



Advice from the National Scholarship Officer and the Alpha Chi Rho Educational Foundation Scholarship Committee to Brothers seeking a scholarship:

The work on applying for a scholarship begins long before you actually sit down and begin filling out the application in the spring. In order to have the best chance of being awarded a scholarship, start thinking about the following at the beginning of the school year. Consider how you can improve your grades, become more active with community service, and get more involved with leadership in your Chapter and on campus. Start formulating an essay that will make the best case for awarding you a scholarship.

Scholarship. Academics are the main, driving reason to attend college, and this is true for Brothers of Alpha Chi Rho. Look at your transcript and look at the grades you've earned so far and your overall GPA. Ask yourself honestly: could your grades be higher? If so, what has held you back from earning higher grades? Are you attending all your classes regularly? When you are in class, are you paying full attention, participating meaningfully, and taking notes that are useful for review later? Are you turning in assignments on time and with quality? If not, then you know the obvious steps to take.

The general rule of thumb is that you should be spending two hours of work outside of class for every one hour you are in class (this will vary depending on the course). How are you spending that time? You should have a dedicated time and space for studying and working on assignments, free from distractions. Turn your phone notifications off. Stop checking social media. Let others know that you're trying to study and do not want to be disturbed. If you're in a study group, make sure that you and the members of your group stay on-task to keep the group from turning into a primarily social one.

What if you're not sure if your study practices, note-taking, etc. are the best? If your campus has an academic services office, speak to them and ask what advice they have. Talk to your professors and teaching assistants and see what advice can offer. Talk to other students who are successful in classes in which you could do better and ask what they do.

There are also many books on study strategies and two particularly good resources are "*College Smart: How to Succeed in College Using the Science of Learning*" by Nicholas C. Soderstrom, Ph.D with Sam McMillan and "*Make It Stick: The Science of Successful Learning*" by Peter C. Brown, Henry L. Roediger III, and Mark A. McDaniel.

Community Service. How deeply are you involved in service in your campus community? Is your activity limited to only showing up for Chapter or Greek Community Service and "putting in your time"? If so, consider serving on your Chapter's Community Service committee or even chairing it. If your Greek community has a Community Service or Philanthropy committee, serve on it or chair it. You can also choose to individually participate in community service activities and fundraisers that are meaningful to you personally (and you can also get Brothers involved as well).

Chapter and Fraternity Leadership. Have you served on committees as an active member (or just shown up)? Have you chaired committees? Have you held Chapter offices? When given the opportunity to hold office, did you make the most of your time by improving some aspect of your Chapter (communication with HQ or college, increasing membership, improving morale, making Chapter more active on campus and with the Fraternity at large)? Have you attended and participated in Conclaves? Convention?

Your essay. When composing your essay as part of your scholarship application, read it over and try to objectively ask yourself if it effectively makes the case for why Alpha Chi Rho Educational Foundation should choose you to receive a scholarship. Does it clearly describe you as a person and a Brother, informing the Scholarship Committee about your personal and professional goals, describing what sets you apart, and very importantly, does it explain the importance of your relationship with Alpha Chi Rho? What is it about your relationship with Alpha Chi Rho that you want to convey? Why you joined? A special relationship or event from your time in the Chapter? How Alpha Chi Rho has changed you or how you helped improve the Chapter?

Before submitting your essay, ask someone you respect (e.g., Brother, Chapter scholarship advisor, professor) to read it and give you honest, constructive criticism – on spelling, grammar, phrasing, and of course, the content.

It is important that you take the time to reflect, self-evaluate, and then make genuine changes in your study habits, level of effort in community service, your Chapter, and the Fraternity at large, as these will improve your chances of receiving a scholarship. Remember, though, that there are a limited number of scholarships. Depending on the number and quality of applicants, competition may be very tight. And even with an improved application, an award is not assured. However, if you take the steps to become stronger academically, become more involved in your College, Chapter, and Fraternity at large, you will - regardless of whether or not you receive a scholarship - have improved yourself, your campus, and your Brotherhood and exemplified our motto, “Be Men.”

