

Western Illinois University Fraternity and Sorority Life
Example Chapter Scholarship Program Manual

Chapter Scholarship Program

The following section will give your chapter some ideas on how to positively promote scholarship to produce an increase in academic success.

RECRUITMENT

Prospective members need to see a scholarship focus within your chapter. Creating displays for Recruitment that show academic achievement and your chapter's scholastic progress can show this. Starting early with perspective members will show them your chapter's expectations and will encourage them to strive to meet or exceed those expectations.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Chapter meetings or new member meetings are an excellent opportunity to reward those with good academic progress as well as to announce upcoming academic events. During Chapter Meetings:

- Announce calendar dates such as the last day to drop a class, when to declare U/S status, registration dates, and also academic honorary society dates such as Rho Lambda or Order of Omega.
- Make a calendar, easily accessible to all, highlighting upcoming campus events and community events.
- Keep members up to date on the academic progress of your Chapter, such as where your Chapter stands based on the all women's or men's average GPA as well as the average Fraternity or Sorority average.
- Set aside time to reward those with good academic progress or a recent acceptance into an honorary (make a certificate, a special poster for them or make cupcakes or a cake if multiple members are accepted).

DISPLAYS

- Keep charts and graphs of your Chapter's academic progress in a visible location.
- Show the progress of the chapter as a whole over the past few years and set a goal to improve on that (write the goal at the top of the graph).
- Show the progress of your chapter's active members and new members' academic progress on separate charts and set goals to improve.
- Compare your chapter's average with other chapters on campus as well as with your own chapter nationwide.

STUDY IDEAS

The following are program ideas to improve study skills (workshops that can be presented to the whole chapter):

- Time Management
- A Library Tour
- How to Tutor Effectively
- Study Skills Workshop
- How to take an essay/objective test
- Computer Skills

- How to study with friends
- How to prioritize time and be organized with multiple classes
- Roundtable discussion for younger members to talk with older members for ideas on what classes to take.

RECOGNITION

Recognition is a great motivator for academic achievement. To be able to recognize more members of your chapter, have each member sign an academic contract at the beginning of each semester stating their individual goals (see attachment p.12). Then use different types of recognition to encourage members to meet those goals and to reward members who meet or exceed their personal goals.

- Send letters to the parents of outstanding members.
- Give awards for the highest and most improved GPA.
- Recognize outstanding members in your newsletter and national magazine when ever possible. • Hold a scholarship banquet each semester to honor members with 3.0 or higher GPA. • \$100 scholarship each semester for most improved GPA.
- \$100 scholarship each semester for highest GPA.
- Award the new member with the highest GPA with a free chapter badge (with jewels). • Hold an end of semester prize drawing. All members who received a 3.0 or higher should be eligible for the drawing.
- During chapter meetings, pass around a “no skippy jar” and anyone who attended all of their classes during the previous week is eligible to win a gift certificate to a local restaurant/mall/movie theater.
- During chapter meetings, hand out Smarties and Nerds candy to members who received A's on tests, projects, labs and those being accepted into graduate school or being awarded scholarships or if your Chapter's meetings are formal then let members wear jeans for receiving an “A” on a test, paper or project.
- Reward members who study in the library by having members submit the amount of time there are in the library on a Google form. Then the member with the highest amount of hours per week will receive a small reward such as a candy bar, cupcake, or a shirt of the sorority or fraternity that they are in.

ESPECIALLY FOR NEW MEMBERS

New members are where to start to create good study habits and skills. The following are ideas for new members:

- Set an expectation for a certain number of study hours and have tutors available at that time. Stress time management by giving them assignment notebooks and calendars.
- Challenge another chapter's new members for the highest GPA.
- Assign an active member to be their mentor (preferably one with the same major/interests)

OTHER IDEAS

- Hang motivational posters for members with upcoming exams or job interviews
- Hang a general scholarship bulletin board to post upcoming events and to recognize outstanding members
- Have a bulletin board for members to hang things that they are proud of (A's, awards, anything extraordinary)

- Post a listing of members who can help with different subjects and how to contact them
- Post a listing of frequently used university numbers as well as emergency numbers
- Schedule small socials within your own chapter to release stress over finals (i.e. An ice cream social)
- Hold a scholarship banquet to honor outstanding members (include alumni and faculty on invitation list)
- Invite guest speakers from different areas of the campus and community to speak to your chapter
- Invite faculty or staff to a social within your chapter to aid in building strong relationships for members of your chapter.

Scholarship Committee

The following section will give your chapter some guidelines to assist the scholarship chair in developing the scholarship committee. This scholarship committee should consist of members representing all classifications and should also include a faculty advisor. The purpose of the scholarship committee is to create programs and policies and then recommend them to the chapter. Should the policy be adopted, it will be the scholarship committee's responsibility to implement and carry out these policies.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The scholarship committee will be responsible for the following:

- Present to the chapter: goals for the academic year
- Offer suggestions for improvement to new and active members who may be struggling with academics and provide help to them through tutors in their field.
- Before Recruitment begins: evaluate the academic potential of potential new members.
- Plan and present programs in academic nature.
- Create, distribute, collect, and maintain academic contracts for all new members.

GOAL SETTING

Our chapters academic achievement goals are:

1. X
2. Y
3. Z