

KAPPA KAPPA PSI

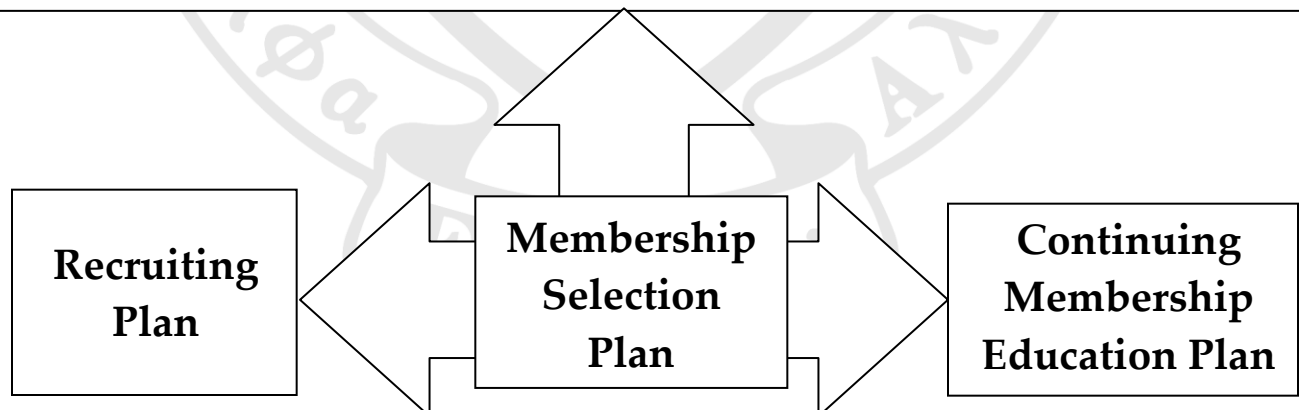
Creating a Complete Membership Education Program

Some things to keep in mind about Membership Education:

- **Membership Education is more than the time when you teach membership education.** Membership Education includes recruiting, evaluating, selecting candidates, teaching candidates, and continuing education beyond initiation. **No Membership Education Program (MEP) is complete without all of these things.**
- **Teaching about the Fraternity is about much more than memorization.** Teaching is about instilling a desire to learn, a competency in doing the things that Brothers do, and an understanding of why the organization matters. If your MEP consists of a book of info you give to your candidates, then it is time to reevaluate your program.
- **Recruiting can make or break a chapter,** and how carefully you think through recruiting and how hard you work at it will directly affect the future success of the chapter. Think about it: Every time you recruit a new member, you're bringing in the people that will replace you. Will they surpass you in serving the band and bettering the Fraternity? Your job is to make sure that they do.

A Complete Membership Education Program Has Four Parts:

The National Membership Education Program: *The Road to Wisdom*



Each of these elements is written, approved by the chapter, and evaluated each year!

Steps to creating a full, complete, and excellent MEP:

1. Create a Membership Selection Plan.

Making a Membership Selection Plan (MSP) is actually pretty simple. Sit down with the chapter and hold a discussion, seeking to answer the question: "What makes an ideal brother in this chapter?" You'll probably end up with a list of traits, perhaps a paragraph – no matter what it looks like, it should tell anyone who reads it exactly what you're looking for from prospective members, and exactly what you expect current members to strive to uphold. Once you've agreed on it, write it down and approve it as a chapter to make it official – you'll be using this frequently. Show it to your Director/Sponsor to make sure they agree as well.

2. Create a Recruiting Plan.

Recruiting is essential. However, so many chapters don't approach recruiting in an organized manner. Take the **Membership Selection Plan** you just created and use it to guide you. Now that you know what type of band member you're looking for, create a marketing and recruiting plan that actively seeks to attract *exactly those people*. The Recruiting Plan should contain how you'll advertise yourselves, how you will inform people about the Fraternity, what events you will hold to recruit new members, and what the process will be for deciding who gets bids and who does not. (*Hint: if they fit, or have the potential to fit, the description in your Membership Selection Plan, they should get a bid. If they don't fit what you're looking for, they shouldn't get a bid.*) As you plan your recruiting events (often called "Rush Events"), make sure they reflect your **Membership Selection Plan**. If you want to recruit people who have a drive to serve, make sure you hold some service events. If you want people who love music, make events that relate to music. **Your recruiting events should not all be purely social, though some of them might be.** Again, this should be written and approved by the chapter, and Director/Sponsor.

3. Teach Membership Candidates according to the National Membership Education Program: The Road to Wisdom.

Okay, so now you've figured out who you're looking for, you've gotten those people interested in Kappa Kappa Psi, and you've used your **Membership Selection Plan** to evaluate and select a class of candidates. At the 2017 National Convention in Orlando, Florida, the National Chapter voted to adopt the National Curriculum: *The Road to Wisdom* as the official membership education program for the fraternity. All chapters are required to teach the material in the curriculum, but there are also several systems in

place to guide you and help you incorporate your ideas into the program. Visit kkpsi.org/curriculum for full information, and reach out to your Curriculum Advisor with additional questions.

4. Create a **Continuing Membership Education Plan**.

Membership Education does *not* stop at initiation. As such, your chapter should have a written plan for how initiated members will continue to better themselves as brothers. Again, your **Membership Selection Plan** will serve as a guide – you’re looking to build on those things in that plan. Look at this as an opportunity to be creative: Continuing Membership Education isn’t just relearning information – it might be a chapter retreat, it might be bringing in a National Officer to work with the chapter, it could be attending a concert, or agreeing to practice a certain amount each week. Basically, anything that helps you to become better brothers (as defined in your **Membership Selection Plan**) is Continuing Membership Education. It can be a lot of fun, and should happen all year long.

Other Helpful National Resources

- National Policies: www.kkpsi.org/resources/policies/
 - Every chapter is responsible for making sure that all active members and membership candidates understand the National Policies and agree to abide by them. Make sure you review these annually or semesterly.
- National Deadlines: kkytbs.org/deadlines.html
 - Part of a successful Membership Education Plan is submitting paperwork and dues on time. Keep in mind that the Membership Candidate Registration Form is due 7 days after First Degree, and the Initiate Registration Form (including dues payment and signed signature page) is due 30 days after Third Degree.
- National Website: www.kkpsi.org
 - From information about national programs and national history to chapter operations guides, you can find all kinds of information on the national website! Take some time to browse it and share your findings with your chapter.

Questions, Comments, or Concerns? Contact:
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