Preparing for the Alpha Chi

Scholarship Process

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

Too many good papers – what to do?

• Selection process
  o Give yourself enough time before February 1
  o Gather submissions and create a selection committee
  o Use the submissions for AX regional scholarship too (if applicable)
  o 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:
  o Students do not submit
    Or
  o 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.