

to Better The Man Scholarship FAQ

Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity

This list provides answers to the most Frequently Asked Questions related to implementing the To Better the Man Scholarship. If you have a question not answered, please contact Fraternity Headquarters.

What is an appropriate schedule for the process?

Planning ahead is essential. The scholarship mailing takes a large amount of time and preparation. You should start planning several months in advance and be conscious of important dates and holidays which may fall during that period. Please refer to the To Better The Man checklist, located on the resources section of the Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity website (www.alphasigmaphi.org).

Who is responsible for managing the To Better the Man process?

Depending on how your chapter is structured, you may draw from a few different officers to be involved in the scholarship process. Naturally, the Scholarship Director and Recruitment Director should be on the committee, with the Scholarship Director chairing the committee. Other members of the committee should include people that have appropriate social skills as they'll be calling applicants to schedule the interviews and conducting the interviews. Time availability at the beginning of the fall term is also an important consideration in selecting the committee. Because of the amount of work involved, a committee would be highly encouraged, as opposed to just relying on the Scholarship Director and Recruitment Director.

Where does the money for these scholarships come from?

1. The chapter's recruitment or scholarship budget
2. The chapter's Alumni Association or Parents Club
3. Through fund raising specifically for the scholarship

The thought behind offering a \$250-\$500 book award is it will more than pay for itself in the men you recruit and the dues those men will pay to the chapter.

What kind of scholarship could we offer?

We recommend doing a "book" scholarship. A book scholarship is a scholarship offered to students to help them buy their books for a semester. A scholarship of \$250-\$500 would be appropriate. If your budget allows, you may give out more than one To Better the Man Scholarship.

What is sent in the initial e-mail blast?

Include your cover letter with the scholarship application as well as all deadlines and proposed schedules (for interviews and gathering).

Does the person have to become a member to receive the scholarship?

No. Remember, the point of offering a scholarship to an incoming male student or returning student is to gather names of potential prospects that may not attend your events or seek membership in fraternities. In a nutshell, the scholarship is a name generator. Restrictions will limit the pool from which you may wish to draw. Not only should this generate names, but you should be recruiting the men that are applying for the scholarship. Generally, they are the academically motivated students who want to succeed in college.

Organizing and Running the Event

What does the initial process look like?

1. On the selected days, hold 10-15 minute interviews with all applicants. Interviews should be conducted by the President, Scholarship Director, Recruitment Director, and anyone who is on the committee. You could also assign each recruitment team a certain number of applicants to interview. The most important thing is to have at least two people do each interview, if possible.
2. Following the interviews, hold a gathering (barbeque or something not intimidating to non-members) to honor all the applicants of the award. If things are done properly, the gathering is a formality for the men you've interviewed to meet the entire chapter and determine whether they should be an Alpha Sig.
3. Invite the parents of the applicants to the event so they can meet the men of the chapter.
4. Invite your parents and alumni to attend the event as well.



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Sample schedule

5:00pm - Mingling, games, etc.

5:30pm - Welcome from the President

5:35pm - President's Speech about the Fraternity (last year's accomplishments, this year's goals.) Transition speech into explaining the scholarship.

5:50pm - Guest speaker (ideally a parent, alumnus or faculty advisor) to talk about Alpha Sigma Phi experience (if applicable)

6:00pm - President recognizes all finalists, announces the winner(s) and thanks everyone for coming.

What should we remember for the gathering?

Possible items that you may wish to include are Alpha Sigma Phi recruitment informational handouts; a sign-in sheet for applicants and parents; a clean, prepared, and decorated area; well thought out speeches from the President and guest speaker; and a camera to take pictures to post on the chapter website, Facebook page, and submit to the campus newspaper.

What should we wear or request the applicants wear?

This depends on the culture of your chapter and the type of the event. You should let the applicants know what you expect them to wear on the official invitation. Keep in mind, you are trying to attract men who would not normally join a fraternity. You want these men to be as comfortable as possible. Requiring someone to attend in coat and tie may be intimidating.

How many people should we interview for the scholarship?

Remember that the purpose of the scholarship is to meet a high quantity and quality of people! Interview those whom you feel meet the qualifications. Depending on the institution, a good number may be between 60 and 300. In short, the more people you interview, the more people you are likely to recruit to join the chapter.

After the Scholarship is Awarded

What if it doesn't work?

If the mailing does not generate enough applicants for the chapter, be sure to evaluate the program. Was the initial letter effective? Was the event well-organized? Was proper follow-up carried out? Were the chapter members well-prepared and helpful in the recruitment process? Was the chosen date for interviews planned strategically to the schedule of incoming male students (classes, campus events, and homecoming)? Did you limit your applicant pool to just incoming students? How many interviews did you actually conduct? Did you schedule the event for a time that fits well with your institution.

What do we do following the awarding of the scholarship?

Follow up! Be sure to contact each applicant whom you feel would be a strong member of the chapter. Remember the program was intended to be a name generator, and it is now time to recruit those people informally who did not receive the scholarships. Invite them to future recruitment events. Most importantly, evaluate the program and plan for next year.

Deferred Recruitment Strategy

What if my campus is on deferred/second semester recruitment?

If the campus has deferred rush, this could cater even better to your chapter. You're offering a scholarship in the fall which is allowing you to add potentially hundreds of men to your names list. Cultivate relationships throughout the semester so by the time January rolls around, it's a formality for these men - they know Alpha Sig is right for them! Plus, you don't have to limit this process to just incoming students. Returning students could also be eligible for the scholarship or you could offer two scholarships (one for an incoming student and one for a returning student).

