

GRADE YOUR SG's INFLUENCE



PROVE IT: IS YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT REALLY INFLUENTIAL?

Check off each item that currently applies to your Student Government. At the end you will have your influence score and will know what you need to work on to improve it.

1. EVIDENCE OF SHARED GOVERNANCE (10 Influence Indicators)

1. _____ You hold regular, scheduled one-on-one meetings with the university president/chancellor.
2. _____ Administrators proactively consult SGA before announcing any major student-related policy.
3. _____ SGA members serve on search committees for deans, provosts, vice presidents, and other senior roles.
4. _____ Your budget is large enough to negotiate directly with offices for policy or operational changes.
5. _____ You have the ear of key administrators and institutional leaders (they return your calls/emails immediately).
6. _____ University departments routinely request SGA's formal endorsement before launching new programs.
7. _____ SGA holds a formal advisory or consultative role in administrative decision-making processes.
8. _____ University leaders regularly attend SGA senate meetings and participate as equals.
9. _____ Joint SGA/administration task forces are common, and student recommendations drive final outcomes.
10. _____ Your successful SGA advocacy has directly caused reversal of unpopular administrative decisions.

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2. BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL POWER

(9 Influence Indicators)

- 11. ____ Your budget can independently fund important campus-wide services (shuttle, mental health, food pantry, etc.).
- 12. ____ SGA controls allocation of the student activity fee and sets campus funding priorities.
- 13. ____ You have authority to fund student organizations.
- 14. ____ You can fund & execute large-scale capital or programmatic projects on your own.
- 15. ____ SGA uses its budget to negotiate vendor contracts and secure better deals for the university.
- 16. ____ You directly manage and award student grants, scholarships, or emergency relief funds.
- 17. ____ Your budget process includes transparent oversight that other offices respect and emulate.
- 18. ____ You co-fund major university initiatives as an equal partner with administrative offices.
- 19. ____ SGA funding supports essential student services that would otherwise be cut or underfunded.

NOTES:

3. REPRESENTATION ON INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEES AND GOVERNANCE

(11 Influence Indicators)

- 20. ____ You have student voting seats on key institutional committees.
- 21. ____ You have a student seat(s) (with voting privileges) on the board of trustees/regents/visitors.
- 22. ____ You have students filling 100% of all available institution-wide committee positions.
- 23. ____ You have authority to appoint students to serve on institution committees made up of students, faculty, staff, and administrators.
- 24. ____ On some institutional committees, students you appoint make up the majority of the members.
- 25. ____ SGA representatives hold voting seats on the academic senate or faculty council.
- 26. ____ You sit on curriculum committees that shape course offerings and academic policy.
- 27. ____ You participate in university-wide budget planning and resource allocation committees.
- 28. ____ You have voting representation on student conduct, judicial, or disciplinary review boards.

29. ____ You hold seats on campus facilities, master-planning, and capital-improvement committees.
30. ____ SGA appointees chair or co-chair important university committees.

NOTES:

4. AUTHORITY OVER STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

(5 Influence Indicators)

31. ____ You have authority to recognize new student organizations.
32. ____ You have authority to derecognize student organizations.
33. ____ SGA is the primary (or sole) funding source for the vast majority of student clubs and organizations.
34. ____ Leaders of major clubs routinely consult SGA before launching significant events or campaigns.
35. ____ You provide leadership training, resources, and professional development to club officers.

NOTES:

5. STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND ELECTION DYNAMICS

(8 Influence Indicators)

36. ____ You don't need to give away free food to get students to attend events or meetings.
37. ____ You have no uncontested races in your SGA elections.
38. ____ Voter turnout in your annual elections is consistently high (well above national averages).
39. ____ Student referendums on SGA initiatives regularly pass with overwhelming majorities.
40. ____ Independent campus climate surveys show high student approval and trust in SGA.
41. ____ SGA leaders are widely recognized and approached by students across campus.
42. ____ Every elected position attracts multiple qualified candidates who run competitive campaigns.
43. ____ You maintain a large volunteer and committee-member base that participates without incentives.

NOTES:

6. PARTNERSHIPS WITH CAMPUS MEDIA

(6 Influence Indicators)

- 44. ____ Campus newspapers, radio, and TV stations give extensive, ongoing coverage to SGA initiatives.
- 45. ____ SGA has a standing opinion column or dedicated reporting segment in campus media.
- 46. ____ Student-media editorial boards consistently endorse or support SGA positions.
- 47. ____ SGA senate meetings and major events are routinely live-streamed or broadcast by campus outlets.
- 48. ____ Campus journalists automatically seek official SGA statements on every major campus issue.
- 49. ____ Your press releases and announcements are picked up and prominently featured by campus media.

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7. COLLABORATIONS WITH CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

(5 Influence Indicators)

- 50. ____ You co-sponsor high-visibility events with diverse student organizations, amplifying reach.
- 51. ____ SGA reviews and approves constitutions/charters for all new and existing student groups.
- 52. ____ You regularly lead broad coalitions that unite dozens of organizations around shared causes.
- 53. ____ Club funding decisions made by SGA are final and respected across campus.
- 54. ____ SGA acts as the central coordinating body for student organization activities and resources.

NOTES:

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HOW INFLUENTIAL IS YOUR SG?

TOTAL CHECKED: _____ / 54

45-54 = EXTREMELY INFLUENTIAL / TRUE SHARED GOVERNANCE

Score	Grade
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51-54	A+
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48-50	A
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45-47	A-
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35-44 = STRONG INFLUENCE

Score	Grade
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43-44	B+
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39-42	B
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35-38	B-
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25-34 = MODERATE INFLUENCE

Score	Grade
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33-34	C+
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29-32	C
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25-28	C-
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15-24 = LIMITED INFLUENCE

Score	Grade
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23-24	D+
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19-22	D
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15-18	D-
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0-14 = WEAK / SYMBOLIC STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Score	Grade
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0-14	F
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CONTACT INFORMATION

School Name: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Title: _____

Your E-mail: _____ Your Phone: _____