



National Society of Black Engineers®

***FRESHMAN RETENTION PROGRAM
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS***

Version 1.0.0



National Society of Black Engineers Freshman Retention Program

Are there any dates associated with the Freshman Retention Program? Yes. The reporting structure takes place primarily via Chapter Monthly Reports and the Institute for Chapter Development. Your Regional Programs Chairperson should be contacted for CMR deadlines. Two ICD reports will be due on November 22, 2009 and February 14, 2010 respectively. Scholarship applications will become available January 1, 2010 and will close on March 1, 2010.

We have a small Chapter. Can we use other students to assist us in the implementation of the Freshman Retention Program? Yes! The operation of NSBE does not require facilitators, mentors, and presenters to be NSBE members. Feel free to include all other students outside of the NSBE membership that wish to assist your Chapter in accomplishing its mission.

Why are the grades needed for the Freshman Retention Program? The operation of the Freshman Retention Program is heavily based on establishing success metrics that measure the performance of NSBE programming. The grades will be used solely for the production of grant proposals and other documentation that will provide NSBE with additional funding to support the initiative. The GPA and grades of students will not be used for anything other reason. We guarantee the privacy of every student's academic record.

How do we identify the freshmen our Chapter will be responsible for? After recruiting new members, each Chapter should identify those freshman members who will participate in the Freshman Retention Program. Chapter leaders should complete the Program Planning Sheet and indicate the freshman members for the National Programs Committee.

Are there National Awards associated with the Freshman Retention Program? Yes. There are both Chapter awards and individual scholarships. Chapter awards are available in the amount of \$5,000, \$2,500, and \$1,250. Scholarships are available in the amount of \$250 for participants and \$500 for mentors and facilitators.

Can the focus of each program piece extend beyond just Freshmen Members? Yes; however, the National Programs Committee will focus on the retention of freshman members during the first year implementation of the program. If you chose to include new members in general (i.e., freshman and sophomores), please indicate that on the evaluation forms of to be submitted with the ICD.



I don't know our Institution's MEP Director. Who should I contact? If you do not know who is responsible for Minority Engineering Programs at your Institution, it may be best to contact the Dean of your School of Engineering. They should be able to direct you to the individual responsible for support initiatives directed towards minority students. If you need assistance, please send a request to programs@nsbe.org and we will assist you.

We needed to adjust some pieces of the Freshman Retention Program. How should we report that information? Any changes and/or additions made to the Freshman Retention Program outside of the recommended program guidelines should be reported in the ICD. This will allow the Chapter to provide much detail about their adjustments and the National Programs Committee to provide feedback.

Our Chapter will need some financial support for our Freshman Retention Program initiatives. Where can we get support? There are funds available through the National Programs Fund. The application is available via NOL (NSBE Online). The guidelines for how to apply are also available on NOL. If you have any questions, please contact either your Regional Programs Chairperson or the National Programs Chairperson.

Our Chapter isn't a pilot Institution. Can we still participate in the Freshman Retention Program? When referring to 'Pilot Institutions,' NSBE is referring to a Chapter that has been identified for the sole purpose of ensuring data collection. Because a Chapter is not identified as a Pilot Institution does not limit the Chapter in its participation in the Freshman Retention Program. The National Programs Committee will work with all Chapters that would like to implement the Freshman Retention Program. Eligibility clarification on program involvement is discussed in the program overview document. If your Chapter would like to implement the Freshman Retention Program, please contact your Regional Programs Chairperson to ensure that you have the necessary guidance that guarantees successful programming.

What are the plans for the future development of the Freshman Retention Program? At the moment, we hope to develop the first three components of the program in the first year and expand to partner with the Institutions to provide additional support for summer bridge programs and orientation events during the second year of the program. The National Programs Teams also hopes to expand the program so that it encompasses the entire college experience over the next four years.