



DELTA CHI

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR BRIEF

Updated July 2025

This BRIEF has been prepared to assist the Scholarship Chair in developing and executing a scholarship program. The BRIEF also includes scholarship requirements that are mandated by Delta Chi Law.

ASSIST IN THE ACQUISITION OF A SOUND EDUCATION

The Delta Chi Fraternity aims to assist in the acquisition of a sound education; we do this by placing an emphasis on lifelong learning. Throughout the collegiate experience, members must pursue academic excellence individually, but their scholastic achievement should remain the rightful concern of the chapter. Each individual member should be mindful that when joining Delta Chi, they have committed to making academics a priority. When academics take priority, and balance is created throughout the membership process, Delta Chi members become better people and positively contribute to Delta Chi. With this in mind, chapters should:

- Assess the academic achievement of potential members.
- Initiate members who possess the intellectual and emotional capacity to achieve academic excellence.
- Provide a culture of academic excellence and support to foster good scholarship.
- Hold members accountable to Delta Chi academic standards.

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Delta Chi chapters will set their GPA requirements based on the information outlined in Delta Chi Law. The internal active member GPA and the Associate Member GPA should never be lowered once determined in the chapter's bylaws. Once this requirement is established, chapters are encouraged to enhance their requirements in order to continue to advance their academic pursuits. It is up to the Scholarship Chair to help those members struggling to meet the chapter's standards for scholarship and celebrate and support those meeting and exceeding those standards. Per Delta Chi Law, the following GPA requirements exist:

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT

No person may be initiated as a student member unless they have a cumulative college grade point average of 2.5 or higher (on a 4-point scale), or a high school grade point average of a 2.75 (on a 4-point scale) or higher if they have not completed any college courses.

OFFICER REQUIREMENT

To be eligible for an executive board (lettered-officer) role, members must be full-time students, as defined by the college/university. In addition, chapters may establish their own minimum grade point average standard. However, the minimum standard must be at least a 2.65 (on a 4-point scale), either during the academic term prior to election or on a cumulative basis. This standard must also be maintained while the lettered-officer is in their role. Exceptions to these standards may be made by the Alumni Board of Trustees of the chapter, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

MINIMUM STANDARDS CHAPTER REQUIREMENT

Each undergraduate chartered/provisional chapter is expected to have a minimum cumulative combined (grades for that academic term of all members combined) grade point average at or above the all-men's or all-fraternity grade point average at their host institution or a 3.0 grade point average (on a 4-point scale), whichever is lower.

If the all-men's or all fraternity grade point average at the host institution is below a 2.7 grade point average, or if the grades are not available from the host institution, then the minimum standard shall be a 2.7 grade point average to be in good standing.

ACADEMIC STANDING

As your chapter establishes GPA minimums for members to remain active in its bylaws, it is essential that you help your executive board hold members accountable. As the Scholarship Chair, you should review the scholarship requirements in your chapter's bylaws and suggest changes that will enhance the academic success of your members. This will never mean to lower your current standards.

By continuing to increase academic requirements for active membership, you will inherently hold your members to a higher standard which will result in stronger membership and a culture of academic excellence. When adjusting bylaws to include or enhance scholarship requirements consider the following:

- Never decrease your GPA requirements (for both active and associate members), only increase the standard, ensuring that they at least meet the minimum standards set by Delta Chi Law.
- Adjust accountability and consequences for not meeting academic requirements.
 - Delta Chi suggests academic probation for those who do not meet the requirements for only one semester/quarter after not meeting academic requirements.
 - If they do not meet or exceed the chapter requirements for a second consecutive semester/quarter, the chapter should pursue inactive status (if available to the member), seeking approval from the Alumni Board of Trustees. The member can then be moved back to active status when they are in alignment with your chapter's standards.
- Define academic probation within your bylaws and what members are limited to (activity-wise) while on this status. This could include limitations on participation in social events, intramural team participation, etc.
- All members on academic probation should have an individualized academic plan for improvement. This should be managed by the Scholarship Chair and the Scholarship Committee.

BUILDING YOUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Developing a sound scholarship program and an attitude to support it is not something that can be done overnight. The chapter must commit itself to the program and view it as a long term and continuous process. Academic achievement must become a way of life for every member. The appointment of a Scholarship Committee shows that this behavior is expected throughout the chapter. Having a written scholarship program will provide an additional layer of accountability.

Your program should not be a system to mandate study hours or study sessions for your members. Supporting your membership through the use of mandated study hours has not been proven to help improve academics unless study hours are part of a comprehensive plan for each member. Every member learns and retains information differently; simply mandating study hours is not conducive to those differences. Your program should reflect the different needs and interests of your members to help them be as successful as possible.

When building your program, you can utilize the Scholarship Program Template found on the Delta Chi website, or consider the following components listed in the rest of this document, which will help you to create a program that meets your current and future scholarship needs.

COMPONENT #1: SCHOLARSHIP ASSESSMENT

When developing (or revising) your scholarship program for the year ahead, you need to consider the makeup of academics within your membership and ask yourself these questions:

- Where do you stand academically in comparison to other fraternities on campus?
- What is the GPA of each member of your most recent associate member class?
- What is your cumulative chartered/provisional chapter GPA?

These questions and more will help you determine where you can specifically improve, and to set goals to enhance the scholarship of your chapter. A scholarship assessment should be used to identify the current academic status of your members. Based on this assessment, determine what kind of scholarship program you need to develop for the chapter. An assessment should help you develop goals for the upcoming academic year to help your chartered/provisional chapter improve.

COMPONENT #2: GOAL SETTING AND PLANNING

Use the findings of your scholarship assessment to create your scholarship goals. When developing your goals, consider the following:

- Desired GPAs (cumulative, academic term, and GPAs for members and Associate Members)
- Desired GPA rank in comparison to other fraternities/sororities on campus
- Minimize the number or percentage of members on academic probation
- Available academic resources and partners on campus

It is important to communicate the goals you develop with the chapter members. Once these goals are identified, consider how you will communicate them and how you think members will respond.

COMPONENT #3: CAMPUS RESOURCES

When working with the chapter, consider how each member approaches academics differently. You will need to consider how their individual needs may differ depending on the requirements of their major or academic coursework during that term.

Your campus has many resources that are available to all members and are usually of low or no cost. Consider connecting with offices and programs supporting academic success on campus or invite one of their staff members as a guest speaker at a meeting or workshop. This will help your members learn about all the support services the campus offers. Below are some example topics:

- **Time management:** focusing on balancing academic coursework with other responsibilities to prioritize your time. Typically campuses will have an academic support and/or a student success office that can provide programming around time management.
- **Exam preparation:** strategies to prepare for a test, quiz, or exam and how to reduce test anxiety. Inviting a professor or your faculty advisor to present on this topic will be helpful for brothers and build your chartered/provisional chapter's relationship with campus faculty and staff.

- **Study skills:** exploring strategies for note taking, reading, and gathering or recalling important information. Your academic support and/or student success office can provide this programming. You may also consider asking an alumnus in graduate school working as a TA if that is an option available to you.
- **Learning strategies:** best practices for how to approach different subjects or a member's preferred learning style. Again, the academic support and/or student success office can provide programming in this area. You may also consider asking a professor in the education or psychology departments.
- **Stress management:** focus on how to manage academic-related stress or best practices related to studying and preparation. Many campus resources can address this topic; one of the best options may be your counseling/student wellness office.

In addition, you may want to encourage members to visit a writing center or tutoring center on your campus, if available, to review drafts of projects prior to submission. You may also want to consider requesting budgetary support from the "D" to cover any expenses for tutoring services or supplemental instruction that may be available to members. You can also look for additional opportunities to recommend for members, including, but not limited to, office hours with professors, review sessions with TAs, meeting with their advisor, and asking brothers who are academically successful in the same or a similar major to provide support and study help.

COMPONENT #4: PROGRAM TRACKING AND ENFORCEMENT

Tracking the academic progress and achievements of members is vital for the success of a scholarship program. When tracking information, consider the following:

- **Accessibility:** Is this information accessible to people who would need it?
- **Organized:** Is the information organized in a way that makes sense?
- **Accurate:** How accurate is this information? Are there different ways to obtain information than what you are currently doing?

Involving Scholarship Committee members in tracking or collecting information will be crucial. Consider identifying members as "team captains" to work with all members.

Enforcement is another word for accountability. Holding members accountable is easier said than done, but is one of the highest forms of brotherhood. This can be especially challenging when it comes to academics. Here are some examples of how you can hold members accountable to your academic standards:

- **Bylaws:** This is a governing document that all members agree to follow. Ensure your standards are accurate and listed correctly.
- **Scholarship Contract:** Similar to a financial contract or promissory note, this is an agreement that members can sign to remind them of their academic obligation to themselves and the fraternity.
- **Judicial Board:** If a member is consistently not upholding the academic standard of the chartered/provisional chapter, consider sending them to the Judicial Board to discuss further consequences for their actions.

When considering these accountability measures, be sure to keep the Eleven Basic Expectations at the forefront. Tying these expectations to your policies, procedures, and contracts can help reinforce the values of the fraternity. Consider using your scholarship committee and other executive board members to hold members accountable.

Regardless of who assists with accountability measures, it is vital that each member remembers the need for confidentiality concerning grades, progress, and scholarship needs of those who need assistance. The trust placed in the Scholarship Chair, members of the Scholarship Committee, and other members asked to provide academic support requires them to provide this accountability in an encouraging and supportive manner.

As a pillar of Delta Chi, assisting in the acquisition of a sound education is the responsibility of all brothers—not just the scholarship chairman or the scholarship committee. It is, however, the scholarship chairman's responsibility to ultimately encourage members to achieve their academic potential.

COMPONENT #5: INCENTIVES, REWARDS, AND CONSEQUENCES

Building your scholarship program should be based upon the needs of your chapter. When developing your program, consider how incentives, requirements, and accountability impact your membership. Some questions to consider are:

- How do your members respond to incentives?
- How do your members respond to requirements?
- How can you hold your members accountable?
- How can you help your members succeed academically?
- How can you help them improve?
- How can you implement a scholarship program?
- What needs to happen for the program to be monitored accurately and effectively?

Positive rewards and incentives can help motivate members to commit to improving their academics. Below are some examples for positive incentives and rewards:

- Discount in dues (consider a tiered approach)
- Awards for individuals based on improvements or high achievements
- Scholarship dinner for members that obtained a certain GPA
- Gift cards (for not skipping class, obtaining a high score on a project/test, etc.)

Subsequently, the chapter should highly consider what consequences are in place for members that do not meet standards. Below are some examples:

- Not eligible to hold an officer or chair position
- Unable to attend social events (i.e. formal, mixers, parties, etc.)
- Restricted from serving on fraternity teams or representing the fraternity at community events (ex. intramural league, philanthropy events for other organizations, Greek Week, Homecoming, etc.)

Consequences should refer to the revocation of privileges as a result of not meeting the minimum standard, and should not include aspects of other obligations that enhance the member experience, but are not directly related to academics (i.e. additional community service hours). One reason fraternity members have a higher rate of graduation compared to their non-fraternity peers is the support they receive from their chapter. If consequences are too harsh and push members away from the chapter, then they are likely to resign their membership instead of working toward progress. It is really important that members working on academic growth are not kept away from Ritual ceremonies, brotherhood events, service and philanthropy projects, etc. Providing opportunities to participate fully in their membership experience is the most likely path to significant academic progress.