PARTICIPANT SYLLABUS

Abstract

The First 90 Days program helps new fraternity/sorority professionals acclimate to one of the most unique roles in higher education. Through a series of interactive web conference sessions, small group discussion, and special projects, participants build their networks, understand their positions, and learn how to put their expertise into practice.

The program was completely redesigned in 2015 based on a needs assessment of fraternity/sorority professionals and stakeholders at every level of expertise. The result is a developmental experience that provides clear expectations about what it means to be a campus-based professional and helps participants transition into the role more effectively.

During the program, participants interact with a variety of colleagues to build a network of expertise that they can draw upon throughout their career. They integrate professional philosophy into daily practice, and work with their supervisor to clarify what is expected of a fraternity/sorority professional. The experience also helps participants identify their continued professional development needs and aspirations beyond the program.

Learning Outcomes

The program is built to help participants achieve the following broad learning outcomes:

- List, describe, support, apply, and internalize guiding ideas for professional practice
- Integrate existing knowledge and skills into practice
- Establish a network of expertise through relationships with multiple individuals in a variety of knowledge and skill areas
- Understand, appreciate, and implement strategies for navigating interpersonal influence
- Report a stronger sense of direction, confidence, responsibility, and ownership over the work

Important Contacts

If you have questions about program registration, event logistic, the Annual Meeting, please contact:

Diana Coyle | AFA Central Office, diana@afa1976.org

Questions about the curriculum, program content, challenges, contacting colleagues, working with your supervisor, or any group discussions, or similar program-related issues, please contact the facilitators:

Byron Hughes | Virginia Tech, bahughes@vt.edu

Leslie Schacht Drey | Oregon State University, Leslie.SchachtDrey@oregonstate.edu

Schedule

Program Preparation		Course orientation through video preview, reviewing program materials, participant introductions, and a pre-assessment questionnaire
September 10th Live Session 1	The Challenge	Exploration of challenging situations, the four stages of competence, and the guiding ideas of the profession
Challenge 1	Are You Ready?	Reflecting on The Challenge through a supervisor meeting, colleague interview, and group discussion
September 24th Live Session 2	The Collaborators	Examination of the campus-based fraternity/sorority professional's role in the context of higher education and interdepartmental partners
Challenge 2	Building Connections	Mapping potential partners and interviewing colleagues on campus
October 8th Live Session 3	The Fraternity/Sorority Professional	Integrating institutional and community priorities, balancing work, and managing your relationship to the community
Challenge 3	Understanding Partners	Mapping support systems, interviewing colleagues, and researching unfamiliar areas
October 22nd Live Session 4	The Interfraternal Landscape	Assessing where your fraternal community currently sits and reviewing the context of interfraternalism beyond campus
Challenge 4	Integrating Principles	Transferring principles into practice through a supervisor meeting, colleague interview, and reflection
November 5th Live Session 5	Managing Up	Managing relationships with stakeholders and understanding approaches that can assist you as you are managing up and developing collaborative working relationships

Challenge 5	Managing Relationships	Revisiting partner maps and strengthening relationships
November 19th Live Session 6	Knowledge and Skills	Self-assessment of knowledge and skills, preparation for professional development, and a conference preparation checklist
November 28th-December 1st Annual Meeting	Am I Ready?: Revisited	Applying program concepts, completing a capstone case scenario, and celebrating professional growth
December 10th Live Session 7	My Professional Identity	Completion of a conference follow up checklist, discussion of professional identity development, and closure of the experience
Challenge 7	Continuing the Path	Completing re-assessment of skills and setting professional development intentions through reflection and supervisor meeting