



Academic Programming: A Resource for College Panhellenics

Introduction

The National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) developed this resource for College Panhellenics as a tool for helping sorority women fulfill their academic potential and live up to the scholastic ideal stated in the Panhellenic Creed:

“We, as Undergraduate Members of women’s fraternities, stand for good scholarship, for guarding of good health, for maintenance of fine standards, and for serving, to the best of our ability, our college community.”

Through effective programming and recognition, a College Panhellenic can establish a culture within the fraternity/sorority community that demonstrates a sincere commitment to academic excellence. The academic officer is a vital part of the Panhellenic leadership team. A College Panhellenic must make the academic officer and her committee an important and integral part of its programming.

Educating sorority women on the academic goals of Panhellenic will result in success for individual members and their chapters and create positive public relations in the greater community.

A College Panhellenic’s scholarship program should not replace a chapter’s academic programming. Instead, College Panhellenic academic initiatives should complement what chapters do with broader programming that will be beneficial to all members.

Use this resource to implement effective programs in your community. Select the items that best meet the needs of your members. Be creative and tailor the program to your chapters, your Panhellenic community and your institution.



Goals and Expectations of College Panhellenic Academic Programming

This section is designed to help College Panhellenics clearly define the purpose, priorities and scope of their academic programming efforts. It offers guidance for setting intentional goals, partnering with campus resources, and using data, recognition and collaboration to support academic success across the community. Use this framework to align programming with Panhellenic values while creating a sustainable, supportive culture of scholarship.

- Evaluate previous academic programming for effectiveness as you plan future events and initiatives.
- Establish realistic and measurable goals for academic programming.
- Develop meaningful ways to recognize the outstanding academic achievements of individuals and chapters to the greater community.
- Make academic programming an integral part of the Panhellenic calendar that is available to all community members.
- Partner with academic support services, advising centers and career services to establish programming and support the Panhellenic community.
- Meet regularly with the chapter academic officers and fraternity/sorority advisor (FSA) to determine an effective strategy to support Panhellenic women in their academic achievement.
- Develop a comprehensive scholarship plan for promoting academic excellence within the fraternity/sorority community that communicates Panhellenic's commitment to intellectual development in the community.
- Participate in the Month of the Scholar, an important NPC initiative promoting academic excellence and achievement in February.
- Guard against over-programming, especially during midterms and leading up to final exams.
- Serve as role models concerning academic attitudes and academic achievement in the fraternity/sorority community.



Role of the Panhellenic Academic Officer

This section provides an outline of the scope and leadership responsibilities of the Panhellenic academic officer. It clarifies how the academic officer supports chapters, collaborates with advisors and campus partners and promotes a consistent culture of academic excellence. Include these duties (as relevant to your College Panhellenic) in the academic officer's list of responsibilities as stated in your Panhellenic bylaws:

- Create a climate that fosters a constant presence and appreciation of academic excellence. Meet with chapter academic officers on a regular basis.
- Establish academic goals for the College Panhellenic Association.
- Build strong faculty and staff relationships and implement faculty/staff appreciation programs.
- Recognize Panhellenic scholars and outstanding and/or improved academic performance by working with the Panhellenic officer/s responsible for marketing.
- Work with your fraternity/sorority advisor or NPC College Panhellenic area advisor to submit the College Panhellenic Annual Reports to NPC via FS Central each term.
- Keep chapters informed of institutional academic deadlines and applications for scholarships, study abroad opportunities, internships, graduate school resource events, research opportunities and honor societies.
- Plan workshops to promote time management, class attendance and the transition to college-level work, as well as study skills such as listening, time management, writing and test-taking.
- Encourage chapters to develop academic peer mentors within their chapters. These members will meet periodically with members who have similar interests, majors and career goals and offer advice about classes and other academic information.
- If applicable, assist chapters in recruiting chapter faculty advisors.



How to Build Relationships with Academic Officers

This section focuses on strengthening peer-to-peer connections among chapter academic officers to promote collaboration, trust and shared leadership. It provides strategies for building consistent communication, fostering mutual support and creating spaces where officers can learn from one another. Use this guidance to cultivate a connected network of academic leaders who feel supported and empowered in their roles.

- Host monthly academic roundtables to create space for open conversations, idea-sharing and collaboration among all academic officers.
- Schedule one-on-one check-ins with each chapter's academic officer to understand their needs, priorities and challenges.
- Create a shared communication channel (e.g., GroupMe, text) where officers can quickly share resources, ask questions and support each other.
- Highlight each chapter's successes in meetings or social media to build trust and reinforce a culture of celebrating each other.
- Provide consistent updates so all officers feel informed about institutional resources, policy expectations and Panhellenic academic goals.
- Encourage collaboration between chapters by pairing chapters together for co-hosted study events or wellness/academic initiatives when possible.
- Be approachable and accessible: respond promptly, check in casually and attend each chapter's academic initiatives when possible.
- Model vulnerability and empathy by normalizing academic challenges and show authenticity.



Academic Achievement Programming Ideas

This section offers a range of flexible academic achievement programming ideas that Panhellenics can adapt to meet the needs of their campus and community. It is designed to help academic officers support student success through recognition, skill-building, wellness and professional development while leveraging campus and alumni partnerships. Use these ideas as inspiration to create intentional, inclusive programming that reinforces academic excellence without over-programming members.

- Host study or roundtable sessions for specific majors and/or concentrations.
- Host a recognition celebration for members who achieve the Dean's List.
- Work with the Panhellenic marketing officer to highlight members' academic achievements, internships and community academic successes.
- Host pre-exam week activities to promote mental wellness and positive study habits. Activities may include:
 - Movement: Yoga, aerobics, community walk or other physical activities.
 - Mental: Free snacks, pet a puppy, and test prep material giveaways for BlueBooks, pencils and scantrons.
 - Social: Reserve study spaces on campus for member use, self care social (facemasks, movie and essential oils) and game night.
- Offer professional development workshops focused on resume writing, interview preparation and building LinkedIn profiles to help members connect academic success with future career goals.
- Utilize tutoring centers and bring them into Panhellenic spaces.
- Host a Panhellenic-wide faculty appreciation through Panhellenic community submissions.
- Provide a planner or calendar at the start of the academic year.
- Provide awards and incentives for high achievement and improvement.
- Bring in faculty and other speakers to speak on topics related to academic success. Host academic success events and partner with faculty/staff that work in support offices. This can include, the writing center, health and counseling centers, career centers and the learning support offices.
- Provide goal-setting tools each term to help members plan for academic success.
- Organize workshops focused on resilience, growth mindset, time management and how to overcome academic setbacks.
- Partner with alumni relations to create mentorship opportunities where alumni can share advice, career pathways and tips for balancing school with long-term goals.



- Plan the Month of the Scholar celebration in February, which includes events, recognition, possible workshops or attendance at cultural events (e.g., plays and other performances, lectures, art exhibits, historical places in your town) and faculty appreciation.



College Panhellenic Academic Calendar

This section outlines key dates and milestones that should be included in a College Panhellenic academic calendar to support proactive planning and academic success. By sharing this information consistently, Panhellenic helps chapters and members anticipate busy periods, manage commitments and avoid unnecessary academic stress.

Be sure to include these dates on academic calendars your Panhellenic provides to its member organizations:

- Date classes begin and end
- Last day to register without a penalty
- Last day to drop/add a class
- College/University scholarship application periods
- Graduation application opening and closing
- If applicable, local Alumnae Panhellenic scholarship opening and closing dates
- FAFSA application deadlines
- Institutional holidays, religious holidays and vacation periods
- Reading days
- Final exam periods
- Last day to withdraw from classes without an academic grade
- Last day to remove incompletes from the previous term
- Commencement
- All major institutional events (e.g., Homecoming, Parents Weekend, primary recruitment, other important dates that affect the entire fraternity/sorority community)



How Your Panhellenic Advisor May Support Academic Success

This section explains how a FSA plays an essential role in guiding and supporting the academic officer by offering continuity, institutional knowledge and a steady partner in strategy. They help the officer navigate institutional policies, connect with academic resources and shape goals that align with Panhellenic values. Below is an outline of examples that the Panhellenic advisor may assist with:

- Attend Panhellenic and executive board meetings.
- Meet at least once a term with the academic officers and/or the president to talk about the chapter's academic program and its goals, and offer suggestions to strengthen the role of academics in the chapter.
- Meet confidentially with members at academic risk to help them develop an individual plan to improve their GPA, utilize institutional resources and progress toward their degrees.
- Suggest faculty/staff members who would be appropriate speakers at Panhellenic events.
- Be familiar with college/university facilities, services and procedures.
- Write recommendations (as possible) for Panhellenic members for graduate school, internships, study abroad opportunities, etc.
- Serve as an ambassador for the fraternity/sorority community within the community.
- Serve as a sounding board for new ideas and initiatives.