



New Brothers Section E

GUIDED STUDY PROGRAM

This guided-study program, combined with personal assistance from the Big Brothers in particular and the Brothers of the Chapter in general and the programming conducted for the benefit of the Chapter as a whole gives all brothers the opportunity to maximize their ATP and undergraduate experience.

MISSION STATEMENT

The goal of the Guided-Study Program is to provide each Brother with a “road map” to guide him through Fraternity education, assimilation and participation. While the Guided-Study Program is designed for individual work, new brothers will be assisted by their Big Brothers, who will lend their knowledge, expertise and constructive review of their work.

A Brother’s Fraternity education should include the history and operations of the national Fraternity and the Chapter, the campus and interfraternity community. It should also focus on the clarification of each brother’s personal values and those of the Fraternity.

A Brother’s assimilation into the Fraternity begins the process of making them part of a unified cohesive Chapter. A Brother has the opportunity to interact on an equal basis with each Brother of the Chapter from the first day of his AΓP experience.

A Brother’s participation in AΓP will be as a part of the Chapter Ag College, general campus and interfraternity communities to the extent of their desire, availability and ability.

While the Big Brother, the Chapter VNR-Membership Development and all Brothers have a role to play in helping a Brother to be a good Brother, the success of the Guided-Study Program and a Brother’s AΓP experience depends primarily on each individual brother’s efforts to make it positive and successful.

WHAT AΓP EXPECTS OF BROTHERS

While there is no required or mandatory “test” or other required formal evaluation of the brother’s completion of this program other than the National Exam taken by all Brothers every year, it is the expectation of the Fraternity that each new Brother will work through the program at his own pace with the assistance of his Big Brother.

By doing so they will not only enhance their AΓP experience, but they will begin gaining knowledge and experience that will benefit them and their Chapter greatly. By not doing so, they will cheat themselves, their Brothers and their Chapter since this learning is a strong common bond between all Brothers.

SOME ADVICE...

Brothers are in college to get an education. While the Fraternity provides a tremendous opportunity to augment what they learn in the classroom with real and practical life experience, their primary purpose in college is to succeed academically.

Sometimes the Fraternity experience and the college experience can be overwhelming at first. WE strongly encourage new Brothers, either through their Chapter or on their own, to participate in seminars or workshops on time management, study skills improvement, use of the library and stress management. The Chapter's VNR-Membership Development or University/College counseling department should be able to provide more details.

SETTING GOALS

It is very important if new brothers are going to be successful, for them to set goals for themselves before starting the self-study program. The Big Brother should advise his little brother on goal-setting but if he is going to achieve his goals, they must come from him.

A "quickie guide" to goal setting:

1. The goals must be his own.
2. Goals need to be written. By doing so, they become real and tangible and they can easily refer to them.
3. Goals should be specific. Set numbers of page to read, people to see, subjects to talk about achievements to accomplish.
4. Goals should be set high. The higher the goals, the more they will accomplish. They should simply look beyond this program to their fraternal and personal future.
5. Goals should extend over the long term – months rather than days or weeks. This allows them to compensate for minor day-to-day setbacks that inevitably will occur and interrupt the best laid plans.
6. time should be set aside each day to work toward goals. Stick to the plan. If they have to cancel one day they need to make up for that work either before or after the missed time.

7. Long term goals should be broken into daily increments – a “To Do” list of sorts. While this might seem to contradict #5, it is really meant to give a clear indication that they can accomplish their goals. By seeing the small (daily) picture, they can feel certain that the long-term goals are reachable. Otherwise it might seem too much.
8. Goals should be reviewed often.

THE BIG BROTHER

While a strong bond of Brotherhood and friendship should grow between the new brother and his Big Brother, his primary role is to guide him smoothly into the life of the Chapter. To do that, initially, weekly meetings will be required.

At the first of these meetings, which should be held shortly after initiation, the Big Brother should discuss and provide written materials that cover: 1) basic data on the Brothers of the Chapter, 2) basic Chapter operations and policies, 3) the Chapter meetings agenda and rule and 4) the current issues before the Chapter and the basic position that each side of the issue has taken.

At the subsequent meetings, he should discuss/review: 1) progress that has been made each week toward completing the Guided-Study Program, 2) any questions his Little Brother has about the Fraternity, the Chapter, etc., 3) any problems he may be having academically, fraternally or personally with which he may need help.

These weekly meetings should last at least until he has completed study of the *Golden Crescent* and chapter history, though we encourage Big and Little Brothers to resolve to get together at least weekly throughout college. If they do they will meet regularly for the rest of their lives.

EDUCATION

The Goal: To acquire a basic working knowledge of:

1. The Fraternity’s Basic Expectations & Chapter Minimum Membership Standards, Risk Management Policy, Brotherhood Program and the Chapter’s additional specific rules and regulations.

The Basic Expectations are found in the *Golden Crescent* , the manual that provides an overview of AGP. The Chapter – specific materials should be provided to the new brothers at the Orientation Meeting and reviewed immediately after his initiation by the Noble Ruler, VNR-Membership Development or his Big Brother.

2. The History and operations of the National Fraternity and Chapter.

For general AΓP and fraternity history as well as National Fraternity operations, he should read the *Golden Crescent*, the Fraternity's Brother manual. In addition, he may want to read the VNR-Membership Development's Manual.

For Chapter history, the Chapter historian should provide him with the appropriate historical materials regarding the Chapter. If a written Chapter history isn't available, he may want to consider putting one together. Also, he can meet with his Chapter Adviser or Alumni Corporation officer who should have some degree of personal knowledge about the history of the Chapter.

For Chapter operations, the new brother should ask the Chapter Officers to provide him with written materials (Constitution, by-laws, fiscal, housing, and other operating procedures of the Chapter) or arrange to have a presentation made to the Chapter. In addition with the help of his Big Brother, he can spend a day (before, between and/or after – but not in lieu of – classes) working with each Chapter officer and committee chairman to learn what their job entails. We suggest scheduling these once every two weeks, maximum.

3. The History and operation of the campus Greek system:

The new brother should meet with the Dean of Students, campus Greek Adviser or IFC President to discuss these topics. They may also have written materials which he can copy, read and share with other brothers.

4. The Values of our Fraternity and their application in daily Chapter life.

The Chapter Noble Ruler should provide a copy of the Fraternity's Initiation, Five Orders and Graduation Rituals. The Big and Little Brothers and other Brothers should discuss them and their meaning.

Older Brothers should share situations they are aware of where other Brothers put the Fraternity's values into action; starting with how Brothers exemplify generosity, helpfulness, loyalty, integrity, industry, knowledge and Brotherhood.

Brothers should organize and run a "Values and Ethics" seminar at the Chapter. The campus Greek Adviser or Dean of Students should be able to refer you to a trained campus facilitator who can run such a program. Also, there are programs available through the AΓP Headquarters.

5. Encourage new brothers to attain induction into the Five Orders.

Encourage new brothers to create and run “study groups” of Brothers who are looking to advance to the next Order. Some tips:

- a. Set and stick to a brief (under one hour) weekly meeting.
- b. Elect a chairman and recorder. The Chairman keeps order, the recorder keeps notes of each meeting.
- c. Discuss and agree first to goals – attaining an Order is the principle goal of the group. Then discuss and agree to the ways to do that:
 - Small group work projects
 - Study sessions for AΓP
 - Study sessions for classes (increase GPAs)
 - Etc.
- d. Set reasonable deadlines for task completion
- e. Each member of the group takes responsibility for at least one task.
- f. Schedule events, speakers, study sessions, etc. and execute.