



IMPROVING ACCEPTANCE RATES ROUNDTABLE NOTES (SMALL AND LARGE SCHOOLS)

When do you hold your initiation (spring/fall/Both/other)?

- While a good majority of chapters hold spring initiation, there is some variation. A few hold a fall initiation only or a fall initiation for undergraduate students and a spring scholarship event that includes graduate student initiations. Having juniors around for two years allows them to become more involved.
- Initiation is an important part of Phi Kappa Phi; however, chapters have the opportunity to become more than just an initiation event. Consider becoming a recognized student organization on campus and promote activities e.g. service activity that is focused, time limited, and highlights the ideals of Phi Kappa Phi.

Are you inviting 7.5 % of juniors/10% seniors/grad/professional students?

- Most campuses invite 10% campus wide. Several indicated that adjusting by college/school or department will allow for more diversity of disciplines.
- The ability to access student information to expedite initiation varies among chapters. Inducting the campus registrar or other individuals in “high places” can be very helpful in promoting acceptance rates.

Do you invite by college or from total university population so as not to give preference to certain majors? Have you used PKP members in various colleges to distribute invitations or to draw attention to faculty students respect as being PKP members?

- Some chapters have requested that the campus president or provost send a letter to notify students that an invitation for membership is forthcoming. A follow up communication from the dean or department chair prior to the initiation regarding a student’s non-response has also be successful in serving as a reminder or determining reasons for not accepting invitation to membership.
- A few chapters have hand-delivered invitations to candidates or have coordinated “tapping” with the assistance of faculty members. This is most workable with a small number of invitees.

Do you have an information session for new invitees?

- An information session for new invitees would be valuable to consider, especially for first generation students who may not have working knowledge of an honors society.
- While increasing acceptance rates is important and highlighting member benefits may assist with motivating individuals to join, some chapters work to emphasize the culture of scholarship and inquiry, and may say, “Perhaps Phi Kappa Phi is not the society for you” to students who want to know “What do I get? What’s in it for me?”
- To increase visibility, consider interfacing with the campus Honors Program. This may include co-sponsoring an honors fair, honors thesis competition, or informational sessions on honor societies and how Phi Kappa Phi fits in.



THE HONOR SOCIETY OF PHI KAPPA PHI

Is PKP well known on your campus...are they anticipating the invitation or first hear about it when it is received?

- Combat this with reaching out to students when they are younger through other honor societies/honors college/general information
- Come up with a dedicated PR plan before invitations go out and have a sustained presence throughout the year
 - Do you have correct addresses
 - Do you have a chapter web site with common FAQs about PKP and your chapter
 - Is Phi Kappa Phi noted on their transcript or on commencement program
 - If so, advertise this

Do you survey students who do not join to find out why they do not join?

- Most chapters do not survey students why they do not join; however, knowing this information would be useful. Perhaps the national office can compile this information.

Other ideas

- Consider involving colleges/schools to assist with determining top percentage of students.
- Consider fall initiation; keeps juniors for 2 years; spring scholarship reception and include graduate initiates.
- Consider inclusion of a speaker at initiation
- Co-sponsor events to increase name recognition
- Consider use of faculty to personally hand out invitations
- Need to be mindful of FERPA issues.
- Need to leverage human resources across campus to achieve goals.