



**GARNET AND GOLD KEY
LEADERSHIP HONORARY**



**Constitution of Garnet and Gold Key
Leadership Honorary**

Last Amended and Updated
April 26, 2021



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Article I—Organization Name

The name of this organization shall be Garnet and Gold Key Leadership Honorary, operating as Garnet and Gold Key.

Article II—Purpose

The purpose of Garnet and Gold Key is to recognize members of the Florida State University for their outstanding contributions in the areas of leadership, service, spirit, and scholastics; and to promote those activities, which foster further progress in these areas. Garnet and Gold Key aims to unite diverse areas of campus in order to work toward a common goal of celebrating traditions while striving toward progress.

Article III—Membership

Section 1: Membership Statement

This organization agrees to adhere to the University non-discrimination statement:

“No university student may be denied membership on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veterans' or marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other protected group status.”

Additionally, no hazing or discrimination will be used as a condition of membership in this organization. You can find out more at hazing.fsu.edu. Per the FSU Code of Conduct:

"Hazing is defined as any group or individual action or activity that endangers the mental or physical health or safety or which may demean, disgrace, or degrade any person, regardless of location, intent, or consent of participant(s)."

Section 2: Membership Classification

There shall be three classes of membership: active, honorary and alumni.

1. An active member shall be defined as an undergraduate or graduate student at the Florida State University who has been duly tapped and initiated into Garnet and Gold Key. Active members are considered to be “on probation” if they do not meet the requirements to remain in “good standing” as defined by the Executive Committee.



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2. Honorary members shall be defined as faculty, staff, or alumni past or present of the Florida State University, and beyond, who have exemplified the ideals of leadership, scholarship, and service. As such, they have been recognized, tapped, and initiated as members of Garnet and Gold Key. Granting honorary membership shall require a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee and may be revoked in accordance with Section 6 of this Article.
3. All members of Garnet and Gold Key who are in good standing at the time of their graduation from the Florida State University shall become alumni of Garnet and Gold Key and shall be entitled to all rights and privileges thereof.

Section 3: Membership Qualifications and Eligibility

1. To be eligible for active membership, a student candidate must meet the following requirements:
 - a. One full academic year of residence at Florida State University. Per FSU guidelines, recognized student organizations shall be limited to currently enrolled FSU students. Students who are dual enrolled at Tallahassee Community College or Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University alongside FSU are eligible to be members.
 - b. Completed a minimum of 45 hours of academic credit.
 - c. Have held, or are currently holding, a minimum of two leadership positions in different organizations at Florida State University. Community leadership and positions shall be accepted as well.
 - d. Hold a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or greater.
2. In the event an applicant displays exceptional leadership qualities, the Membership Committee shall have the option of waiving the required grade point average to no lower than 2.75. This shall be the only exception.
3. To be eligible for honorary membership selection, a candidate shall be, or shall have been at the Florida State University for one full academic year.

Section 4: Application for Membership

Prospective members looking to join Garnet and Gold Key shall submit an application form listing all pertinent biographical and collegiate information. Applications shall be opened in both the Spring and Fall semester(s) for no less than one (1) week.

Section 5: Membership Selection



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The length of office shall be no longer than one (1) calendar year. Newly selected officers shall take office immediately after a transitional period lasting no longer than two (2) weeks, and shall hold office until the following selection and transitional process concludes or upon removal from office. During a transition, each officer is responsible for providing typed transitional materials for their successor. Where appropriate, this shall include the login credentials for any organization account(s).

Article VI—Officer Vacancies

Section 1: Removal of Officers

Any officer may be removed from office upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the remaining Executive Committee members. The officer will be notified in writing of the possible removal at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the vote and will be allowed to address the remaining members of the Executive Committee in order to relay any defense prior to the vote.

Section 2: Resignation

Officers no longer wishing to serve on the Executive Committee must submit their resignation to the President at least one (1) week in advance. Prior to the officer's final day, they shall provide all documents relating to the organization and brief the President on current projects in their care, so they may brief the officer's successor in due course.

Section 3: Filling Vacant Officer Positions

Should any offices be vacant for any reason stated above, or otherwise, prior to the conclusion of the current term, the Executive Committee shall advertise the position and offer at least one (1) week for members to apply. Selection shall follow the standard procedure for selecting officers, as stipulated in Article V of this document. The newly selected officer shall hold office until the following selection and transitional process concludes or upon removal from office.

Article VII—Committees

Section 1: Standing Committees

The following shall be standing committees of Garnet and Gold Key: Executive, Membership, and Programming.

Section 2: The Executive Committee



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The Executive Committee shall consist of the organization's officers, as stipulated in Article IV of this document, the Organization Advisor, and no more than two (2) members at large as designated by the President. The committee shall be chaired by the President and vice-chaired by the Executive Vice President. This committee shall function as the governing body of Garnet and Gold Key and shall be collectively responsible for the overall operation of the organization. It is recommended the committee meets at least twice per month, but shall meet no less frequently than once per month.

Section 3: The Membership Committee

The Membership Committee shall consist of the following: the Executive Committee, and no more than six (6) members at large to be appointed by the President on the advice of the Executive Vice President. The Organization Advisor shall serve as an ex officio member. The committee shall be chaired by the Executive Vice President. This committee shall be responsible for all Garnet and Gold Key recruitment activities. This shall include, but is not limited to the following: screening applications, selecting who shall advance to the interview stage, conducting interviews, and selecting who shall be granted admittance into Garnet and Gold Key.

Section 4: The Programming Committee

The Programming Committee shall consist of the following: the Executive Committee, and no more than six (6) members at large to be appointed by the President on the advice of the Vice President of Programming. The committee shall be chaired by the Vice President of Programming. This committee shall be responsible for the planning and execution of all Garnet and Gold Key social activities, functions, and events. This shall include the coordination of the semesterly Membership Reception, the Annual Garnet and Gold Key Ball, and all other Garnet and Gold Key programs that may require an event.

Section 5: Special and Temporary Committees

Committees of special and temporary nature may be established by the President as deemed necessary. The chairship, makeup, and membership of a special committee is at the sole discretion of the President.

Article VIII—Organization Advisor

Section 1: Selection and Responsibilities

The Organization Advisor, hereafter referred to as 'the advisor', shall be selected by the officers of this organization and must be approved by a simple majority vote of the Executive



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It shall be the responsibility of all account signers to change contact information, as well as assist in updating the account signers with the organization's financial institution after the installment of a new Executive Committee. In addition, the Vice President of Finance will be responsible for passing along all information from the previous year. This includes the financial records used to track all incoming and outgoing transactions.

Section 4: Compliance

In accordance with FSU regulations, the advisor should not have access to any bank accounts affiliated with the organization.

Article X—Publications, Trademarks, and Licensing

Section 1: Compliance

Any and all advertisements made by, or on behalf of, the organization must comply with the University Posting Policy (posting.fsu.edu). In accordance with FSU regulations, this organization may not use FSU or Florida State University in front of their name. Additionally, this organization may not use any fonts or symbols trademarked for FSU in their logo due to trademark and licensing guidelines and the Florida Administrative Code.

Section 2: Approval

The Vice President of Public Relations and the President must approve all publications, shirts, flyers, et cetera, prior to duplication and distribution.

Article XI—Amendments

Each Article in this Constitution may be amended by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee, provided committee members have had at least seven (7) calendar days to read and consider the amendments. Each Article must be amended individually and shall require its own vote. The adoption of any subsequent Article(s), or the removal of any Article(s) shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee.