

How To Win an ACE Award

Do you have what it takes to be an ACE Chapter? Do you recruit new members and actively keep them engaged? Host meaningful events and programs? Are your officers learning and growing into great leaders?

Try not to be intimidated by the rubric – yes, it is still 8 pages, but there are a lot of sections. For an active chapter, the real difficulty is putting together the pieces.

For 2021, we reduced the reporting requirements (this will remain ongoing) and are only asking for two programs (only for this year).

Whether you are aiming to be the Ace of the ACE or want to prepare your chapter for the next application period, here are some tips:

1. Read the rubric and criteria thoroughly. Just like you would expect a student to do in an assignment, make sure that you are hitting each area listed in the rubric.
2. Recognize that you have two full academic years! Reach back for your projects and plans.
3. Set goals and have plans, and document them well. This will also help your chapter to evaluate the success of a project, as well as how it can be replicated even more successfully in the future.
4. Spread around the narratives and project pieces. Keep your chapter organized by writing a description for the event within a week. Have different officers cover different parts of the submission.
5. Use your chapter rosters well. Ensure officers have active KDP memberships and that you are reaching out to students to have their memberships renewed as well. The little points add up quickly!
6. Think through each area as a lesson, especially for programming and in the evaluation areas. Share about what went well, what did not, and what would be different in the future for this or a similar project.
7. Chapters do not need to earn every point. Applications are judged as an entirety and are not required to earn a set number to receive the award.
8. Edit and explain! Ensuring the quality and thoroughness of your submission are easy ways to gain points. It is important for judges to understand the full scope of the project/area. There is not a page limit, but you also do not need to have a paragraph for each point, either. Assume the judge knows nothing about your chapter and its processes.
9. We know and trust that your project was quality. We want to share your success with other chapters, which is part of why we ask for data. But we also know that sometimes projects just fail. Did members rate a professional development a 3/10 because the presenter's topics were out of date? That is great for us to know!
10. Have confidence and be proud of all of you accomplished, especially in this biennium. Hopefully, this was the toughest time that chapter leaders will encounter.... And you have nearly made it!