HOW TO HELP MEMBERS WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH ACADEMICS

As the scholarship chair it is your duty to monitor those individuals who are struggling in the area of academics and might even be on probation with your chapter. This can be a difficult task. Following is a list of suggestions on how to help your members succeed at academics!

1. If your members haven’t already filled out a scholastic performance goal sheet, you should have members fill this out. This form can be found at <http://www.missouristate.edu/activities/23430.htm> under the Scholastic Contract link. This form details certain member’s academic goals, what they need to do to accomplish them, and how the chapter can help you achieve the goals. You should review the struggling member’s goal sheet to determine the resources the chapter has to help them reach their academic goals and present these resources to them.
2. Use the individual scholarship assessment sheet found at <http://www.missouristate.edu/activities/23430.htm> to help you assess what is causing the problems. It could be an overload of course work, lack of enthusiasm for major, too many extra-curricular activities, personal problems, poor time management, etc.
3. Once you know what the problem is, use resources on campus and within your chapter to help monitor their progress.
4. 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.
5. In an interview with a member who is having scholastic difficulty , if it becomes apparent that he/she has too many extracurricular activities, encourage the placement of academic endeavors higher on the list of priorities. This may mean the need to curtail some of these other activities. When this is necessary, assist the individual in making the changes.
6. Assign this person an academic accountability partner. This person would have a copy of this member’s class schedule, important assignment and test dates, etcetera. Have this person remind the member about tests, assignments, and make sure they are going to class each week. This person can even help the person to study for important tests. If you want, the struggling member can also be an academic accountability partner for that person and make sure they are on task with school. If they are in charge of reminding someone else about their academic responsibilities, it is likely that they will start to take a more serious interest in their academic responsibilities.
7. Have this person set up an appointment with their advisor. If they think they might fail a course (although we want to prevent this, it may happen) they will need proper direction on what course of action to take with their schedule and major. It also helps to schedule regular appointments with advisors to make sure you are on track with your major.
8. Make sure they are keeping a positive attitude about their studies!