

Three Pillars of Academic Excellence



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Fraternities exist to elevate the scholarship of their members, not to detract from it.

Any fraternity chapter below the all-men's average on its respective campus should be closed. It is that simple. It is not serving its members or the institution that hosts it.



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The Three Pillars

Expectations

Environment

Excellence



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The First Pillar – Expectations

Set the tone with freshmen. Select those who are as serious about scholarship as you are. Make scholarship a priority during recruitment.

Set goals...individually, as a class and as a chapter. Someone has to finish first on campus. It might as well be you.



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Expectations

Expect to have great scholarship materials. High performing groups have outstanding materials. This includes:

- chapter tutoring program

- scholarship manual

- test files

- class and teacher evaluation database



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The Second Pillar – Environment

If the brothers ever want to preach and demonstrate unity, it should be with the scholarship program. Ensuring bros are attending class, providing weekly recognition and reviewing each brother's grades are important to create this cohesiveness.



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Environment

Create an environment in the chapter house that encourages academic excellence. Is the chapter house a place one would go to study? Does it have the space, lighting, desks and quiet for brothers to excel?

Watch how the social calendar impacts scholarship, too. Ensure there are no scheduling conflicts.



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That Won't Happen Here.

Many of these things and ideas do not apply to us you might be thinking. Perhaps. Your chapter may not have a bunch of money or physical resources.

It can, however, locate one idea from this to improve your situation.



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The Third Pillar – Excellence

Is the chapter competing? Men like to compete and scholarship should be no different. Contests between individuals, classes, other fraternities on campus or within your fraternity should be an emphasis.

Recognize individuals who excel. Special call outs during chapter meetings, weekly prizes and annual awards should be part of any chapter's program. What is



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holding you back from giving your top scholar a \$1000 scholarship?

Make sure one of the best bros in the chapter is your scholarship chairman. He is organized, leads by example and keeps the chapter focused. His appointment should be a priority and not an afterthought.



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Resources



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Resource – Evaluation

Yes	No	Is the importance of scholarship instilled in freshmen? This does not imply "pledges only." If you concentrate too much on pledges, mark no.
Yes	No	Does everyone make scholarship a priority? This includes constant mention of scholarship by graduate advisors, cabinet, big brothers, scholarship chairman, etc.
Yes	No	Has your chapter written and posted scholarship goals? Write them down and post somewhere all can see.
Yes	No	Does your chapter use positive peer pressure to reinforce the importance of scholarship? Is scholarship seen as everyone's business? Does everyone release their grades to the scholarship chairman?



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Resource – Evaluation

Yes	No	Do you have an outstanding scholarship chairman and committee? Was their selection a priority or afterthought?
Yes	No	Does the chapter have and use outstanding scholarship materials?
Yes	No	Do you recognize excellence?
Yes	No	Is there any sort of competition? Does the chapter give an award to the best scholar, most improved, etc.?
Yes	No	Does the chapter create a positive environment for scholarship? Are quiet hours enforced? Are tutoring programs offered?
Yes	No	Are grades a factor when recruiting new members?



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Resource – Scholarship Matrix

CABINET

- *Create a chapter goal.
- *Hold scholarship chairman accountable.
- *Invest in scholarship committee.
- *Speak about scholarship in chapter.
- *Discuss scholarship at chapter retreats.
- *Dedicate a section of the chapter newsletter for scholarship.
- *Involve alums in scholarship.
- *Enforce quiet/study hours.
- *Create 24 hour/day study hours during finals.

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN

- * Make use of scholarship committee.
- * Discuss scholarship each week in chapter meeting.
- * "Scholarship Tip of the Week" posted in chapter house.
- * Arrange for speakers to discuss study skills, note taking, etc.
- * Develop a bulletin board devoted to scholarship.
- * Speak to pledges about scholarship as a responsibility.
- * Post notes/quotes on mirrors, bathroom doors, etc.
- * At dinners, announce best grades and most classes attended by brothers.
- * Encourage positive feedback.



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Resource – Scholarship Matrix

PLEDGE EDUCATOR

- * Elevate importance of scholarship, throughout college career, to pledges weekly.
- * Commit one pledge meeting to scholarship.
- * Challenge pledge class to competition with the chapter.
- * Set a class goal to have pledge class post best class grades.
- * Develop a pledge class scholarship motto.
- * Motivate chapter.

OUTSIDE SOURCES

- * Professors
- * Deans of departments.
- * Librarian.
- * Graduate brothers/alumns.
- * Business personnel.
- * Other topics:
Current events seminars
University programs.
Seminars on study habits



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Resource – Goal Setting

Setting scholarship goals is vital to success. It is critical that your chapter is setting goals in this area. Goals need to be made on the chapter and individual level. The chapter should assist brothers in establishing goals. Here are some problems with goal setting.

Goals are not established. This is probably the number one problem facing chapters; however, it is very easy to solve. Get together as a cabinet and meet with the scholarship chairman and other interested brothers. Set goals that are attainable yet challenging.

We do not know what goal to set. Goals should always be achievable and challenging. This may sound vague, because it is; however, if you set a goal that you know your chapter cannot reach, it will prove to be ineffective. On the flip side, a goal that is too easy is not challenging or motivating. You need to assess your chapter's ability and take it to the next step. Here are some other suggestions on goals to consider establishing. Again, these are used by other chapters.



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Resource – Goal Setting

BASIC CHAPTER GOALS

- * Increase the chapter GPA by .1 or .2.
- * To be above the all-men's average.
 - Improve the chapter's scholarship program.
 - To be the #1 chapter on campus.

CABINET/SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR GOALS

- * To improve the scholarship program.
- * To create or improve the test file.
- * To make a scholarship video.
- * To motivate brothers about scholarship.
- * Enforce study hours.

BASIC INDIVIDUAL GOALS

- * To be above the all-men's average.
- * To get a 3.0, etc.
- * To be on the Dean's list.
- * To attend 100% of my classes.
- * To elevate my GPA .1.
- * To visit all my professors at least once this term.
 - To make it into med, law, or engineering school.
 - To be first in my class.



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Citations

Scholarship Manual, The Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta, Lexington, KY

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