

Academic Incentives

Academic incentives are an important part a chapter's scholarship program. -It is vital to provide members with a variety of incentives because what motivates one member might not motivate another. Incentives should be both monetary and non-monetary.

Review the academic incentives your chapter provides every semester/year to account for changing chapter goals, and in order to improve their effectiveness and efficiency. All chapter members should be involved when determining incentives so that they "buy in" to the incentives program.

Also, the scholarship chair should monitor the incentives program the chapter utilizes to ensure that its value for improving academics does not become subordinate to the purely competitive aspect (if competitive incentives are used).

Below is a list of activities or programs chapters can use for academic incentives, as well as ideas for actual rewards to chapter members.

Chapter Activities

1. Create a brother/sister of the week, month, semester, year, with academics as a part of the selection process.
2. Create a scholar of the week, month, semester, year, which the scholarship chair selects.
3. Reward members who improve their GPA by .20 or more.
4. Reward members who achieve a 4.00 or Dean's List status.
5. Reduced dues for members with a specific GPA (such as 3.5) or higher.
6. Provide incentives for high GPA, such as preferential room picks for housing sign ups, roster number for new members determined, etc.
7. Pass around an "A" box at chapter, have people put their name in it if they have gotten an A on a test or quiz in the last week, and draw a name and give a prize.
8. Collect money from those who skip class. Create teams to hold members accountable for attending class. Structure as follows: If someone from Team A sees someone from Team B skipping class, he/she should go to them and ask them to put a quarter in a designated jar. Use the money from the jar to purchase something for the chapter resource room or library at the end of every semester.
9. Hang engraved plaques or framed photos of members who receive academic awards and/or scholarships.
10. Have a "Pi" dessert celebration and reward members for GPAs with 3.14 and higher by eating pie.
11. Dean's List Dinner.

12. Hold a “Scholarship Awards” dinner or dessert reception. All members should attend and invite council officers, the Greek Advisor, the Dean of Students, alumni/alumnae, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Vice President for Student Affairs, and faculty members.
13. Reward the entire chapter if the chapter GPA is above the all-undergraduate, all-men’s, or all-women’s average.
14. Create an honor roll of brothers/sisters with high GPA’s and post it in the chapter house.
15. During Mom’s/Dad’s/Parent’s Day, announce all academic accomplishments – inductions into honor societies, Dean’s List, 4.0s, etc.
16. Nominate members for awards, both local and national. Share the nomination letter with them.
17. Brag board to recognize people who got As and Bs on tests and papers.
18. Nominate people for Greek Scholar of the Week.
19. Create a scholarship bulletin board in the chapter house to recognize members who are a part of Order of Omega, Gamma Sigma Alpha, and other honorary societies.
20. Hold a competition within the chapter for the highest GPA pair. Pair the brother/sister with the highest GPA with the brother/sister with the lowest GPA and so on down the line.
21. Create a team competition and give a prize to the team with best cumulative GPA, most As and Bs, or fewest classes missed.
22. Establish a friendly GPA competition with another chapter on campus. A “traveling trophy” can be the prize.
23. Set aside 5-10% of your dues budget for academic incentives.
24. Inform chapter members of local and national scholarships.
25. List member’s majors on the phone list for members to use to contact others if they need assistance.
26. Create a list of all the classes members have taken so that other members know who to go to for advice.
27. Enforce quiet hour policies if you have a chapter house.
28. Hire a tutor for 100-level classes with which new members are struggling.
29. Establish chapter standards to hold office, play intramurals, attend socials, big brother/sister etc.
30. Have scholarship resources available at house and in new member meetings about writers lab, math lab, study skills lab, etc.
31. Make the goal of sound scholarship the first emphasis of all your publications in your chapter, especially those that deal with recruitment.

32. Maintain your academic requirements for recruitment higher than those of your respective council.
33. Mention at every chapter meeting some item relating to the importance of good scholarship.
34. Make sure social events are not scheduled during mid-terms and finals.
35. Provide chapter members with a calendar at the beginning of each semester with all required chapter events (such as initiation and recruitment) so that members can plan ahead with their schoolwork.
36. Hang up schedules on a bulletin board and hold people accountable when you see them missing class.
37. Base Designated Driver/ Sober Sister or Brother on study hours per week.
38. Find a faculty advisor who works with the chapter on academic issues.
39. Invite a different faculty member to dinner monthly and have her/his discuss her/his expertise.
40. Invite the Counseling Center to do a study skills seminar for new members.
41. Invite student affairs professional to do a presentation on time management skills.
42. Invite the Career Center to do a resume/interview seminar for members.
43. Invite the Coordinator of Greek Affairs to dinner to talk about scholastics.
44. Invite an academic advisor to talk to chapter about scheduling for classes.
45. Incorporate study skills as part of new member education program.
46. Invite speakers on scholarship topics to speak to new members.

Ideas for Rewards

47. A personal check.
48. Framed certificates.
49. Hand-written thank you notes.
50. Congratulatory notes and cards.
51. Newspaper ad(s) in BG News.
52. Recognition in alumni/alumnae newsletters.
53. Recognition in parents' newsletters.
54. Name and/or picture on academic excellence bulletin board in chapter house.
55. Lapel pins.
56. Dangles (for sororities) that their chapters have for high scholarship. (Example—Pi Beta Phi has a pearl to hang on their pin/badge when a member achieves a 3.5).
57. Gift certificates to local stores or malls.
58. Gift certificates to local restaurants.

59. Gift certificate to the campus bookstore.
60. Chapter memorabilia, such as t-shirts, jewelry, sticky notes, etc.
61. University memorabilia, such as clothing, bumper stickers, water bottles, etc.
62. Small plaques or trophies (\$15).
63. "Traveling" trophy or medallion that is passed to a different member each week.
64. Chapter dues discount.
65. Better room in the chapter house.
66. All or part of the Gamma Sigma Alpha and Order of Omega initiation fees for members.
67. Tickets to an on or off-campus event, such as a play, movie, sports event or concert.

Have questions? Additions? Email jennig@bgsu.edu.