



VSU STUDENT LIFE



EXCELLENCE PACKET

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2026

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OVERVIEW OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

The Student Organization Excellence Program recognizes Registered Student Organizations that demonstrate a commitment to leadership, service, academic success, campus engagement, and organizational excellence. The program serves as both an assessment tool and a recognition program, encouraging organizations to continuously grow and contribute to the Valdosta State University community. Organizations must submit their annual Excellence Report by February 1.

Organizations will be evaluated in **four** key areas:

1. **Academics & Reporting**
2. **Programming**
3. **Leadership Development**
4. **Service & Philanthropy**

Based on the percentage of points earned, organizations will receive one of the following recognition levels:

- Bronze** – Meets Expectations
- Silver** – Exceeds Expectations
- Gold** – Demonstrates Excellence

OUTLINE OF THE PROGRAM

The following areas will be evaluated annually through the Excellence Program:

Service & Philanthropy

Demonstrates the organization's commitment to community service, philanthropy, and civic engagement.

Programming

Recognizes educational, social, professional, cultural, and campus-wide programs that foster member development and engagement.

Academics & Reporting

Evaluates academic achievement, compliance with policies, timely submission of required documentation, and organizational accountability.

Leadership & Development

Measures participation in leadership development opportunities, advisor engagement, officer transitions, and member growth initiatives.

Recognition Levels

Total Base Points: 600



Bronze: 200-349 points



Silver: 350-549 points



Gold: 550- 680+ points

Extra points are available. Organizations earning fewer than 500 points will be placed in a development status and encouraged to work with Student Life to establish goals and improvement strategies for the following year.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

1) Complete Excellence Forms

Organizations must submit four required forms in BlazerLink, one for each evaluation area:

1. Academics & Reporting
2. Programming
3. Leadership Development
4. Service & Philanthropy
5. Extra Points Available (optional form)

Each form must be fully completed. Answer all required questions and upload supporting documentation (flyers, photos, rosters, sign-in sheets, service hour logs, receipts, minutes, certificates, etc.)

2) Excellence Presentation

Organizations will deliver a presentation highlighting accomplishments across all four areas, including impact, key initiatives, and points of pride.

- Maximum of **3 presenters**

3) Evaluation

Submissions will be evaluated based on form responses, uploaded documentation, and the presentation. Emphasis is placed on organizational impact and achievement rather than formatting or aesthetics.

ACADEMICS & REPORTING

Academic success and organizational accountability are fundamental to the success of registered student organizations. Organizations are expected to foster an environment that supports academic achievement while maintaining accurate and timely completion of all required university reporting. Through a commitment to scholarship, responsible recordkeeping, and adherence to university policies and deadlines, organizations demonstrate their dedication to both individual member success and organizational excellence.

GPA

Category	Total Points Possible	End of Fall Semester	End of Spring Semester
Below 2.5	0	0 points	0 points
2.50-2.74	20	10 points	10 points
2.75-2.99	40	20 points	20 points
3.00-3.24	60	30 points	30 points
3.25-3.49	75	37.5 points	37.5 points
3.50-3.74	90	45 points	45 points
3.75-4.00	100	50 points	50 points

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Reporting	Points Possible
All required forms submitted on time - roster, transition, financials, etc.	25 points
Events properly registered in BlazerLink	25 points
Attendance at required meetings - RSO Summit, Presidents Roundtable, any required training sessions, Council Meetings (FSL only)	20 points
Meets with Faculty Advisor at least once per semester	20 points
Meets with Organization Advisor in Student Life monthly (excluding summer months)	10 points

PROGRAMMING

Registered student organizations play a vital role in creating a vibrant and engaging campus community through purposeful programming. Organizations are encouraged to plan and host events that align with their mission, contribute to the educational and social development of students, and enhance the overall campus experience. Meaningful programming should promote engagement, collaboration, and a sense of belonging while reflecting the values and goals of the organization.

Program Type	Points Possible
Academic/Educational	20 points each (max 60)
Collaboration	20 points each (max 60)
Social/Community Building	5 points each (max 20)
Service	5 points each (max 20)

Requirements per event:

1. Event Reservation through EvM
2. Registration through BlazerLink
3. Attendance list - using BlazerLink checkpoint code, or uploaded list after event is over.

Events missing one or more requirements may not be eligible for full points.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Leadership development is an essential component of the student organization experience. Registered student organizations are encouraged to provide opportunities for members to develop leadership skills, build professional competencies, and prepare for future success. By investing in member growth through training, mentorship, and active involvement, organizations cultivate confident leaders who positively impact their organization, the university, and their communities.

Outside Involvement

80% or more of organization	30 points
60-79% of organization	24 points
40-59% of organization	18 points
20-39% of organization	12 points
1-19% of organization	6 points
0% of organization	0 points

Outside Leadership Involvement

90% or more of organization	40 points
70-89% of organization	30 points
50-69% of organization	20 points
20-49% of organization	10 points
1-19% of organization	5 points
0% of organization	0 points

*Number of members involved in SGA, University Ambassador Program or serves on a FSL Council Executive Board

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Blazer Ready Involvement

80% or more of organization	30 points
60-79% of organization	24 points
40-59% of organization	18 points
20-39% of organization	12 points
1-19% of organization	6 points
0% of organization	0 points

Attendance at Blazer LEADs Workshops

75% or more of organization attends 3 or more	30 points
50% of organization attends 3 or more	20 points
25% of organization attends 3 or more	10 points
0% of organization attends 3 or more	0 points

SERVICE & PHILANTHROPY

Service to others and the community is an important value that registered student organizations are encouraged to embrace.

Members are expected to positively contribute to and actively participate in the campus community and the surrounding Valdosta area. Each organization should maintain a presence as a “good citizen” and strive to instill in its members a clear understanding of community standards, along with an appreciation for building and sustaining positive relationships.

Attendance at Campus Service Event

80% or more of organization	50 points
60-79% of organization	40 points
40-59% of organization	30 points
20-39% of organization	20 points
1-19% of organization	10 points
0% of organization	0 points

*We will not accept a service event hosted by your organization.

Number of Hours per Member

20 Hours or more per member	50 points
15-19 Hours per member	37.5 points
10-14 Hours per member	25 points
1-9 Hours per member	12.5 points
0 Hours per member	0 points

*Submit a list of hours per member, averages or totals will not be accepted.

PRESENTATION

The presentation provides organizations an opportunity to tell their story, highlight achievements, and reflect on growth.

Presentations must include the following:

1. Overview of achievements in all categories
2. Data highlights (GPA, attendance at events, service hours/money raised)
3. Points of Pride slide (major accomplishments and signature events)
4. Challenges + Improvement Plan
5. Future goals for the next academic year

Rubric

Category	Total Points Possible
Overall Presentation	25 points
Content: All 4 categories addressed	40 points
Content: Points of Pride	10 points
Improvement Plan	25 points

EXTRA POINTS AVAILABLE

This section provides the opportunity for organizations to go above the minimum expectations outlined. Extra points recognize exceptional achievements, outstanding contributions to the university and community, and accomplishments that demonstrate a commitment to organizational excellence, innovation, and leadership. Below are the point earning opportunities, along with examples and verification requirements for each.

A. Lighting of the Palms Participation – 15 points maximum

Organization demonstrates commitment to campus traditions by having 90% or more of organization attend Lighting of the Palms.

VERIFICATION: Attendance through BlazerLink

B. Mayhem Music Festival Participation – 15 points maximum

Organization demonstrates commitment to campus traditions by having 90% or more of organization attend Mayhem Music Festival.

VERIFICATION: Attendance through BlazerLink

C. Campus Department Collaboration – 15 points maximum

Organization partners with a university department, office, or campus program to host a collaborative event or initiative.

Examples: Career Opportunities, Counseling Center, Student Success, Campus Recreation, Student Life, Colleges, etc.

VERIFICATION: Event registered through BlazerLink and supporting documents

D. Student Success Resource Engagement – 10 points maximum

Organization attends a program hosted by the Office of Student Success and Retention.

Examples: Attending Syllabus Party, Time Management workshop, Attend to Win, Finals Refueled

VERIFICATION: Attendance through BlazerLink

e. Wellbeing Resource Engagement – 10 points maximum

Organization engages with campus wellbeing resources to support member success.

Examples: Requesting a Mental Minutes Presentation or Outreach Presentation, Requesting a Wellness training (Bring in the Bystander, Mental Health First Aid)

EXTRA POINTS AVAILABLE

continued...

f. Leadership Development Engagement – 10 points maximum

Organization provides members with additional leadership development opportunities outside of required organization meetings or trainings.

Examples: Attending LEADs workshops, Hosting officer training or transition, Bringing in a leadership speaker, Participating in a leadership program off-campus

VERIFICATION: Attendance records, event registration, or supporting documentation

g. Career & Professional Development Engagement – 10 points maximum

Organization engages with campus career resources or provides professional development opportunities for members.

Examples: Hosting a resume workshop, Attending career fairs, Hosting alumni/professional networking events, Interview preparation workshops

VERIFICATION: Event registration through BlazerLink and supporting documents

h. Organizational or Member Recognition – 20 points maximum

Organization or members receive recognition, awards, or honors demonstrating achievement, leadership, or impact.

Examples: National organization, regional/state, university, campus leadership, community awards or recognition, Individual members recognized for accomplishments connected to the organization

Point Structure:

- Organization receives recognition/award: +10 points
- Member(s) receive recognition/award: +10 points

VERIFICATION: Award documentation, announcement, certificate, website/social media recognition, or other supporting documentation

i. Innovation & Organizational Excellence – 10 points maximum

Organization implements a new initiative, program, or practice that strengthens the organization and enhances the member experience.

Examples: Creating a new tradition or signature program, Developing a new recruitment/engagement strategy, Implementing a new member development initiative, Creating a new organizational resource/tool

VERIFICATION: Submission of initiative summary and supporting documentation

Reach out to your Graduate Assistant with any questions!

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