

Preparing for the Alpha Chi

Scholarship Process

Dr. Linda Cowan

West Liberty University

Topics:

- Planning process for paper submission
- Barriers to submission
- Points to ponder on writing a good paper

Chapter timeline:

- Planning process – start early
- Ways to identify applicants
- Ways to involve your AX advisors and other faculty
- Advisors: delegate!

Ways to fix issues:

- Establish clear procedures and expectations
 - Disseminate AX scholarship info sheets
- Personal invitation
 - Reach out to colleagues; use former winners as helpers
- Use your co-advisors, mentors
- Use your relationships with other on-campus entities
 - Other scholarship competitions; honor societies, capstone presentations, presentation/paper opportunities, etc.

Too many good papers – what to do?

- Selection process
 - Give yourself enough time before February 1
 - Gather submissions and create a selection committee
 - Use the submissions for AX regional scholarship too (if applicable)
 - Don't forget about the flexibility of submissions from each school – two total, but in a variety of combinations

Don't forget about the details

- Requirements: check the website
- Assessment form – letter from professor in field

- Pryor/Organ/Freeman: Two-page statement from applicant with activities and long-range plans for study
- If creative work is submitted, make sure there is an accompanying statement

Barriers to the process: What's your excuse?

Small Group Activity:

- Identify two reasons why:
 - Students do not submit
 - Or
 - Do not follow through with the process

Excuses:

- Not enough notice/time
- Paper not good enough
- Lack of mentor/development
- Too much paperwork
- Not enough support
- Lack of understanding of process
- No clear timeline
- No process/identification of potential scholars
- Lack of understanding
- No committee
- No co-advisor support
- Too many submissions

Helpful hints for papers:

- Proofread!
- Have a controlling idea/thesis
- Have an abstract, if it's a scientific paper
- Develop content
- Develop ideas with support/arguments
- Avoid tangents, irrelevant ideas
- Make sure creative submissions have appropriate support and/or descriptive documentation
- Be succinct. Avoid flowery language.