**(insert chapter designation)**

**Foundation of Membership Syllabus**

*Semester: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **New Member Educator** | |
| **Name** | **Phone Number** |
|  |  |
| **Address** | **E-Mail Address** |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sage** | |
| **Name** | **Phone Number** |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Chapter or Colony Director** | |
| **Name** | **Phone Number** |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Regional Director** | |
| **Name** | **Phone Number** |
|  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Meeting Information** | | |
| **Day** | **Time** | **Location** |
|  |  |  |

**Purpose of New Member Education**

Every year, over a thousand neophytes join the ranks of Sigma Pi membership. And, ever year those neophytes participate in new member education. Every single Grand Sage of Sigma Pi, from Francis L. Lisman to E. Andrew Morris has once been a neophyte. Each brother should treat each neophyte as if he may be a future Grand Sage and every neophyte should think of himself as having the potential to join the ranks of our international officers and leaders.

Some view new member education as a time for neophytes to “prove their worth,” yet any type of education should prepare students to become leaders in the area in which they’re being taught – in this case, within the fraternal context. Whereas some see new member education as an opportunity to mold men, this rarely can play itself out. We know that most people start college with a set of values generally determined by their socialization agents (i.e. family, friends, religious institutions, educational institutions, etc…); we also know from research that most people will leave college with those same sets of values. It is unlikely (and nearly impossible) to think an eight-week new member education process can mold the values of any person. As a result, this process serves more to start a conversation and open up an opportunity for mutual trust and respect to be created amongst brothers and new members.

There is often tension between new member class unity versus chapter unity. Certainly, neophytes should share a connection with their fellow neophytes, but no more so than the senior in the chapter who one day might help that neophyte get a job. These lifelong connections are what fraternity is about. As a result, while new member education might be an experience for neophytes, there is as much importance in incorporating neophytes into the daily operations of the chapter.

Neophytes should be assigned to committees and encouraged (and required) to actively participate in these committees, just as any brother would be. Too, neophytes should be encouraged and required to attend weekly meetings (just as all brothers are) and participate in all non-ritual parts of meetings.

When Samuel and Maurice Bayard joined Sigma Pi as the first neophytes, it was not their task to memorize the history of the fraternity – it is clear to see, they were making the history of the fraternity. To this end, every member of every chapter of Sigma Pi is every day making the history of the fraternity – whether it shows up in a book in 100 years or is just lived on in the memories of chapter brothers, it is much the same.

Sigma Pi is an eternal brotherhood with more than 100,000 lifetime members. This brotherhood has counted amongst its membership astronauts, business leaders, politicians, entertainers, and many others. As the neophyte embarks on his journey in Sigma Pi, we should be ever vigilant to remember that Sigma Pi can shape the futures of these men, just as it has for the 100,000 brothers who have come before.

**Learning Objectives of New Member Education**

1. Neophytes will be able to recognize the most basic tenets of Sigma Pi, including its history, values, and obligations.
2. Neophytes will be able to describe the fraternity’s values.
3. Neophytes will be able to apply the fraternity’s values in his own daily life.
4. Neophytes will be able to analyze the impact of the fraternity’s values on how he leads his life.
5. Neophytes will be able to evaluate the fraternity from a critical, yet developmental perspective.
6. Neophytes will be equipped to develop himself and others as a leader.

**FIPG Policy on Hazing**

No chapter, colony, student or alumnus shall conduct nor condone hazing activities. Permission or approval by a person being hazed is not a defense. Hazing activities are defined as:

"Any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: use of alcohol, paddling in any form, creation of excessive fatigue, physical and psychological shocks, quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities carried on outside or inside of the confines of the chapter house; wearing of public apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste, engaging in public stunts and buffoonery, morally degrading or humiliating games and activities, and any other activities which are not consistent with academic achievement, fraternal law, ritual or policy or the regulations and policies of the educational institution or applicable state law."

**Sigma Pi Policy on Hazing**

Hazing is defined to include, without limitation, any act or activity, whether physical, emotional or social, committed by any brother or Pledge of the Fraternity that subjects or is intended to subject any other brother or Pledge of the Fraternity to paddling in any form, physical exercise resulting in excessive fatigue or exhaustion, deprivation of normal sleep and rest, any form of corporal or mental punishment, the placement of anyone in actual or simulated peril or jeopardy of unhealthy, undignified methods and stunts, treasure hunts, road trips, kidnapping, late work sessions or any other activities which interfere with scholastics embarrassing, ridiculous or disconcerting treatment, or public ridicule or criticism that endanger the safety or well being of a brother or Pledge. For the purposes of this section, the Fraternity hereby adopts and incorporates by reference the duly adopted definition of hazing, as it may hereafter be amended, of the North-American Interfraternity Conference, as well as the applicable definition of hazing duly enacted as a law of any state, province, or country wherein a Chapter or Colony of the Fraternity is a recognized student organization. Any inconsistencies that may exist with regard to the above definitions of hazing are to be resolved, for the purpose of this section, in favor of the most restrictive definition.”

**Institutional Policy**

[insert your institution’s policy on hazing here]

**State Law**

[insert your state’s law on hazing here]**Schedule**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | | **Dates** | **Activities** | **Due Date** |
| 1 | Fellowship |  | One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay (Fellowship and Ninth Obligation) |  |
| Guided Fellowship Discussion |  |
| Workshop on Brotherhood Event Planning and Risk Management |  |
| Social Event Planning Guide Completion for Brotherhood Event |  |
| 2 | Truth & Justice |  | One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay (Truth & Justice; First, Sixth, and Tenth Obligations) |  |
| Neophyte-Class Facilitated Discussion (Truth & Justice; Class Elections) |  |
| Presentation to Sage and Advisory (Class Elections) |  |
| Neophyte-Class Elections |  |
| 3 | Scholarship |  | Annotated List of Campus-Based Scholarship Resources |  |
| One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay (Seventh Obligation) |  |
| Interview Summary with Campus-Based Resource |  |
| Guided Conversation with Scholarship Chairman and Faculty/Staff Advisor |  |
| Academic Learning Style Assessment |  |
| Academic Plan |  |

**Schedule (continued)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | | **Dates** | **Activities** | **Due Date** |
| 4 | Chivalry |  | One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay (Chivalry and Fifth Obligation) |  |
| Guided Discussion with Social Chairman |  |
| Social Event Implementation |  |
| 5 | Culture |  | Sigma Pi Figures Matching Activity |  |
| Two-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay (First, Second, and Fourth Obligations) |  |
| Simulated Interview with Impactful Sigma Pi Figure |  |
| Presentation on Significant Historical Event |  |
| One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay (Reflection on Cultural Experience) |  |
| Cultural Event Calendar |  |
| 6 | Character |  | Advisory Board Worksheet |  |
| One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay (Reflection on Eighth Obligation) |  |
| Guided Discussion with New Member Educator (Involvement) |  |
| Completed Interview Protocol (Cultural Organization President) |  |
| New Advisory Board Position Worksheet |  |

**Schedule (continued)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | | **Dates** | **Activities** | **Due Date** |
| 7 | Service |  | Service and Philanthropy Worksheet |  |
| One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay (Service and Philanthropy Analysis) |  |
| One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay (ACE Project Efficacy Analysis) |  |
| ACE Project Implementation |  |
| 8 | Brotherhood |  | Initiatory Rite Worksheet |  |
| One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay (ritual vs. Ritual) |  |
| One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay (Ritual Interview Summary) |  |
| One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay (FBQ Results) |  |
| Comparing and Contrasting Values Worksheet |  |
| Ritual Development |  |

**Week One**

**Fellowship**

**Learning Objectives**

1. The neophyte will define fellowship given his own personal understanding through a one-page double-spaced essay.
2. The neophyte will describe the meaning of the ninth obligation of Sigma Pi given the obligation from the Sigma Pi Manual through a one-page double-spaced essay.
3. The neophyte will demonstrate fellowship given his shared understanding with his neophyte class through a guided discussion about the meaning of fellowship.
4. The neophyte will breakdown the planning of a brotherhood event given a detailed description of the event from the Brotherhood Chairman through a guided discussion and workshop.
5. The neophyte will breakdown the successes and failures of a brotherhood event given a detailed description of the event from the Brotherhood Chairman through a guided discussion and workshop.
6. The neophyte will work collaboratively with his neophyte class to design a brotherhood event given their previous understanding of the process completing the social event-planning guide.

**Activities**

1. One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay on Fellowship and Ninth Obligation
2. Guided Fellowship Discussion
3. Workshop on Brotherhood Event Planning and Risk Management
4. Social Event Planning Guide Completion for Brotherhood Event

**One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay**

Fellowship & Ninth Obligation

*Instructions for the Neophytes*

Sigma Pi is described in our creed as a fellowship. Defined by Merriam-Webster, a fellowship is … Additionally, our fraternity’s Ninth Obligation reads: “”

Given the dictionary definition of fellowship, reflect on your own personal beliefs on what fellowship means to you personally. Too, reflect on how fellowship relates to the Ninth Obligation and how you plan to live the Ninth Obligation in your daily life.

*Instructions for the Facilitator*

This activity is not graded for content, but merely for completion; instead, use this as an opportunity to encourage self-reflection within the neophytes. When assigning a neophyte mentor, pass this assignment along for the mentor to reflect with the neophyte on how what fellowship has meant to him during his time in the fraternity.

**Guided Discussion and Workshop**

Fellowship (Facilitated by Brotherhood Chairman)

*Questions on which Neophytes Should Reflect*

These are a few ideas for questions that the Brotherhood Chairman could pose during his guided facilitation to the neophytes:

1. What does fellowship mean to you?
2. Why do you think fellowship appears so early in our creed?
3. How is fellowship different from friendship different from brotherhood?
4. What role do you believe the Brotherhood Chairman and Committee serve in promoting fellowship?

*Instructions for the Facilitator*

This is an opportunity for the Brotherhood Chairman to introduce himself and his role within the fraternity. Specifically related to fellowship, he should describe how he serves in a role that encourages fellowship and for brothers to profit by associations with each other in a spirit of fraternalism. It is appropriate first, though, for the Brotherhood Chairman to engage the neophytes in a discussion and let them throw out their ideas and then for him to share his ideas and practices.

**Workshop**

Brotherhood Event Planning and Risk Management

*Questions on Which Neophytes Should Reflect*

The Risk Management Chairman could ask questions like the following:

1. Why do you think we have alcoholic and non-alcoholic socials and brotherhood events?
2. What is the purpose of socials and brotherhood events? How can alcohol support or detract from that purpose?
3. What is the role of the Risk Management Committee in not only managing risk, but preventing it?
4. What do *you* like to do with your friends?
5. What is an appropriate way to determine *what* to do as brotherhood events? (For example, how do you think we determine events and themes?)

*Instructions for the Facilitator*

The facilitator should choose a successful brotherhood event (one with or without alcohol) and walk through the Social Event Planning Guide, utilizing that event as the example to walk-through.

Utilize this as an opportunity to go through the planning process for brotherhood events and for how risk is managed during those events. Specifically, allow the new members to ask clarifying questions, because they’ll use the same planning guide to create their own brotherhood event.

**Event Planning**

Using Social Event Planning Guide for Brotherhood Event Planning

Neophytes may either assign individuals or work as a group to create a Brotherhood Event, utilizing the Social Event Planning Guide. The Brotherhood Chairman will give them a date by which the brotherhood event must occur, no sooner than at least three weeks after the meeting.

Because this is a new member meeting, it *must be a dry brotherhood event*. Because of this, certain parts of the Social Event Planning Guide will not be applicable, but are important for them to understand.

**Week Two**

**Truth & Justice**

**Learning Objectives**

1. The neophyte will define truth and justice given his own personal experience through a one-page double-spaced essay.
2. The neophyte will describe the meaning of the first, sixth, and tenth obligations of Sigma Pi given the obligations from the Sigma Pi Manual and reflect on international structure and its application to our obligations through a one-page double-spaced essay.
3. The neophyte will demonstrate truth and justice given the shared understanding he develops with the rest of his neophyte class through a neophyte-class facilitated discussion.
4. The neophyte will outline the process for neophyte class elections given guidance from the Sage and Executive Council through a neophyte-class facilitated discussion.
5. The neophyte will support the process for neophyte class elections based upon their previously determined discussion to the Sage and an advisor of the chapter.
6. The neophyte will work with his class to implement neophyte class elections based upon the process approved by the Sage and advisor during which neophyte class officers are elected.

**Activities**

1. One-Paged Double-Spaced Typed Essay on First, Sixth, and Tenth Obligations and Truth and Justice Definitions
2. Neophyte-Class Facilitated Discussion on Truth and Justice and Neophyte Class Elections
3. Presentation to Sage and Advisor on Neophyte Class Elections
4. Neophyte-Class Elections and Second Counselor Committee Presentation

**One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay**

First, Sixth, and Tenth Obligations

Truth & Justice

*Instructions for the Neophytes*

Sigma Pi values truth and justice, as can be seen in our creed. Merriam-Website calls truth “sincerity in action, character, and utterance” while justice is “conformity to truth, fact, or reason.”

Furthermore, our First Obligation reads, “Give proper attention to the interests of Sigma Pi.” Our Sixth Obligation reads, “Strive at all times for the good of the fraternity.” And our Tenth Obligation reads, “Be an exemplary Sigma Pi and citizen.”

Reflect on truth, justice, and our obligations and talk about the role of truth and justice in fraternity and the need for active citizenship amongst all people.

*Instructions for the Facilitator*

This activity is not graded for content, but merely for completion; instead, use this as an opportunity to encourage self-reflection within the neophytes. When assigning a neophyte mentor, pass this assignment along for the mentor to reflect with the neophyte on how what truth, justice, and citizenship has meant to him during his time in the fraternity

**Neophyte-Class Facilitated Discussion**

Truth & Justice

Neophyte Class Elections

*Instructions for Neophytes*

It is traditional that neophyte classes have officers. That said, for leadership to develop within the class, it is important for you all to determine the best way to

*Instructions for Educator*

It is important that this conversation be facilitated by the neophytes themselves and that the educator serve as a resource and assistant. Having the neophytes facilitate the discussion helps them co-construct their knowledge in a better way and helps them developmentally.

When the neophytes discuss elections and positions, it is important to let them make decisions themselves. If they’d rather not have a Neophyte Class President, but instead have Chairmen, that can be appropriate; just ask them to think of the reasons behind each decision. If they’d rather *everyone* have a position and they determine them as a group and collectively rather than do traditional elections, that can be fine – just continue to support them and ask the question, “If you did it that way, how do you hope to see that work out successfully?”

**Presentation to Sage and Advisor**

Neophyte Class Elections

*Instructions for Neophytes*

You are tasked with developing *what* new member officers you will have and *how* they will be elected and presenting the following to the Sage and an advisor:

* Position Titles with Job Description
* Election or Appointment Process
* Rationale for Positions and Process

You may choose to do this via PowerPoint, Prezi, a speech, or through any preferred method to best share your decision.

*Instructions for Facilitator*

Merely because this appears in the description for Week Two, this should occur during Week Three. Merely explain the instructions to the neophytes this week for them to present the following week.

You will need both the Sage and an advisor (Chapter Director or New Member Education Advisor, preferably) for this to be present. Though the neophytes are seeking approval, neither the Sage nor advisor should be frivolous in not accepting the method sought by the new members – if they show that their process was well thought-out, encourage them to be unique in their approach.

**Neophyte Class Elections & Committee Presentation**

Upon approval, the neophytes should be allowed to perform their elections. This should also occur during Week Three. Also at this time, the Second Counselor should explain the committee system of the fraternity. During Week Four, new members will be appointed to committees. If it is appropriate, committees should match neophyte positions (i.e. if the neophytes have a Service Chair, that person should be on the Service Committee).

**Week Three**

**Scholarship**

**Learning Objectives**

1. The neophyte will identify scholastic support resources on-campus given a presentation from a campus-based advisor or professional through an annotated list of resources.
2. The neophyte will explain how he has applied the seventh obligation of Sigma Pi given his collegiate and/or high school experience through a one-page double-spaced essay.
3. The neophyte will use a campus-based resource from his annotated list of resources by meeting with a professional in that office to discuss how members can utilize that office.
4. The neophyte will outline the different campus-based scholastic support resources based upon a full list of those provided by the neophyte class through a guided conversation about the various benefits of these resources.
5. The neophyte will evaluate his learning style based upon the provided learning style assessment through completion of the assessment.
6. The neophyte will create an academic plan utilizing the knowledge he has gained by meeting with an academic advisor, faculty member, or other campus-based professional.

**Activities**

1. Annotated List of Campus-Based Scholastic Resources
2. One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay on Application of Seventh Obligation
3. Interview Summary with Campus-Based Resource Professional
4. Guided Conversation with Scholarship Chairman and Faculty/Staff Advisor
5. Academic Learning Style Assessment
6. Academic Plan

**Week Four**

**Chivalry**

**Learning Objectives**

1. The neophyte will define chivalry given his own personal understanding through a one-page double-spaced essay.
2. The neophyte will describe the meaning of the fifth obligation of Sigma Pi given the obligation in the Sigma Pi Manual through a one-page double-spaced essay.
3. The neophyte will determine ways he has exemplified chivalry given his previous definition through a one-page double-spaced essay.
4. The neophyte will analyze how chivalry applies to actions toward both women and men given a shared definition amongst the neophyte class through a guided discussion by the Social Chairman.
5. The neophyte will compared and contract successful and unsuccessful social events given examples provided by the Social Chairman through a guided discussion by the Social Chairman.
6. The neophyte will design and formulate a social event as a neophyte class to be held with another on-campus organization utilizing the social event planning guide with the support of the Social Committee as mentors and advisors.

**Activities**

1. One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay on Chivalry and the Fifth Obligation
2. Guided Discussion with Social Chairman
3. Social Event Implementation

**Schedule**

**Week Five**

**Culture**

**Learning Objectives**

1. The neophyte will match the important figures of Sigma Pi to their significant contributions utilizing the Sigma Pi Manual as a resource by identify at least 80% of the contributions via a provided worksheet.
2. The neophyte will describe the meaning of the first, second, and fourth obligations of Sigma Pi given the obligations from the Sigma Pi Manual through a two-page double-spaced essay.
3. The neophyte will illustrate the intentions of an impactful Sigma Pi figure using one of the figures mentioned in the Sigma Pi Manual trouble a two-page double-spaced simulated interview.
4. The neophyte will analyze a significant historical event and its impact on Sigma Pi using a significant event of his choosing from the Sigma Pi Manual through a presentation to the neophyte class.
5. The neophyte will evaluate a cultural experience (i.e. a play, musical, orchestra concert, museum tour, etc…) given a list of events determined by the New Member Educator and an advisor through a one-page double-spaced reflection.
6. The neophyte will create a list of campus- and community-based cultural activities and events from self-guided research through a calendar format.

**Activities**

1. Matching Activity on Sigma Pi Figures
2. Two-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay on First, Second, and Fourth Obligations
3. Simulated Interview with Impactful Sigma Pi Figure
4. Presentation on Significant History Event
5. One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Reflection on Cultural Experience
6. Cultural Event Calendar

**Schedule**

**Week Six**

**Character**

**Learning Objectives**

1. The neophyte will define the roles of the several alumni advisors based upon a presentation from the Alumni Advisory Board through a completed, provided worksheet.
2. The neophyte will give original examples of areas in which alumni can support the fraternity based upon a presentation from the Alumni Advisory Board through a completed, provided worksheet.
3. The neophyte will illustrate the eighth obligation of Sigma Pi by joining another student organization based upon a list of registered campus-based organizations and provide a one-page double-spaced reflection of his experience.
4. The neophyte will analyze how his student organization involvement has helped him develop character based upon a class-based definition of character through a discussion guided by the New Member Educator.
5. The neophyte will choose a culture-based student organization whose president he will interview based upon a list of culture-based student organizations on-campus through providing a completed interview protocol.
6. The neophyte will create the job description for a new alumni advisor based upon a presentation from the Alumni Advisory Board and his original examples of ways in which alumni can support the fraternity through a provided worksheet.

**Activities**

1. Advisory Board Worksheet
2. One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Reflection on Eighth Obligation
3. Guided Discussion by New Member Educator about Involvement
4. Completed Interview Protocol
5. New Advisory Board Position Worksheet

**Schedule**

**Week Seven**

**Service**

**Learning Objectives**

1. The neophyte will define service and philanthropy in his own words based upon definitions provided within his neophyte materials through a provided worksheet.
2. The neophyte will describe the difference between service and philanthropy based upon his aforementioned definitions through a provided worksheet.
3. The neophyte will identify whether an event is service or philanthropy based upon a provided list through a provided worksheet.
4. The neophyte will analyze the impact of a specific community service or philanthropy event based upon events provided by the chapters’ Community Service and Philanthropy Chairmen through a one-page double-spaced essay.
5. The neophyte will evaluate the efficacy of the chapter’s ACE Project in meeting a specific, urgent campus need based upon a presentation from the ACE Chairman and the campus’ Senior Student Affairs Officer (i.e. Dean of Students, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, or Vice President of Student Affairs) through a one-page double-spaced essay.
6. The neophyte will design an ACE Project with his neophyte class based upon the presentation from the Senior Student Affairs Officer and resources provided by the ACE Chairman the properly gives back in a meaningful way to the campus community with the ACE Committee acting as mentors and advisors.

**Activities**

1. Service and Philanthropy Worksheet
2. One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay (Service and Philanthropy Analysis)
3. One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay (ACE Project Efficacy Analysis)
4. ACE Project Implementation

**Schedule**

**Week Eight**

**Brotherhood**

**Learning Objectives**

1. The neophyte will list the three initiatory rites used in the fraternity’s history and the events that led to their use based upon information in the Sigma Pi Manual through a provided worksheet.
2. The neophyte will describe the difference between ritual (little “r”) and Ritual (big “R”) given a presentation by a campus-based Fraternity/Sorority Life professional through a one-page double-spaced essay.
3. The neophyte will determine the impact of the ritual ceremony on brothers’ connection to the fraternity through structured interviews with brothers through a one-page double-spaced interview summary.
4. The neophyte will analyze his ideas on the meaning of brotherhood given his results from the Fraternal Brotherhood Questionnaire (FBQ) through a one-page double-spaced essay.
5. The neophyte will select another fraternity whose values he will examine based upon the fraternities on-campus (preferably in another council, if applicable) through a provided worksheet.
6. The neophyte will develop a Neophyte Class activity, based upon a reflection of his experience, to be utilized by the next Neophyte Class during their education process through a guided workshop facilitated by their campus-based professional.

**Activities**

1. Initiatory Rite Worksheet
2. One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay on ritual vs. Ritual
3. One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Interview Summary
4. One-Page Double-Spaced Typed Essay on Fraternal Brotherhood Questionnaire (FBQ) results
5. Comparing and Contrasting Values Worksheet
6. Ritual Development

**Schedule**

**Neophyte Mentorship Program**

*(i.e. Big Brother, Pledge Dad, Pledge Father, etc…)*

**Qualifications**

**Requirements**