

Effective Communication

Communication is an essential part of any positive relationship. There must be an openness to share ideas, an ability to listen, and a willingness to accept others' ideas and lifestyles even if they differ from your own.

Advisors and collegians need to understand and adapt to one another's lifestyles. Time and schedules differ and the advisors need to inform the collegians of acceptable times to telephone and to plan meetings so advisors can attend. Collegians should inform advisors why certain times are more appropriate for their schedules.

Communication becomes more effective when advisors share their careers, experiences, and interests, and become "real people" in the eyes of the collegians. Sharing feelings about your college experience, brotherhood, the chapter and their accomplishments creates a bond between advisors and collegians.

Chapter advisors play a key role in developing the communication process within the chapter. Creating a system of communication between other advisors, the executive committee, the chapter members, and the National Fraternity helps to foster a positive working environment. The communication system can include:

1. Attendance by one or more advisors at executive committee and chapter meetings. Important information is shared with the other advisors.
2. Regular meetings of each advisor with her respective chapter officer to discuss ideas, plans, and problems.
3. Regular meetings of the advisory board to update all advisors on the activities and achievements of the chapter, as well as to discuss any problems.
4. A list of advisors names email addresses, and phone numbers given to all chapter members.
5. Attendance at ceremonies and social events sponsored by the chapter.
6. Regular contact with Division Commander and the General Fraternity Headquarters Office.