

Sigma Nu Fraternity Gamma Kappa Chapter Scholarship Award Program Plan

1. Introduction:

The purpose of this document is to set forth a detailed plan for annual Sigma Nu Fraternity Gamma Kappa Scholarship Awards. The proposed academic-based scholarships will be awarded to members /applicants who meet specific performance criteria and will be judged on academic performance and contributions to the chapter.

The Gamma Kappa Scholarship Fund is designed to encourage and reward continued and outstanding scholastic academic excellence amongst active brothers of the Gamma Kappa chapter of the Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc.

2. Scholarship Summary

The scholarship awards will be distributed twice per school year as follows. The amounts will be awarded in the form of a Gamma Kappa rent reduction / credit back. Only those who apply will be considered. See details below table for additional information.

Scholarship Category	Criteria	Place	Application Semester ¹	Deadline	Scholarship Awarded
Academic Performance	Highest weighted GPA ²	1 st - \$1600 2 nd - \$1100 3 rd - \$800	Fall	November 1	Following February 1
			Spring	April 1	Following September 1
Academic Improvement	Most improved semester GPA (between current and preceding semester)	1 st - \$1600 2 nd - \$1100 3 rd - \$800	Fall	November 1	Following February 1
			Spring	April 1	Following September 1
1. Target deadline for scholarship is during the application semester. 2. GPA Weighting – Semester / Cumulative [70% / 30%]					

Six Scholarships Per Semester

- \$1600 Academic Performance Scholarship (1st Place) – Awarded to the applicant with the highest weighted GPA for the semester during which they applied.
- \$1100 Academic Performance Scholarship (2nd Place) – Applicant with the second highest weighted GPA for the semester during which they applied.
- \$800 Academic Performance Scholarship (3rd Place) – Applicant with the third highest weighted GPA for the semester during which they applied.
- \$1600 Academic Improvement Scholarship (1st Place) – Awarded to the applicant with the greatest GPA improvement between application semester and semester preceding it.
- \$1100 Academic Improvement Scholarship (2nd Place) – Applicant with the second greatest GPA improvement between application semester and semester preceding it.
- \$800 Academic Improvement Scholarship (3rd Place) – Applicant with the third greatest GPA improvement between application semester and semester preceding it.

Applications by Fall semester deadline are awarded during following Spring semester. Applications by Spring semester deadline are awarded during following Fall semester.

Eligible only to applicants who are living on Sigma Nu Gamma Kappa property at the time the scholarship is awarded.

Application Deadlines

- November 1 (or nearest chapter meeting) – Awarded during following Spring semester
- April 1 (or nearest chapter meeting) – Awarded during following Fall semester

Scholarship Awarded as Rent Reduction / Credit Back

As noted, scholarships will be awarded once during the Fall semester and once during the Spring semester and be based on an assessment of each applicant's academic performance for the semester during which they are applying. Upon distribution, any awarded amount will be utilized and distributed internally, to offset a portion of the awardees' rental lease obligations to the Sigma Nu Fraternity (i.e., applied as a deduction to the recipient's EN-GK housing rental invoice).

Scholarship Program and Award Process

Each semester, \$7,000 will be allocated from the Gamma Kappa Chapter Scholarship Fund. As described below, there are six (6) scholarships to be awarded to active members each semester according to their current chapter and CU academic standing. Members must submit an application to be considered for the awards. Members can apply for one, or both, of the offered award categories, but can only receive one. The Scholarship Award Committee shall review the applications to determine each recipient. In the event the same member is determined to be most suitable applicant for both awards according to the established criteria, the Scholarship Award Committee shall decide which of the two awards is given to said applicant. If there are not enough applicants for either award, the funds will not be distributed. Awards will be distributed twice per academic year.

The Scholarship Award Committee and Alumni Advisory Board reserve the right to either increase or reduce the award amounts if deemed necessary.

Section 3 provides further detail regarding scholarship categories and criteria. General application requirements are provided in Section 4.

Annual Program Review

The Sigma Nu Fraternity Gamma Kappa Scholarship Awards program will be subject to an annual review, prior to the onset of each Fall CU semester, by qualified members of the Alumni Advisory Board. A determination of the ongoing effectiveness and viability of the academic scholarship program will be rendered. Future academic performance standards and the need to modify the program will be assessed and considered at each annual review.

Criteria for Assessing Weighted Academic Performance (specifically for Academic Performance Scholarship)

Applicants who meet the required application criteria will first be judged on their academic performance. The academic performance of each applicant will be determined by calculating a weighted [70% / 30%] GPA based on the both semester / cumulative GPAs.

Example (Academic Performance Scholarship):

Semester GPA = 3.800; Cumulative GPA = 3.200

Weighted GPA = $0.70 \times 3.800 + 0.30 \times 3.200 = \mathbf{3.620}$

Criteria for Assessing Academic Improvement (specifically for Academic Improvement Scholarship)

An applicant's academic performance for the application semester (not weighted) will be compared to the semester preceding it. The net difference in GPA between two sequential semesters will be determined and the member with greatest improvement will be awarded. Applicant must be in "good standing" during both semesters involved in evaluation (see Section 4), taking a minimum of 12 non-pass/fail credits (**specifically, minimum required semester GPA of ≥ 2.500**).

Example (Academic Improvement Scholarship – Spring Application Semester [Awarded in Fall]):
Spring Semester GPA = 3.800; Preceding Fall Semester GPA = 2.600

Academic Improvement (Net Difference) = $3.800 - 2.600 = \mathbf{1.200}$

Note: If two members achieve the same academic improvement (net difference), the applicant with the highest semester GPA will win the award, and if necessary cumulative GPA will be assessed in the event the semester GPA for both applicants is the same.

Consecutive Academic Performance Scholarship Limitation

Brothers cannot win the Academic Performance Scholarship two semesters in a row. For example, if a brother is awarded the 2nd place Academic Performance Scholarship in the Fall, they cannot apply, and be awarded any of the Academic Performance Scholarships during the following Spring semester. This limitation only applies to consecutive semesters. This limitation does not apply to the Academic Improvement Scholarships.

Criteria for Assessing Chapter Performance

If multiple applicants achieve the same weighted GPA or same academic improvement / weighted GPA, each applicant's contributions to the house will be reviewed to assist with determining the recipient (i.e., tie breaker). The chapter currently maintains a house points system used primarily to assign priority for room picks on property. This system grades members according to their contributions to the house through various categories, such as:

- Holding a chapter position (can vary depending on level of position)
- Attendance at chapter meetings
- Attendance at important chapter events (e.g., rush events, candidate ceremony, initiation ceremony)
- Attendance at philanthropy events
- Fulfilling community service requirements
- On-time payment of dues
- J-Boards

3. Scholarship Application Criteria:

- **Academic Performance: \$1600, \$1100, & \$800**

Criteria for scholarship selection:

- Applicant must be living on property at the time the award is distributed.
- Fulfilling the 2-year live-on property commitment.
 - At the time the award is distributed, Sigma Nu lease must be signed for following academic school year, if the lease signing deadline has already passed.
- Academic Performance: Highest [70% / 30%] weighted GPA based on application semester and cumulative GPA, respectively, among applicants who specify the Academic Performance Scholarship on their application. Minimum required semester GPA of ≥ 3.000 .
- Fulfilled all program requirements (see "Requirements" section 4).
- House points tie-breaker — if two applicants achieved the same weighted GPA, applicants with highest house points will be awarded the scholarship.

- **Academic Improvement: \$1600, \$1100, & \$800**

In addition to the items listed above for the Academic Performance Scholarship the criteria for scholarship selection:

- Academic Improvement: Greatest GPA improvement between the application semester and the semester preceding it. Minimum required semester GPA of ≥ 2.500 for most recent semester. Minimum of 12 non-pass/fail credit hours taken during each semester.
- Fulfilled all program requirements (see "Requirements" section 4).
- Application Semester GPA tie-breaker — if two applicants achieved the same GPA improvement, the Application Semester GPA will be assessed to determine the awardee. If the tie is not broken, the cumulative GPA of each applicant will be assessed.

4. Applicant/Awardee Requirements

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements to be eligible:

1. Initiated (or will be initiated) active member of Sigma Nu Gamma Kappa chapter "in good standing" at the time the award is distributed (i.e., Spring semester pledges are eligible).
2. Be a matriculated Sophomore, Junior or Senior at CU Boulder, at the time the award is distributed, having taken a minimum of 12 credit hours for each semester.
 - A minimum of **12 non-pass/fail credit hours** is required for all semesters in consideration.
3. Must live on the property compound during the semester when the scholarship is awarded in order to receive the rent reduction.
4. Must demonstrate that they are meeting the 2-year live-on commitment:
 - Documented by a signed Sigma Nu Gamma Kappa chapter lease for the following year at the time the award is distributed, if the lease signing deadline has passed. Failure to complete the lease will result in ineligibility or forfeiture of the scholarship. For example, a Sophomore applying during the Fall must complete the annual lease for his Junior year to be eligible for the scholarship.
 - Members who will be studying abroad during the award distribution semester are ineligible to apply.

5. No outstanding payment balance due to Gamma Kappa Sigma Nu Fraternity.
6. Members MUST APPLY and fully complete the application by the designated deadline date to be considered for an academic scholarship award.
7. The Scholarship Chairman shall be responsible for communicating this plan, the specified criteria, and providing all active members access to the "Gamma Kappa Alumni Scholarship Application Form."

Scholarship Award Committee

- Includes 5 members.
- Chaired by current Scholarship Chairman.
- Consist of 2 additional active members.
- Consist of 2 alumni members.
- Charged with reviewing completed applications and selecting award recipients.
 - Will be responsible for obtaining the current house points tracker to be reviewed by the committee, if necessary.
- Will meet early during Fall and Spring semesters to review scholarship applications for the previous semester and revise the Gamma Kappa Alumni Scholarship Plan if needed.

Applicant Selection Process

- After the applicants submit their applications and their official CU grade transcript is received from IFC for the application semester, the selection committee will begin reviewing and then selecting the applicants.
- To assist with "tie breakers" the committee will review the current house points tracker as a means of reviewing each applicant's contributions to the chapter.
- All scholarships will be awarded by dates noted in Section 1.
- Scholarships will take the form of rent reductions equal to the amount of the scholarship.

Important Dates

- Announce academic scholarship program (submission dates) to all members at one of the first chapter meetings of each semester.
- Review and reaffirm academic scholarship program at chapter meetings periodically throughout each semester.
- Academic Scholarship Award recipients will be announced at a chapter meeting directly following the committee's final decision.

Revision History

Revision	Description of Changes	Date
April-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial release 	18-Apr-2019
August-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removed financial need award and references to “financial need” • Created two scholarship pools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Sophomores (or juniors fulfilling year 1 of 2-year live-on requirement) ◦ Juniors (or seniors fulfilling year 2 of 2-year live-on requirement) • Increased award amount from \$500 to \$1,000 • Introduced weighted (70/30 - semester/cumulative) GPA, to be calculated for all applicants, used to determine a recipients • Reduced total number of Scholarship Award Committee members from 6 to 5 • Added program summary table at beginning of document • Removed “seniors” • Strengthened documentation for 2 year live on requirement— requires 2 years of fully completed leases • Clarified scholarship periods— “Fall scholarship” awarded in fall based on weighted spring + cumulative GPA, “Spring scholarship” awarded in spring. • Clarified house points tie-breaker. 	26-Aug-2019
September-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed program from one Sophomore and one Junior Academic Performance award for each semester, to a one Academic Performance award available to all members meeting the defined criteria, and one Academic Improvement award available to all members meeting the defined criteria, to be offered each semester. • Defined criteria for Academic Improvement award including example calculation, tie-breaker considerations, and minimum requirements to be considered. • Added requirement for applicants to be enrolled in a minimum of 12 non-pass/fail credit hours for all semesters considered. • Changed all instances of Alumni “House” Board to Alumni “Advisory” Board to properly align with board responsibilities. • Scholarship Award Application Form updated accordingly. 	21-Sep-2020
October-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of awards to two Academic Performance and two Academic Performance Scholarships. Award amounts for 1st & 2nd place are \$1200 & \$800, respectively. • Changed the application / award timeline. Applicants now must apply during the semester that will be considered for the award (Application Semester). The award will be given the following semester based on the Application Semester performance (and preceding semester if for the Academic Improvement Scholarship). • Academic Improvement Award tie-breaker details updated. • Updated application deadline dates to Nov. 1 and Apr. 1. • Updated minimum GPA requirement from 3.500 to 3.000. • Created consecutive semester limitation for Academic Performance Scholarship. • Removed unnecessary / extraneous content. • Scholarship Award Application Form updated accordingly. 	06-Oct-2021
January-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased the number of awards to three Academic Performance and three Academic Performance Scholarships. Award amounts for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place are \$1600, \$1100 & \$800, respectively. • Included note that application deadline can be tied to nearest chapter meeting to specified deadline. 	29-Jan-2024