WHAT IS CONTINUING EDUCATION?

What is Continuing Education?

**Continuing education** is an all-encompassing term within a broad spectrum of learning activities and programs that enhance an individual’s personal growth, the chapter’s growth, and a Greek community’s growth. It is an important component of both chapters and The True Gentleman Initiative as it:

- supports the mission of Sigma Alpha Epsilon
- is an experience builder
- extends your educational experience in the chapter beyond pledgeship
- increases involvement of both upperclassman and alumni

Overall, it results in a better, more positive, fraternity experience.

What does a good program entail?

A good continuing education program looks to, as it says, continue the education of the member throughout their time in the chapter. We never stop learning in life – and we should never stop striving to enhance ourselves in the chapter, both personally and professionally.

A good program includes

- Personal growth and development
- Higher standards
- Builds true partnerships
- Boosts fraternity image
- Develops well-rounded men
- Furthers our Mission

Continuing education is not pledge education revisited, nor is it hard to develop. This is an activity that can be quick, easy, low budget, and most importantly – for the entire chapter.
How do I implement a program?

- Determine who is responsible for the program – usually a chapter elects a continuing education chairman/member education chairman

- Determine the needs of the chapter
  - Have the Continuing Education chairman ask the chapter what their interests are. Some possible examples:
    - Resume building
    - Networking
    - Tying a Tie
    - Community Service
    - How to wakeboard
    - How to properly clean a deer
    - Etiquette Dinner
    - Ballroom dancing

- Find out what opportunities are available
  - Research speaker opportunities from the university
    - Health Services
    - Counseling Center
      - Men’s mental health
      - Sexual Assault
      - Substance Abuse
    - Tutoring Center
      - Academic Study Skills
    - Events Center on campus
      - How to plan an event
    - University Administration
      - Ask the University President to address the chapter on leadership
  - Your university will often jump at the chance to address students on topics or issues they specialize in – part of it is part of their accreditation requirements

- How events on a regular basis
  - Pick a day and stick with it
  - If the chapter knows the third Sunday of the month is Continuing Education day, they can properly plan and prepare for it.

- Seek out potential partners for your programs
  - These programs can be more fun if you partner with another group
  - Talk to the sororities on campus – perhaps they will join you for a seminar – or you can join them.
When Planning....

Ask yourself the following questions when planning:

- Who is the program intended for?
- Who needs to be involved?
- What are the goals of the program?
- What planning needs to take place?
- How will this help our brothers/others on campus?
- When will the program take place?

Some Suggested Topics

Here’s a list of workshops you may have never considered. Some are topics, others are workshops offered by various schools that offer fresh and fun ways to look at old and potentially boring topics. Remember, many of these may be are provided by your school at no cost to you or your chapter.

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<td>• Internships, externships, &amp; co-ops</td>
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<td>• Studying for smart people who never had to in high school</td>
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<td>• Time management made easy</td>
<td>• Portfolios – start collecting now!</td>
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<td>• How to take effective lecture notes</td>
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<td>• Prepare for finals</td>
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<td>• Registration: How to get what you need</td>
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<td>• Collaborative studying: How to study with friends</td>
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<td>• The road less traveled: Majors few people know about</td>
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<td>• Sex in the 21st Century – responsible &amp; safe</td>
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