considered for awards at International Convention.*

**Points earned through Excellence Elements do not add onto Foundational points toward accreditation. For example, a chapter earning 50 Foundational points and 10 Excellence points is still Accredited with Watch. Excellence points are still considered for award recognition.*

**Half points can be awarded at the discretion of IHQ staff.*

LEVELS OF ACCREDITATION		
POINTS	PERCENTAGE	LEVEL
0-47	0-49%	Not accredited
48-72	50-75%	Accredited with Watch
73-97	76-100%	Accredited

INTELLECTUAL AWARENESS (7)		
ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	POINTS POSSIBLE
F- IA 1	THE JOURNEY: The Chapter hosts Educational Programs (50% of brothers in attendance at each program) on topics recommended in THE JOURNEY Manual. One per semester/twice a year. Max 2 points.	2
F- IA 2	The Chapter attends or hosts a workshop on health and wellness with a non-undergraduate facilitator/presenter where at least 50% of the brothers are in attendance. Max 2 points.	2
F- IA 3	The Chapter achieves a cumulative GPA of at least 2.70 in all academic terms. Max 2 points.	2
F- IA 4	The Chapter submits an outline or narrative description of their officer transition program.	1
F- IA 5	The Chapter has a study program that includes a specific plan for brothers with under a 2.7 cumulative GPA.	1
F- IA 6	The Chapter shows evidence of an active, positive digital presence, including an up-to-date website, at least one	1



	social media account, and/or active promotion of ZBT through frequent marketing and outreach.	
F- IA 7	The Chapter hosts at least one campus-based event or program that is open to the campus community and/or that at least 50% of the chapter attends.	1*
		10+

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (12)		
ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	POINTS POSSIBLE
F- SR 1	The Chapter attends or hosts a hazing prevention training with a non-undergraduate facilitator/presenter where at least 40 brothers or 60% of the chapter attends, whichever is less.	1
F- SR 2	The Chapter attends or hosts a sexual misconduct prevention education OR Safe Smart Dating training where at least 40 brothers or 60% of the chapter attends, whichever is less. [Note: SSD requires at least 75% attendance.]	1
F- SR 3	The Chapter/Prospective Chapter attends or hosts a program about alcohol and other drugs facts, responsible use, and appropriate conduct at social events where at least 40 brothers or 60% of the chapter attends, whichever is less.	1
F- SR 4	The Chapter submits documentation of its sober monitor training (use the Risk Reduction Protocol for information). Training must be completed after Brotherhood Orientation each term/semester, with at least 50% of brothers in attendance. Max 2 points.	2
F- SR 5	The Chapter submits its Standards Board process and Brotherhood Quality Standards reviews the information during a Chapter meeting.	1
F- SR 6	At least 60% of brothers are involved in a registered student organization (including campus athletics) outside of ZBT or hold a job or volunteer position on/off campus.	1*
F- SR 7	The Chapter has an elected or appointed officer on the executive board or serves on a committee of their respective fraternity governing council, <i>not including a delegate.</i>	1
F- SR 8	The Chapter hosts or co-hosts at least four programs dedicated to exploring ZBT's heritage where at least 40	4



	brothers or 60% of the chapter attends, whichever is less. Max 4 points, one per program.	
F- SR 9	The Chapter demonstrates a commitment to hands-on community service. One (1) point for an average of 20-29 hours/brother/year.	1*
F- SR 10	The Chapter demonstrates a commitment to fundraising—whether for any of the Fraternity’s official philanthropic partners (Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, Jewish Women International, or the ZBT Foundation) OR any other charitable organization— with an average of at least \$18/brother/year.	1*
F- SR 11	The Chapter hosts a Gift of Life Bone Marrow Registry drive.	1
F- SR 12	The Chapter hosts a Get on the Ball event in support of the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals.	1
		16+

INTEGRITY (4)		
ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	POINTS POSSIBLE
F- INT 1	The Chapter submits its updated Risk Reduction Protocol (including all aspects of the document) <i>and</i> minutes from chapter meetings indicating the document was reviewed in full, once per term/twice per year.	2
F- INT 2	The Chapter submits picture verification of its tax-exempt status (Form 990) for the current tax year.	1*
F- INT 3	The Chapter presents its annual budget to the membership for vote and submits minutes showing it was approved.	1
F- INT 4	The Chapter utilizes GreekBill (or an approved accounting firm) or a similar service provided by its institution.	2
		6+

BROTHERLY LOVE (18)		
ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	POINTS POSSIBLE
F- BL 1	The Chapter reviews its constitution and bylaws, makes any necessary changes, and submits a copy with the date of <i>review</i> added.	1

F- BL 2	The Chapter conducts a Semiannual Brotherhood Review Vote (SBRV) in the fall and spring. Max 2 points.	2
F- BL 3	The Chapter conducts an annual inventory of its Ritual regalia and submits the inventory form. If items are missing or damaged, the Chapter should also submit a plan to purchase/replace the missing/damaged items. (Forms can be found in Plaid in myZBT.)	1
F- BL 4	The Chapter has a functioning committee structure with at least 50% of the brotherhood on at least one committee or board (e.g., standards, academic, brotherhood, recruitment, alumni/family, heritage, philanthropy, service, apparel, social).	1
F- BL 5	The Chapter holds the Officer Installation Ceremony for each new executive board in accordance with the Gold Book.	1
F- BL 6	The Chapter conducts the Graduation Ceremony in accordance with the Gold Book.	1
F- BL 7	The Chapter reviews the Initiation Ritual with each new brother class.	1
F- BL 8	The Chapter engages alumni through at least two communications per year. Max 2 points.	2*
F- BL 9	The Chapter hosts up to two single- or multi-day events for brothers' supporters/family members, with all brothers having the opportunity to invite guests and participate. Max 2 points.	2
F- BL 10	The Chapter hosts a recruitment workshop at least once a year to provide training and discuss conversation skills, ideal PNB qualifications, logistics, standards for bidding, etc.	1*
F- BL 11	The Chapter creates and submits a handout provided to Potential New Brothers during recruitment that outlines regarding time, financial, and academic requirements, and other expectations and obligations of membership.	1
F- BL 12	The Chapter holds a Pre-Initiation meeting once per recruiting term, in accordance with the Gold Book, with 100% of the new brothers. Max 2 points.	2
F- BL 13	THE JOURNEY: The Chapter holds the Brotherhood Orientation as written in THE JOURNEY once per recruiting term. Max 2 points.	2



F- BL 14	THE JOURNEY: The Chapter conducts the Big Brother Mentoring Program completed as written in THE JOURNEY, once per recruiting term. Max 2 points.	2
F- BL 15	THE JOURNEY: The Chapter holds brotherhood bonding activities, as described in THE JOURNEY, with at least 50% of brothers in attendance at each activity.	10
F- BL 16	THE JOURNEY: The Chapter holds a Brotherhood Retreat once per academic term (or twice a year) with at least 80% of brothers in attendance.	2
F- BL 17	THE JOURNEY: The Chapter conducts a Senior and Alumni Panel, as described in THE JOURNEY, with at least 50% of brothers attending.	1
F- BL 18	The chapter's new initiate class size (one recruiting term) is equal to or higher than the median size of new initiate classes for other fraternities within their governing council.	1*
		34+

HEADQUARTERS-TRACKED POINTS (10)		
ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	POINTS POSSIBLE
F- HQ 1	Each New Brother completes the Tightrope program in Plaid through myZBT within the academic term in which they join. 1 point for 50-66% completion.	1*
F- HQ 2	Every executive board officer (as tracked by rosters in myZBT) completes the Highwire program in Plaid through myZBT. Officers will have until January 31, 2026 to complete Highwire. 1 point for 50-66% completion. **Chapters that conduct elections between October 1- December 31 will start with 3 points, in addition to completion points.	4*
F- HQ 3	The Chapter attends HQ-sponsored programs in accordance with stated attendance requirements or recommendations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Virtual Officer Institute: 1 point per participant (eight executive board members, plus Standards Director and Chapter Advisor), max 10 points. ● Regional Officer Institute: 1 point for one participant; 2 extra points if max attendance is achieved (within distance limits). 	16*



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Convention (max 2 points) 	
F- HQ 4	The Chapter reports recruitment dates for each recruiting term. Max 2 points.	2
F- HQ 5	The Chapter reports New Initiates in myZBT within 72 hours of initiation, per recruiting term. Max 2 points.	2
F- HQ 6	The chapter meets its annual recruitment projection.	1*
F- HQ 7	All New Initiates complete their registration steps in myZBT by the end of their initiation term. Max 2 points.	2
F- HQ 8	The Chapter retains at least 85% of its New Brothers through the 30-day disaffiliation period.	1*
F- HQ 9	The Chapter ends the calendar year in Good Standing with the Fraternity. This includes no outstanding balance due and no current or outstanding conduct matters.	1
F- HQ 10	The Chapter ends the calendar year in Good Standing with its host institution, as proven by a letter/email form a campus administrator. This includes no outstanding balance due and no current or outstanding conduct matters.	1
		31+

EXCELLENCE ELEMENTS

These elements represent above-and-beyond efforts chapters can achieve for additional points. In some cases, a corresponding Foundational Element must be fully awarded before Excellence points can be given.

**Points earned through Excellence Elements do not add onto Foundational points toward accreditation. For example, a chapter earning 50 Foundational points and 10 Excellence points is still Accredited with Watch. Excellence points give additional weight toward award recognition.*

**Only Accredited and 1, 2, or 3-Star chapters will be considered for awards at International Convention.*

LEVELS OF EXCELLENCE		
ADD'L POINTS EARNED	PERCENTAGE	LEVEL
0-23	25-49%	1-Star
24-36	50-75%	2-Star
37-48	76-100%	3-Star

INTELLECTUAL AWARENESS (1)		
ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	ADD'L POINTS POSSIBLE
E- IA 7	The Chapter hosts <u>up to two additional</u> campus-based events or programs that are open to the campus community and/or that at least 50% of the chapter attends.	2
		2

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (5)		
ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	ADD'L POINTS POSSIBLE
E- SR 8.1	A brother holds a leadership role in another RSO or campus event. Max 2 points, up to two different brothers.	2
E- SR 8.2	A brother and/or the chapter receives local recognition for excellence in campus involvement. Max 2 points.	2
E- SR 10	The chapter demonstrates an elevated commitment to fundraising. 1 point for an annual average of \$36+/brother; 2 points for \$54+/brother.	2
E- SR 11	The Chapter demonstrates an elevated commitment to community service. 1 point for 30-39 hours/brother/year; 2 points for 40+ hours/brother/year.	2
E- SR 16	The Chapter hosts a mock social event once each term/semester to ensure brothers understand the logistics and flow of a social event. At least 50% of brothers must attend each event. [LINK TEMPLATE PLAN] Max 2 points.	2
		10

INTEGRITY (1)		
ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	ADD'L POINTS POSSIBLE
E- INT 2	The Chapter contributes at least 3% of its annual budget to reserves/savings.	1
		1



BROTHERLY LOVE (9)		
ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	ADD'L POINTS POSSIBLE
E- BL 9	The Chapter invites alumni (non-advisors) to events or activities like Homecoming, Ritual, Alumni Weekend, etc. Max 2 points.	2
E- BL 10	The Chapter has at least 50% of brothers complete all three Recruitment University courses found in Plaid. Max 3 points.	3
E- BL 18	The chapter's new initiate class size is equal to or higher than the median size of new initiate classes for other fraternities within their governing council in both recruiting terms.	1
E- BL 19	The Chapter engages families through e-mail or social media communications per year. Max 2 points.	2
E- BL 20	The Chapter has teams in at least two intramural sports (one point per team). Extra point(s) if the team places in the top three in their division. Max 4 points.	4
E- BL 21	The Chapter holds an event with another ZBT Chapter (in-person or virtual).	1
E- BL 22	The Chapter's total membership is at, equal to, or higher than the median Chapter size of all fraternities within their governing council.	1
E- BL 23	THE JOURNEY: The Chapter conducts a Milestone Workshop once per term to review brothers' progress with Core and Elective Experiences. Max 2 points.	2
E- BL 24	The Chapter holds a yearly review of all Rituals listed in the Gold Book and discusses the importance of each one with at least 50% of brothers.	1
		17

HEADQUARTERS-TRACKED POINTS (5)		
ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	ADD'L POINTS POSSIBLE
E- HQ 1	Each New Brother completes the Tightrope program in Plaid through myZBT within the	2

	academic term in which they join. 1 point for 67-83% completion; 2 points for 84-100% completion.	
E- HQ 2	Every executive board officer (as tracked by rosters in myZBT) completes the Highwire program in Plaid through myZBT. Officers will have until January 31, 2026 to complete Highwire. 1 point for 67-83% completion; 2 points for 84-100% completion.	2
E- HQ 3	The Chapter attends HQ-sponsored programs in accordance with stated attendance requirements or recommendations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monthly officer webinar participant (1/month, max 6 points) ● Applicant for Emerging Leaders Institute (1 point, plus 1 bonus point if brother is selected) ● Summit Against Hate participant (1 point) ● Israel Now! participant (1 point) ● Hosts Combatting Campus Antisemitism (CCAS), Safe & Social: Being Responsible with Alcohol, MANUAL Mental Health workshop, or Safe Smart Dating (1 point each). ● <i>Additional points possible at discretion of IHQ staff</i> 	10+
E- HQ 6	The Chapter exceeds its annual recruitment goal set by IHQ.	2
E- HQ 8	The Chapter retains at least 85% of rising-senior brothers between the spring and fall terms.	2
		18+



CHAPTER AWARDS

Each year the Fraternity recognizes individuals and chapters for achievement in programming, recruitment, philanthropy and more. The Standards of Excellence program is used as a guide in determining award winners at the Fraternity's International Convention.

**Only Accredited and 1, 2, or 3-Star chapters will be considered for awards at International Convention.*

- Brummer Cup (Most Outstanding Chapter)
- Edwin B. Meissner Award (Most Improved Chapter)
- Lee Dover Award (Outstanding General Chapter Programming)
- Bijur Award (Outstanding GPA)
- The Sobel Award (GPA Improvement)
- Frauenthal Award (Intramural Sports Participation)
- Sid Luckman Award (Varsity Sports Participation)
- Barry D. Siegel Award (Most Successful Recruitment)
- Best Prospective Chapter Award
- Al Berg Undergraduate Heritage Award
- Omega Cup (Outstanding Publications)
- Joseph E. Glaser Award (Philanthropy)
- Theodore G. Rich-St. Louis Alumni Association Award (Community Service)
- Best Community Service Project
- Children's Miracle Network Award
- Alexander "Babe" Lewin Award (Outstanding Alumni Programming)
- Most Outstanding Program or Event with Another ZBT Chapter or Prospective Chapter
 - Best Educational Program
 - Best Brotherhood Event
 - Risk Management Award
 - Best Website
 - Parent Relations Award
 - Bolotin Innovation Award