

ISACA Student Group Best Practices

Through a coordinated survey effort involving ISACA Student Group (ISG) leaders, Academic Advocates, Chapter leaders, and volunteer committee members, we are pleased to be able to share with you these 12 valuable insights that have allowed some of the most successful and active ISGs to thrive. We encourage you to consider these items whether you are seeking to start up an ISACA Student Group on your campus or if you already have an established ISG and are interested in improving on it. Please note- some of these recommendations are written specifically to assist students in their efforts while others are intended as Academic Advocate initiatives.

If you have any questions about forming an ISACA Student Group or would just like more information about the program, please email students@isaca.org.

- Students should actively seek to hold an officer position within the ISG. Those students that have say it helped to enhance their networking and leadership skills, provided additional recognition for them in their chosen profession, and it also helped to build their resumes.
- If interest in starting or continuing an ISG is low, consider partnering with other on-campus professional student groups (IIA, ACFE, etc.) or other departments at the university (i.e. Depts. of Accounting, Business Admin., Engineering, Computer Science, etc.). This will help successfully create one large group that can collaborate on joint activities and host group events.
- Once your ISG is created and officially recognized, begin your succession planning right away. Informally discuss the upcoming school year, which students would benefit from participating, and which students would make good incoming leaders. Having these discussions early and often will help ensure successful continuation of the group long after the founding members have graduated.
- Some Academic Advocates may find that running the week-to-week, month-to-month operations of the ISG challenging at times (even if you have an active ISG president). Consider involving other university faculty members (even those from other departments) to help with the planning and managing of ISG activities.
- Have some fun business cards, ISG stickers, or pens printed up with your ISG logo. Use these as giveaways to promote your group on campus and encourage other students to participate.
- If finding funds to host ISG events and activities is a challenge, consider asking the local ISACA Chapter to make a donation to help cover costs.
- If additional funding is needed to host ISG events and activities, consider charging the members annual dues to participate in the student group. Those groups that do this successfully will often times have food at their meetings to help justify the cost of joining the group. ISGs can even secure sponsors (a local deli or pizza place) to help provide lunches for the meetings, so the actual cost for food would be marginal (or nothing at all).
- ISG leaders should look to establish relationships with local ISACA Chapter members and see them as would-be “mentors”.

- Be sure to work with the local Chapter to help schedule “mini- training events” or other similar events for students and members of the ISG once or twice throughout the year.
- Work with the local Chapter to discuss the possibility of combining certain college or university events with on-going ISACA outreach events.
- Students and ISG members are often welcome to attend local ISACA Chapter meetings. Contact the chapter ahead of time to discuss the possibility of attending their meetings.
- Students and ISG members may also be invited to attend paid Chapter events at a reduced cost or no cost. Contact the Chapter to see what opportunities may be available.