

Assessment Cycle 2020-2021

Fraternal Leadership & Civic Engagement

Division: Student Experience

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Northwestern Mission. Northwestern State University is a responsive, student-oriented institution that is committed to the creation, dissemination, and acquisition of knowledge through teaching, research, and service. The University maintains as its highest priority excellence in teaching in graduate and undergraduate programs. Northwestern State University prepares its Students to become productive members of society and promotes economic development and improvements in the quality of life of the citizens in its region.

The Student Experience Mission Statement. The Student Experience provides the University community with programs and services to support the academic mission of creating, disseminating and acquiring knowledge through teaching, research and service while empowering a diverse student population to achieve their highest educational potential. The Student Experience creates a stimulating and inclusive educational environment that is conducive to holistic personal growth. The commitment to students initiates prior to entrance, sustains throughout the college experience and continues beyond graduation. Enrollment Services provides equal access for education to potential students throughout the state and region and promotes economic stability and financial access to citizens. Student Affairs enhances student development and broadens intellectual, social, cultural, ethical, and occupational growth. The Student Experience works closely with faculty, staff, students, and the community to ensure graduates have the capability to promote economic development and improvements in the region.

Student Affairs Mission. The Division of Student Affairs prepares students to be productive members of society and to improve the quality of life of students. Student Affairs provides support services in career development and placement, advocacy and accountability, academic support, mental and physical health, disability accommodations, student activities and organizations, student union life, and opportunities in leadership, community service, and programs for new students. Through hands on involvement in programs and services, Student Affairs promotes personal development in a student-centered environment, which delivers innovative practices in an environment of respect. Student Affairs encourages integrity, diversity and collaboration with all members of the university community.

Fraternal Leadership & Civic Engagement Mission. The Office of Fraternal Leadership & Civic Engagement works with the students in the Northwestern State University fraternity and sorority community and the members of the Student Government Association to provide an outlet for self-governance, student voice, and to

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prepare students to be engaged citizens through leadership development, civic engagement programs, advocacy & accountability, and service opportunities.

Methodology: The assessment process includes:

- (1) The assessment process for Fraternal Leadership & Civic Engagement Mission will be evaluated through multiple direct and indirect assessment tools.
- (2) The Director will analyze the data to determine whether the applicable outcomes are met and report to the Director of Student Affairs.
- (3) Results from the assessment will be discussed with the appropriate students and constituent groups.
- (4) Individual meetings will be held with students and constituent groups as required.
- (5) The executive director, in collaboration with the area directors, will determine proposed changes to measurable outcomes, assessment tools for the next assessment period and, where needed, service changes.

Fraternal Leadership & Civic Engagement

Service Outcomes:

SO 1. Build campus community by providing opportunities for students to learn and practice leadership and social & civic responsibility.

Measure 1.1. Develop a sense of campus community among students that fosters civic competency through Student Government Association programs. Internal assessment using portions of the US Citizenship Test and key components of university resources is completed at the beginning and the end of the year for the Northwestern State University Student Government Association members. Success through this initiative is defined by the quantitative results of the pre and posttest instrument distributed to the students involved with the Student Government Association. Goal will be for students to score at least 80% on posttest.

Finding: Target was met.

Analysis. The target was met for AC 2019-2020

Based on the analysis of AC 2019-2020 results, the Director of Fraternal Leadership and Civic Engagement implemented changes for AC 2020-2021 to the SGA member experience by offering more programs, initiatives, and opportunities to learn about local, state, and national government to continue to improve the civic knowledge of senators and officers in SGA.

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and limited face-to-face interactions, we were unable to implement all of the desired changes to our program, but the 2020 Election offered many opportunities for learning and hosting programs focused on civic engagement.

As a result of these changes, in AC 2020-2021 the target was met.

The scores were 92.21% for the pre-test and 95.51% for the post-test. These findings demonstrate that membership in student government can positively affect the development of civic competencies in students who participate in the program.

Members of the Student Government Association demonstrated an increased capacity for competent engagement in local, state, and national government. Members demonstrated an increase in knowledge of basic functions of government and applied that new knowledge in their experience as representatives on the university student government association, particularly in addressing the needs of their respective constituencies (i.e. student concerns, drafting of legislation, debate, and implementation of programs and initiatives.)

These findings demonstrated that membership in student government can positively affect the development of civic competencies in students who participate in executive leadership. There is a continued need to explore if programs provided by the SGA have an impact on the civic competency of the students who participate in such programs.

Decision, action, or recommendation.

In AC 2020-2021 the target was met.

Based on the analysis of the 2020-2021 results, the Director of Fraternal Leadership & Civic Engagement will continue to make improvements to civic programming and engagement efforts for Student Government members to ensure continued meeting of the targeted outcome of the civic knowledge assessment.

Measure 1.2. Educate students as it relates to health and safety management through risk management initiatives. Offering educational sessions regarding risk management and assessing the knowledge gained by providing an end of the academic year assessment. Success through this initiative is defined by the quantitative results of the instrument distributed to NSU students each academic year. Goal will be for students to score at least 80% strongly agree + agree on each item of the assessment.

Finding: Target was met

Analysis. The target was not met for AC 2019-2020

Based on the analysis of the AC 2019-2020 results, the Director of Fraternal Leadership and Civic Engagement implemented changes to the risk management training plan that

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included the hands-on event hosting component which students indicated was much needed as part of the training. Due to COVID-19 we were unable to host this component of the training. Student organizations have also not been permitted to host events with alcohol during AC 2020-2021.

The same assessment tool was used as AC 2019-2020 based upon the recommendation of Dr. Lori Hart, which measured students' understanding of health and safety related to risk management. Goals for the risk management training are to develop a common understanding of the University Risk Management Policy around alcohol and drugs for participants. Ultimately, participants should learn how to create safe events in compliance with the policy through event planning and prevention resources.

The event management training for AC 2020-2021 also included a focus on hosting events in compliance with safety guidelines during the pandemic. The risk management training for events with alcohol focused primarily on the policy itself vs the philosophy of safety. The training also devoted more time to scenarios and in-depth questions from training participants as well as student feedback on potential changes to the policy. This feedback was reviewed by university administrators and the policy revised to reflect changes that were deemed reasonable.

As a result of these changes, in AC 2020-2021 the target was met.

Those receiving the training demonstrated an observed capacity for learning to plan safe events in compliance with the Risk Management Guidelines and met the targeted goal of at least 80% strongly agree + agree on each item of the assessment in 15 of the 15 assessment areas.

Decision, action, or recommendation.

In AC 2020-2021 the target was met.

Based on the analysis of the 2020-2021 results, the Director of Fraternal Leadership and Civic Engagement will continue to focus the training primarily on the policy itself and include the hands-on aspect of hosting events with alcohol. The philosophy of safety will remain a component but will no longer be the primary focus of the training. This also demonstrates a need to assess other areas outside of risk management in order to better serve the students participating in Greek Life at NSU.

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Comprehensive Summary of Key evidence of improvement based on the analysis of results. The office made several decisions after examining results of data analysis from AC 2019-2020 which resulted in improved student learning and program improvement in AC 2020-2021.

SO	Measure	Key Evidence
1	1.1	The Director of Fraternal Leadership & Civic Engagement and the Student Government Association continued to offer programs designed to increase the civic knowledge of SGA participants.
1	1.1	Student participants in the SGA were able to plan and implement civic engagement programs for fellow SGA members and students to participate in.
1	1.1	The Director of Fraternal Leadership & Civic Engagement created opportunities for members of the SGA to engage with elected officials and local and state higher education leaders.
1	1.1	The Director of Fraternal Leadership & Civic Engagement shared information and resources with SGA members regarding the 2020 Election, the functions of government, and
1	1.2	The Director of Fraternal Leadership & Civic Engagement made adjustments to the training by having the risk management policy serve as the primary focus of the training.
1	1.2	The revised risk management training allowed students to discuss scenarios to gain a better understanding of how to implement the policy when hosting events with alcohol.
1	1.2	The risk management training has been demonstrated to be effective at educating participants on how to host events in compliance with the policy.

Plan of action moving forward.

- The SGA will continue to host events and programs focused on civic engagement such as service events, leadership training, diversity and inclusion, government, elections, current events, etc.
- The Director of Fraternal Leadership & Civic Engagement will increase the educational opportunities for SGA members to increase their civic knowledge on the functions of government through information sharing, guest speakers at meetings, and trainings.
- The Director of Fraternal Leadership & Civic Engagement will review the civic assessment tool to determine if any changes need to be made to better gauge the civic capacity and growth of SGA participants.
- The Director of Fraternal Leadership & Civic Engagement will continue utilizing the reformatted risk management training for students on hosting events with alcohol.
- The Director of Fraternal Leadership & Civic Engagement will explore utilizing the Fraternity & Sorority Experience Survey (FSSES) through the Piazza Center

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for Fraternity and Sorority Research and Reform. The focus of this assessment tool is:

- The Fraternity and Sorority Experience Survey (FSES) asks students what they think about their total fraternity and sorority experience. Participating institutions can use the FSES data to create chapter and council benchmarks as well as make critical decisions on where to focus programmatic and advising support to create healthier and safer chapters and communities.
- The FSES provides customized insight about academic experiences, values, alcohol and drug use, social issues, bystander intervention, chapter operations, and community found in your institution's fraternity and sorority experience. Additionally, if school consortiums participate, results may identify your institution's strengths and challenges among your peers.
- The aggregate FSES data is used to identify campuses with sound professional practices, thus furthering the value beyond your own campus community to create safe, successful, and sustainable fraternities and sororities nationwide.