

Getting Started

Best Practices for Chapter Integration

- ★ Inform and educate pledges of current chapter discussions and practices so they may contribute to the conversation
- ★ Engage pledges in chapter discussion and activity
- ★ Coach pledges through operations
- ★ Reference the Pledge Education Program content in chapter activity

Early integration of pledges into the chapter experience is a key component to the Pledge Education Program. Being a part of regular chapter business meetings and events, pledges will acclimate to and become part of the chapter's culture and operations faster. Additionally, this provides more opportunity for pledges to connect and collaborate with brothers throughout the Pledge Education Program. Understanding how the chapter operates "in real time" will allow for pledges will be provided a perspective early and contribute more effectively immediately following Initiation.

Suggested ways the chapter can integrate pledges into chapter meetings:

- VPPE review the chapter meeting agenda with pledges prior to the start of the chapter meeting
- Chapter assigns seating during the meetings so each pledge is surrounded by brothers to help them understand what's happening during the meeting.
 - Seating can be strictly assigned so pledges have brothers to the left, right, in front of, and behind them.
 - Seating can be assigned by name, first or last
 - Seating can be assigned by birthdate
 - Seating can be randomly drawn and placed prior to the meeting
 - Seating can be assigned by sequentially having brothers who had been initiated during the previous semesters (such as seat 1 [initiated 4 terms prior], seat 2 [initiated 3 terms prior], seat 3 [initiated 2 terms prior], seat 4 [initiated last term], seat 5 [pledge])
- Chapter can utilize 5-10 minutes of chapter time the first 1-2 meetings to host an introductory activity (such as "human bingo," rock, paper scissors tournament, or name aerobics).
 - Chapters should avoid ice breakers such as "two truths and a lie" or "interesting/fun facts." These activities may cause anxiety trying to identify personal experiences "to impress" within a group a pledge has not developed a comfort level with yet. Additionally, activities such as these could cause anxiety if others guess incorrectly.
- Officers spend an extra minute (or two) to explain their positions and provide additional information regarding their report during chapter meetings.
- Identify elements of an officer report or upcoming event that may directly connect to the content of the Pledge Education Program.
- Appropriate small social gatherings that include both brothers and pledges:
 - Mingling before or after chapter meetings and events
 - Study groups
 - Meal and "coffee" gatherings
 - Game nights
 - Attending campus events
 - Other casual opportunities for engagement