Overview*

NSBE Study Hall is meant to help our members, especially first year students taking calculus, physics, chemistry, and general engineering courses to “excel academically”. From this program, our members will be provided with supplemental information and resources for these classes. This program will foster retention in engineering courses from year to year by providing the academic support needed in specific engineering courses. It is our goal to see NSBE members excel and be counted among the top students in each of their classes.

*note: Attendance records should be kept at all NSBE Study Halls. This can be done via the Chapter Spreadsheet.

How It Works

Collaborative Study

Academic Excellence first starts with the help of each other. Collaborative study is as simple as it sounds – a situation in which two or more persons are studying the same topic together. In a collaborative learning situation, members will have the opportunity to engage in dialogue about topics and ultimately combine one another’s skills. This also promotes a situation in which members hold one another accountable.

Facilitated Study

Facilitated learning outside of the classroom also provides members with the opportunity to engage in dialogue about concepts. In this situation we recommend that a facilitator be present to answer questions on the topics presented. Facilitators should either be TAs, or members who have received a grade of B or higher in the subject being taught. This presents an opportunity for upperclass students to get a refresher in courses that may be prerequisites to their current courses and help younger members, simultaneously. Problems presented in these sessions should be selected because they are not routine problems that come from lecture or the course textbook. Careful consideration should be given to identifying problems that address the concepts in depth. It is recommended for members to obtain these problems directly from professors if possible. Facilitators
should present challenge problems that addresses the approach to solving problems rather than the routine process of solving the problems.

**Chapter Best Practices**

- Hold an orientation event to bring together all participants. In doing so, have members bring their academic schedules and indicate classes where they need assistance.
  - Meeting dates and times should be determined at the first meeting based on participant and facilitator availability
- To identify study groups, students should be randomly selected. Care should be taken to establish effective groups, based on learning styles and of mixed challenge areas, not simply friendships
- An appropriate number for facilitated study groups is between six (6) and eight (8) students.
- At the beginning of each facilitated study hall, facilitators should perform check-ins with seminar participants. Check-ins should require students to indicate
  - homework scores
  - exam scores
  - other relevant data from their classes (such as class average and standard deviations)

**Implementation Suggestions**

- Schedule regular sessions throughout the month to host Study Hall – i.e. weekly, bi-weekly, monthly
- Establish a regular location/time for members to meet with their homework
  - Suggested times include after general body meetings or other events, and after executive board meetings
- Survey membership to understand the academic needs of chapter members
- Collaborate with other academic societies if possible
- Members meet during NSBE Study Hall to review class materials or supplemental information for that particular subject
- Continue with NSBE Study Hall throughout the year

**Checklist**

**FOR CHAPTER LEADERS:**

- Identify upperclassmen, professors, or TAs that can serve as facilitators
- Select an appropriate number of facilitators based on the anticipated number of freshman program participants
- Schedule a program orientation event
- Reserve a classroom/space to introduce freshman to the program
- Determine the selection process for the study hall groups (by course, by major, etc) – you may want to select seminar group leaders
Determine an appropriate size of seminar groups (we recommend no more than eight (8) per group)
Sort students into groups based on the classes enlisted on their application

FOR FACILITATORS:
- Identify the “syllabus” for the seminar group – obtain from professors whenever possible
- Obtain the syllabus for the class (or syllabi for the classes) that you are leading
- Gather challenge problems that relate to each lecture topic
- Schedule supplemental study group discussions based on exam schedules
- Schedule the seminar group’s schedule for the academic term
- Meet with seminar participants to establish a weekly meeting schedule
- Reserve a classroom/space to meet with students during scheduled meetings
- Determine the appropriate length and frequency of seminar group meetings
- Keep a record of student performance and attendance
- Collect student performance information at the start of each group meeting (e.g., collect homework scores, quiz scores, exam scores, etc.)

Questions?
Contact nebaex@nsbe.org!