Scholarship

Scholarship Programming Ideas
Seize the Day – It’s Your GPA!
Study Habits Inventory
The Scholarship Committee
To Study Hall or Not to Study Hall?
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMING IDEAS

The following collection of possible programming ideas for scholarship is intended to provide a variety of resources which chapters and Panhellenics can ADAPT as needed. Pick out the ideas that will work for your particular situation, and create a scholarship program for your own organization.

TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE
1. Designate members who have a strong scholastic background
2. Use a bulletin board to list members, majors, and areas they can tutor
3. Recruit outside tutors for any subjects not covered

GRADE REQUIREMENTS
1. Minimum for initiation
2. Minimum to pledge
3. Room assignments based on GPA
4. Pledge moms based on GPA
5. Minimum GPA to vote in meetings
6. Parking spaces allotted on GPA
7. Probationary status for members below 2.5 with required study hours

STUDY HOURS
1. 8:00 pm to 7:00 am at least four days per week
2. Specific rules posted (e.g., no noise in hallways, stereo noise level at minimum, etc.)
3. No chapter or pledge activities scheduled during study hours
4. “Closed door” policy—if a study room door is closed, it signifies the occupant is studying and should not be disturbed

TEST FILES
1. Systematic method of collection of tests, teacher evaluation, and files
2. End of semester collection process
3. Evaluation sheet on classes and professors
4. Check out system
5. Cross-index file by teacher and class
6. All information dated

PENALTIES FOR POOR SCHOLARSHIP
1. Loss of vote in meetings
2. Loss of right to hold a major chapter office
3. Loss of social privileges
4. Loss of intramural participation
5. Loss of live-in privilege

SCHOLARSHIP BULLETIN BOARD
1. Placed in prominent setting
2. Listing of members in top to bottom GPA ranking—do not list GPA
3. Information about study skills workshops (dates, times, & places)
4. Information on tutors
5. Quiet hours rules
6. Study tips
7. List of quiet places to study outside of house
8. Information on study abroad
9. Information on loans and other financial assistance
10. Resource list of available materials and people on campus who can assist with study and other academic problems

RECOGNITION PROGRAM
1. Money budgeted for scholastic achievement
2. Certificates and trophies to highest GPAs (active, pledge, mother/daughter team, greatest improvement, etc.)
3. Every member donates $1.00 and proceeds are divided among top 3 GPAs
4. Recognize members who attend all classes
5. Have the chapter pay initiation fee for pledges with 4.0
6. High GPAs invite favorite professor to dinner
7. Steak and beans dinner (beans for everyone below all-sorority GPA)
8. Letters to parents of members with outstanding grades
9. Tour of the library for pledges (or entire chapter)
10. Scholarship chairman gives a study hint each week during chapter
11. Pizza party for class with highest collective GPA
12. Cut out paper ice cream cones for each member’s door and put a scoop of ice cream on it for every A received during the term—then give ice cream gift certificates to the members with the most scoops
13. Study pop-in (on unannounced days the scholarship committee looks for members who are studying in the library, chapter house, dorms, etc. and gives candy bars to the members they find)
14. Exemption from house duties

PHYSICAL FACILITIES

1. Good lighting
2. Tables and comfortable chairs
3. Resource and reference books
4. Study guides available
5. Daily newspapers
6. Study atmosphere is enforced
7. Develop chapter library through alumnae contributions
8. Computers and printers
9. Dictionary and thesaurus

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

1. Have a speaker in early fall to discuss effective study habits
2. Offer a speed reading course for chapter members
3. Add a series of study skill books to chapter library
4. Handouts available on study skills
5. Schedule special sessions on how to take notes, test-taking, time management, etc.
6. Guest speakers (e.g., librarian, placement office personnel, university administrators, scholarship winners, board of members from community, alumnae on the faculty, community alumnae/businesswomen
80 MORE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMING IDEAS

Scholarship in Chapter and Pledge Meetings
1. Sit in scholastic order once a month
2. Offer a vocabulary word of the week (place on bathroom doors, etc.)
3. Give reminders of final drop dates, early enrollment, etc.
4. Make weekly announcements of cultural, educational, and career opportunities on campus and in the community
5. Ask members to answer roll call with the number of classes they cut the previous week
6. Announce job offers, admission into graduate schools, honoraries, etc. by sneaking into the chapter room early and decorating the member’s chair with balloons and streamers

Scholarship in Rush
7. Display your scholarship trophies
8. Display graphs of chapter progress
9. Display bulletin boards with scholastic information

Graphs
10. Chart the progress of the chapter average, the pledge average, and the initiated member average over the past four years
11. Chart the percentage of initiated members below the minimum standards and the percentage of initiation
12. Compare your chapter average to other sororities on campus
13. Show how your chapter compares with other chapters of your sorority
14. Compare Panhellenic and IFC statistics on your campus

Bulletin Board Ideas
14. Theme—Be the Best of Whatever You Are, Be a Bright and Shining Star
15. Brag Board: members put up their own A’s on tests or papers or anything they are proud of, graffiti-style
16. “A” Board (construction paper A’s that members put their names on when they’ve received an A)
17. Career Board (e.g., how to put together a resume)
18. Board for national and local news
19. Board for movie, music, and book reviews
20. Look at Our Stars (with pictures of members who have excelled in something)
21. Post a “thought of the week”
22. Put up an “I need help” sheet for members to sign
23. Put up an “I can help” sheet for members who can assist others
24. List study halls and quiet hours and proctors for both

Study Areas
25. If you do not have adequate study facilities in chapter house or residence hall, secure a room in the campus library or another academic building

Quiet Hours
26. Have roommates rotate as quiet hour monitors
27. Have 24-hour quiet hours during mid-terms, the week before finals, and the week of finals
28. Change the name of quiet hours to “courtesy hours”

How to Study Plans
29. Recommend three hours of study per class hour instead of two
30. Present “how to study” workshops to the entire chapter after initiation to show all members that good scholarship habits do not end after the pledge period is completed:
   a. give refresher training to holdover pledges and members below the minimum requirements
   b. explain university academic probation
   c. explain chapter grade requirements
   d. teach study techniques
   e. explain honors programs
   f. outline your chapter’s scholarship program
   g. suggest members audit a class or two of a course they’ll take later
   h. discuss how to improve study atmosphere and chapter performance
   i. have skits or slide shows showing good or bad study techniques
   j. teach how to take essay vs. objective examinations
   k. give members weekly study budget sheets (time management), divided into hours

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1. Teach a method of studying
2. Make "library use" booklets for each member (or get them from the library)
3. Describe learning skills centers and courses available
4. Alert members to counseling services
5. Distribute lists of chapter members and their majors
6. Give members "class progress sheets" for recording their assignments, quiz grades, tests, and papers

Exam Week Blues

31. Have each member hang a balloon on her door for each exam she has
   As she completes the exam, she pops one balloon
   This helps those who finish quickly to remember others are still hard at work
32. Ask your alumnae/mothers/mothers clubs/housemothers or directors/cooks to make popcorn or cookies for study breaks
33. Have coffee/tea and donuts available 24 hours a day during finals

Motivations

34. Posters can show chapter creativity and can remind members of quiet hours, the need to attend classes, etc.
35. Friendly competition
   a. Challenge each member to raise her GPA .1 each term (minimum)
   b. Have one class challenge another class each term, and the losing class serves the winning class dinner
   c. Have a mother-daughter/big-sis-little-sis competition
36. Have a fireside chat before finals

Useful files and Library

37. Stock files by having a "clean out your notebook" party at the end of each term; members can contribute books, notes and tests
38. Study aids and publications should be available
39. Compile professor/course evaluation files—outline the instructor's grading procedures, attendance policy, course requirements
40. Test files to be used properly—as a questioning learning aid only!
41. Major and minor files (used for assigning tutors, study buddies, major mates—anytime you want to find two people with similar interests)
42. Graduate school catalogs and information
43. Graduate Record Examination information and review books
44. Departmental catalogs
45. Schedule of courses offered each term

Events

46. Over-the-Hump-Party (after mid-terms)
47. Grumble Party (before exams)
48. Mourners' Dinner (last night; before finals, short dinner to which everyone wears black to signify that all other activities must die as you honor exams)
49. Apple Polishing Party (members invite their favorite professors and the university administration)
50. Apple Polishing Week (instructors from different departments are invited to dinner each night and talk about their departments)
51. Steak and hot dog dinner (for chapter recognitions)
52. Smart Party
53. Ice Cream Sundae Party (those with higher grades get more toppings, lower grades get only ice cream)
54. Achievement Tea
55. Scholarship Banquet (invite faculty or alumnae—write the GPA of each member you are honoring on her placecard)
56. Guest speakers

Recognition and Awards

57. Send write-ups to your national magazine, community newspapers, Greek newspaper, and chapter newsletter
58. Send letters to parents of excelling members
59. Recognize Mortar Board, Blue Key, Phi Beta Kappa, honoraries, dean's list, etc.
60. Recognize 4.0's and/or highest GPA
61. Recognize the most improved
62. Give each member an ample supply of frustration balloons each year
63. Give each member door signs: red—DO NOT DISTURB, yellow—I'M STUDYING, COME BACK LATER, green—COME ON IN
64. Have members take an Asset Inventory at the beginning of the year, or a Skill Problem Inventory (let them tell you their "good a's" and where they might need help)
65. Have members write Positive Mental Attitude cards at the beginning of each term; they predict performance
66. Have members sign scholarship contracts at the beginning of each term "1. _________, promise to study _______ hours per week during _______ term
I also promise not to cut class
I will do everything I can to live up to this promise because I value my education, my sorority, my parents, and MY future.

The Scholarship Committee (The Academic Spirit Squad)

67. Sponsor a book sale and trade each term
68. Sponsor a "Scholarship Scoops" afternoon (serve ice cream and have all members share course and professor information)
69. Develop a booster program whereby each member of the committee is directly responsible for a certain number of members below minimum requirements

Miscellaneous Awards

70. Study Nut (weekly recognition of member most often seen studying)
71. Smart Apple (highest GPA)
72. Apple Core (most improved GPA)
73. Whispering Sisters (quietest roommates during courtesy hours)
74. Library Lurker (member most often seen in the library)
75. Smarty Pants (boxer shorts with appropriate saying)
76. Plowed Under (member facing the most tests next week)
77. Smartest Family Award
78. Miracle Workers (4.0's)
79. Library book donated to the campus or chapter library in the name of the senior with the highest GPA
80. Smarty Plants (planter donated to room with highest GPA)
SEIZE THE DAY—IT'S YOUR GPA!

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CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP EVALUATION

The following evaluation tool might be used by the scholarship chairman/committee and/or chapter members to review the chapter's scholarship program and determine its strengths and weaknesses.

GRADE THE CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The purpose of this "quiz" is to allow members to assess the chapter scholarship program.

Scoring Key:

- Always = 5 points
- Frequently = 4 points
- Occasionally = 3 points
- Rarely = 2 points
- Never = 0 points

Total all "grades" given by members on each question. Low scores indicate weaknesses in the scholarship program. Give the quiz again at a later date to determine if improvement has taken place.

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DOES EACH WOMAN UNDERSTAND HER SCHOLASTIC RESPONSIBILITY?

- Does she attend all classes?
- Does she budget her time so studying is completed before engaging in social activities?
- Does she seek academic help when needed?
- Does she think grades are important for success in college?
- Does she understand chapter laws and policies pertaining to scholarship?

DOES EACH WOMAN SET A PERSONAL GPA GOAL?

- Does she determine her goal each term by setting a goal for each course taken?
- Does she write it down for the scholarship chair to keep?
- Does she write it down for herself?
- Does she review progress toward the goal frequently?
- Can she explain what must be done in order to achieve the goal?

DOES THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE DO THE FOLLOWING?

- Determine a chapter GPA goal based on Individual goals?
- Check periodically with each woman on progress toward her goal?
- Regularly review progress toward the chapter goal with chapter members?
- Provide a program of incentives and rewards for success?
- Set up support systems to help women who are falling short of their goals?
- Participate actively in the pledge member program?
- Provide for the presentation of programs to help in the development of good study skills?
- Participate in the development of the chapter calendar to insure that it is not so overcrowded with other activities that little time is left for studying?

IS SCHOLARSHIP CONSIDERED IN MEMBERSHIP SELECTION?

- Is consideration given to a rushee's high school or university academic record?
- Is a minimum high school or university GPA required for membership consideration?
- Is scholarship advancement stressed during the rush process?

ARE APPROPRIATE SYSTEMS IN OPERATION TO ENCOURAGE SCHOLARSHIP?

- Are there study hours in the house or on the residence hall floor?
- Are study hours actually quiet?
- Do members know of resources available to them for help: advisors, professors, counselors, study skills centers, tutors, etc.?
- Are program of cultural and intellectual enrichment presented to the chapter?
- Does each room have adequate lighting?
- Is there a limitation of social privileges when scholarship is unsatisfactory?
STUDY HABITS INVENTORY

This information is useful as the basis for developing an individual student study program.

1 = Hardly ever  2 = Sometimes  3 = Usually/Frequently  4 = Most of the Time

1. ____ Do you follow a daily schedule of classes and studying?
2. ____ Do you have a regular place to work and study?
3. ____ Do you keep track of homework assignments in a calendar?
4. ____ Do you keep a long-term schedule of when tests, projects, reports, etc. are due?
5. ____ Do you have your calendar with you at all times?
6. ____ Do you plan weekly reviews of the material you learned in class?
7. ____ Do you distribute your reading of chapters and studying over several days or do you cram?
8. ____ Do you take class notes?
9. ____ Do you review your class notes from one class prior to the next class session?
10. ____ Do you keep a notebook for each class or have a method of keeping your notes separate?
11. ____ Does your notetaking system in class approximate outlining?
12. ____ Do you study with friends?
13. ____ Do you listen well in class?
14. ____ Do you look up new words in the dictionary?
15. ____ Do you have a system of keeping track of new words you learn?
16. ____ Do you use the glossary in texts if there is one available?
17. ____ Do you skim chapters before reading them so that you have read the section and subsection titles and become familiar with new words and charts or graphs?
18. ____ Do you underline the text as you are reading it?
19. ____ Do you read sections and then go back and underline?
20. ____ Do you make notes in the margins of your texts?
21. ____ Do you outline reading assignments?
22. ____ Do you have a private shorthand system for taking notes?
23. ____ Do you use the indices in your texts?
24. ____ Do you sketch out or outline your papers for organization purposes prior to writing the papers?
25. ____ Do you write a first draft?
26. ____ Do you proofread for spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar errors?
27. ____ Do you learn in school?
28. ____ Do you have effective study habits?
29. ____ Do you get sufficient sleep each night during the "prime" sleeping hours?
30. ____ Do you get regular exercise?
31. ____ Do you make good use of your mind?
32. ____ Do you try to improve your study habits?
33. ____ Do you read for leisure (e.g., novels)?

(adapted from Devine, T.G., Teaching Study Skills: A Guide for Teachers, 1981.)
THE SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN

WHY ARE YOU THE SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN?
Is it because no one else wanted the job? Is it perhaps because of your high grades? Whatever the reason, the most important consideration that you must have to be an effective scholarship chairman is your concern for the overall scholarship of your chapter.

NO MATTER WHAT THE PAST ATTITUDE of the members of your chapter has been toward scholarship, it is important that you take a leadership role in making the program an integral and interesting part of the total sorority experience. It is difficult to change overnight a general chapter feeling that it's okay to cut classes or to blow off low grades. Your job is challenging and it will take a great amount of work and patience, but you can improve the academic reputation of your chapter considerably. Your position is one of the most important in your chapter because getting an education is the sole purpose of entering college. You have a big responsibility.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
The scholarship chairman should be responsible for establishing minimum standards of scholastic performance, for the academic program as a whole, and for doing all that is feasible to promote a positive attitude within the membership toward the pursuit of outstanding academic achievement . . . . for the individual and for the group.

The scholarship chairman, whether elected or appointed, should reflect outstanding qualities as a prerequisite for the position. She should . . .

. . . be an above-average student, not necessarily a genius;
. . . be able to command the respect of members and pledges;
. . . be an upperclassman with good organizational and leadership experience
. . . believe in the importance and purpose of a scholarship program;
. . . be persistent in her efforts to perform her duties.

The duties of the scholarship chairman might include:

1) To provide and to encourage an academic atmosphere within the chapter house and a positive academic attitude among the chapter members.
2) To establish academic goals and objectives which will direct the scholastic endeavors of the membership toward improved scholarship perspective and attitudes.
3) To make all members, especially pledges, aware of the fact that the sorority has set specific minimum guidelines for academic achievement in order to be initiated into full membership.
4) To maintain an academic file on members and pledges.
5) To arrange tours to acquaint pledges with various campus library and study facilities.
6) To develop and coordinate, in conjunction with the pledge educator, a scholarship program for the pledges.
7) To establish and enforce a system of quiet hours for the chapter.
8) To develop an incentive and awards program for rewarding high scholastic achievement.
9) To establish a tutoring system through which volunteers who have good grades in their major field of study can help students who are having difficulty in that area.
10) To serve as chairman of the scholarship committee, whose duty it is to coordinate a well-rounded scholarship program.

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN CHECKLIST

Have you set goals and objectives for the chapter's scholastic program?
Do you utilize a scholarship committee?
Does the chapter have an active faculty advisor?
Do you meet with the advisor on a regular basis to obtain ideas for the scholarship program?
Does the chapter maintain a GPA equal to or above the all-women's GPA?
Is there a system of quiet hours at the chapter house?
Does the chapter have a library?
Do you keep the reference books up-to-date?
Do you work with the pledge educator in the development of a scholarship program for the pledges?
Do the pledges have ample time for their studies?
Have you set up a tutoring system for the chapter?
Do you make use of the college resources in the areas of counseling and academic assistance?
Does the chapter provide recognition for outstanding scholarship?
Has the chapter applied for all scholarships and awards available from its national headquarters?
Do you make use of the printed resources and speakers available through the Greek Affairs office?
THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The scholarship committee assists the scholarship chairman in carrying out her responsibilities. Each member of the scholarship committee should have assigned duties to complete. One person should be appointed as committee secretary to record minutes of the meetings and to keep other records (goals, class schedules, records, etc.).

The committee should be chaired by the scholarship chairman and should include a representative from each class (freshman through senior), the pledge educator, and the scholarship/faculty advisor.

Once organized, the committee may follow this general outline:

1. Evaluate the chapter's past and current performance, including trends, chapter atmosphere, study facilities available to the chapter, relative standing among campus sororities or in comparison to the all-women's average.
2. Identify specific causes of poor scholarship and enlighten the chapter regarding these problems.
3. Formulate a strategy which includes chapter scholarship goals, remedial measures, and incentives, and which assigns specific individual responsibilities.
4. Submit the plan for chapter approval. People tend to support what they help create! If you can sell your plan to the chapter, and each member has a voice in the plan's adoption, you will likely get more commitment.
5. Implement your chapter plans immediately! Don't wait and let the momentum diminish. Stick to your standards, and keep the chapter informed of problems and accomplishments.
6. Evaluate continually, adding new ideas and techniques. Analyze failures as well as successes.

Specific duties of the scholarship committee include the following:

1. Developing programs and policies for the entire chapter
   a. Study recommendations
   b. GPA goals and methods to attain them
   c. Quiet hours
   d. Study and project areas
   e. Monthly presentations at chapter meetings

2. Developing programs for pledge members
   a. Study recommendations
   b. GPA goals and methods to attain them
   c. Study halls or study tables
   d. Academic orientation workshop (e.g., study skills and time management)
   e. Method to monitor academic progress
   f. Mom-Daughter/Big Sis-Little Sis assistance

3. Establishing incentives and awards
   a. Weekly, monthly or end of term motivations
   b. Semestery/quarterly recognition and awards (at least one recognition event should be scheduled each term)

4. Plans for members below bylaws minimum requirement
   a. Individualized study programs, study halls, tutoring, etc.
   b. Plans coordinated with chapter social chairman

5. Plans for holdover pledges
   a. Individualized study programs, study halls, tutoring, etc.
   b. Plans coordinated with pledge educator and advisor

Chapter advisors and other alumnae can be of real assistance by providing guidance and advice and by creating incentives through room and board discounts, cash scholarships, or other prizes.

Use the services of your college or university as well. Nearly every campus has professionals who will work with your chapter in the areas of study skills, rapid reading, tutorial programs, or career counseling.

The scholarship committee might consider the following:

1. Interviewing initiated members and pledges having scholastic difficulty, assessing their academic progress, analyzing their problems, and offering suggestions for improvement.
2. Assisting in evaluating the academic potential of rushees.
3. Planning and presenting chapter programs with educational value.

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4. Organizing a scholarship bulletin board somewhere within the chapter house. This board might contain pertinent dates such as the last day to sign up for A-pass fail or the last day to drop a class, congratulatory remarks to members who have recently been initiated into honors, recipients of awards and scholarships, handouts regarding study hints, etc.

5. Setting up a chapter resource library of textbooks, reference books, and encyclopedias.

6. Establishing a scholarship banquet each semester.

In terms of helping an individual chapter member who is in need of scholastic assistance, there are a number of things the scholarship chairman and her committee can do.

1. Encourage members to seek individual help from professors. Professors are generally teaching because they enjoy it, and more often than not, they are willing to help a student. The professor will probably be interested and cooperative if students take the initiative in establishing a relationship.

2. In an interview with a member who is having scholastic difficulty, if it becomes apparent that she has too many extracurricular activities, encourage her to place academic endeavors higher on this list of priorities. This may mean that she will need to curtail some of these other activities. When this happens, see to it that efforts are made to assist the individual in solving her problems.

3. The scholarship committee can seek funds to assist students whose only deterrent from completing their academic work is financial need. The committee might approach local philanthropists, alumnae, parents, the university's financial assistance office, and the national sorority's educational foundation for help.

4. At the beginning of the semester, the committee can ask each member to report the grade she realistically expects to receive for each course she is taking. The scholarship chairman should then compile a listing of these grade objectives, along with a composite average for the entire chapter. This chapter composite grade objective allows comparisons to be made with previous chapter grades, previous grades of top sororities on campus, previous grades of all undergraduate women, etc. This allows an interpretation to be made of how the chapter might rank on campus should each member realize her objective.

Should the individual not make the grades that she expects to make, the scholarship committee can work with her in an effort to determine what conditions may have caused the discrepancies. By doing this, perhaps similar problems could be avoided in the future.
Creating the Environment

CHAPTER PROGRAMMING

To Study Hall or Not to Study Hall?

That seems to be the question of many chapters. Do they work? How often should we have them? Should they be monitored? Who should attend?

The answer: It all depends - on your chapter, your members, your facilities, etc.

There is a difference of opinion among chapters and among "the experts" about how effective planned study hours are. The original idea behind study hall was a designated time when members could go to their rooms, and the hall would be quiet for studiers. However, study hall and study tables fail to take into account individual time needs and demands; every course assignment takes a different approach. For example, one night you may need to type a paper, the next do research in the library, etc.

If you are currently utilizing planned study periods and they seem to be working, please continue. If your chapter doesn't require hours and has a good overall GPA and the members are self-disciplined, don't use them.

Study Hall Ideas and Alternatives:

- Traditional study hours - members must meet in the chapter room or library at organized time intervals and study at least six hours per week.

- Require that members turn in a certain number of hours per week at chapter meetings (honor system).

- Assign study buddies according to major and have them report hours each week. Pair study buddies according to similar classes, major, similar assignments - not a weak student and a strong student, or a senior with a freshman. They should be matched for likenesses, not for differences.

- Set up study groups of members with the same classes in the chapter room or a campus classroom.
Additional Resources:

Scholarship

Miscellaneous
IFC Greek Scholarship Manual 1995 (file drawer)
IFC Officer Manuals: Scholarship
Making the Grade, Getting the Job: Academic Achievement/Career Development Resource (NIC)

Binders
Miami Model for Greek Excellence
Phi Mu Academic Achievement Manual
Phi Mu Chapter Development Idea Book 2000