

# Construction of the “Points System” for the Growth of Active Applicants for Party Membership in Colleges and Universities: Based on the Practice of a Student Party Branch in Sichuan Agricultural University

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**Keywords:** points system; construction; active applicants for Party membership in colleges and universities; education and training.

**Abstract:** Party members are the cells of the Party. The quality of Party members is related to the life of the Party; the education and training of active applicants for Party membership is the basis of guaranteeing the quality of the Party's recruitment. At present, there are still some problems in the cultivation of active applicants in colleges and universities, such as formalism, extensive management, inflexible procedure, and monotonous training. The system cannot adapt to the new era, new situation and new requirements, and to some extent affect the quality of the Party's recruitment. Based on that situation, this paper proposes to integrate the cultivation of active applicants into the ideological and political education of college students, actively expand the methods of cultivation, education and training, and establish a full-process and all-round education system for active applicants. This paper constructs a whole-process and all-round education system from four aspects: the education platform, the learning platform, the practice platform and the public opinion platform. Four first-level indicators and twelve second-level indicators are created. Through the expert consultation method, each indicator is assigned with a certain score. The effects of cultivation are evaluated according to applicants' scores. The system provides quantitative reference for the Party's recruitment. The empirical research has been carried out for three consecutive years in a student Party branch of Sichuan Agricultural University and achieved good results.

## 1. Introduction

In the Detailed Rules for the Development of Members of the Communist Party of China, it is pointed out that the Party's recruitment should adhere to the general requirements of “controlling the total amount, optimizing the structure, improving the quality and playing the functions”; we should persist in prudent and balanced development, and ensure that all members recruited are mature enough.<sup>[1]</sup> Therefore, colleges and universities should strive to improve the quality of the Party's recruitment so as to ensure that every newly recruited Party member can withstand the examination by Party organizations, as well as the tests of the society and the time. The quality of applicants' cultivation is the basis of guaranteeing the quality of the Party's recruitment.

In recent years, some scholars have carried out related studies around the “education and training of active applicants for Party membership”. In terms of the significance of the study, in 2014, Ting-ting Zhang pointed out that carrying out the education and training of applicants in colleges can correct their motivation, and reflect the importance and practical significance of the education and training.<sup>[2]</sup> In 2013, Qiang Sun proposed that improving the quality of training is the lifeline of applicants' education in colleges and universities.<sup>[3]</sup> Therefore, it is of great significance not only to meet the requirements of the Party's recruitment, but also to enhance the quality of college students' training. Some scholars have also done some research on the quantitative assessment of the cultivation of applicants. In 2018, Wen-ju Zhang put forward the “six in one” training mode from the aspects of participating in political organizations (20 points), leading postgraduate Party members (20 points), volunteer service (20 points), academic strengthening (20 points), and working ability training (20 points).<sup>[4]</sup> In the same year, Jie Dong and colleagues constructed a

scoring system for the evaluation of applicants from aspects of ideological and political education, ability and quality, moral conduct as well as realistic performance, and explored the application of the scoring system in the party building among students. <sup>[5]</sup> Apart from these two papers, there are few reports on the construction of the points system for active applicants for Party membership.

At present, there are still some problems in the cultivation of active applicants in colleges and universities, such as formalism, extensive management, inflexible procedure, and monotonous training. As an important part in college education, leaders in charge of Party building should integrate the cultivation of applicants with college students' ideological and political education, actively expand the methods of cultivating, educating and training applicants, and establish a full-process and all-round model for the cultivation and education of active applicants.

A student Party branch of Sichuan Agricultural University has 12 formal members, 16 probationary members and 285 active applicants. Since March 2016, the branch has organically integrated the cultivation of active applicants into the ideological and political education of college students, actively expanded the ways of cultivating, educating and training applicants, and established a full-process and all-round education model for active applicants for Party membership. From the four aspects of the education platform, the learning platform, the practice platform and the public opinion platform, four first-level indicators and twelve second-level indicators were created. The expert consultation method was used to assign a certain score to each indicator, so as to establish a "scorecard" for each applicant. The training effect was measured by the "scorecard" level, which could also provide quantitative reference for the Party's recruitment. Since the implementation of the project, the identity awareness of applicants has been enhanced; their exemplary leading role has been brought into play. These active applicants have made efforts in keeping dormitories clean, creating good learning atmosphere and establishing good relationship with classmates. The implementation of the project provides a quantitative reference for the Party's recruitment and effectively improves the quality of the Party's recruitment.

## **2. Background and Motivation**

College students are the builders and successors of our socialist modernization cause. How to cultivate college students into the reserve army and the reserve team of the Party, how to absorb excellent undergraduates into the Party organization, and how to improve the quality of the Party's recruitment are important issues in Party construction in colleges and universities. On January 28, 2013, the General Secretary Jin-ping Xi chaired a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China to study and deploy measures to strengthen the recruitment and management of Party members under the new situation. The meeting demanded that "the Party's recruitment should strictly adhere to standards, always put political standards in the first place, strengthen the training and education of active applicants, expand democracy in the process of recruiting Party members, strictly enforce working procedures and disciplines, and improve the quality of the Party's recruitment." <sup>[6]</sup>

At present, there are some problems in the cultivation of active applicants among college students, such as the extensive theoretical learning, formalized and procedural training methods, and the simplification of training objectives. Under that situation, a student Party branch of Sichuan Agricultural University actively innovates the educational mechanism for the cultivation of active applicants for Party membership, explores methods to strengthen the cultivation and education of applicants in the new era, tries to improve their political and ideological qualities as well as theoretical levels, and creates conditions to attract excellent university students into Party organizations. The branch attempted to construct a "points system" for the growth of applicants, took "scores" as a reference index for the examination of applicants, and provided a quantitative reference basis for the examination of applicants. These measures are of great significance in improving the quality of the Party's recruitment, enhancing students' awareness of service, and promoting the growth of students.

### 3. Methods and Process

#### 3.1 Carrying out in-depth theoretical research and constructing a scientific indicator system

The author analyzed nearly 20 papers on the cultivation and education of active applicants for Party membership since 2013, and found that most of the research started from the current situation, problems and countermeasures, and only focused on qualitative research. On the basis of existing research, this study constructs a four-in-one training and education system to achieve the standardized management and the rapid growth of active applicants. The first aspect is education, including the enlightenment education for applicants, lectures on Party building knowledge given by excellent and senior Party members, learning sessions on knowledge about Party Constitution, and contests for the Party’s knowledge. The second aspect is learning, which mainly examines applicants’ learning on professional knowledge and the Party’s history. The third aspect is practical training, which systematically restricts and encourages applicants to participate in practical training and voluntary service, establish demonstration posts, play a leading role in demonstration and accept the supervision from classmates. The fourth aspect is democratic evaluation, which mainly examines the actual performance and the mass basis of applicants.

According to above theoretical research, this study constructs four first-level indicators and twelve second-level indicators, and assigns a certain score to each second-level indicator through the expert consultation method. By participating in education and practice activities in corresponding platforms, applicants can get corresponding “points” for their growth and development. Detailed information is shown in the Table below.

Table 1. Score Card for Active Applicants for Party Membership

First level indicators	Second level indicators	Score (hundred-mark system)
Education (25)	Training course for applicants (Completing the systematic training and graduating from the Party school)	25
Learning (35)	Professional knowledge learning	15
	Reading plan	5
	Report on experience and thoughts	10
	Social research	5
Practice (20)	Volunteer service program	5
	Personal growth plan	10
	Model practice plan	5
Public Opinion (20)	Democratic evaluation in class	5
	Democratic evaluation among advanced youths	5
	Inspectors’ training and evaluation	5
	Evaluation in the Party branch	5

#### 3.2 Strengthening the cultivation of applicants in strict accordance with the indicator system

First, the education on the Party history should be strengthened. Enlightenment education courses are offered for Party members. The courses highlight the theme of “3W+H”, organize and develop the process preach, the theory study and the cultivation beliefs. Contests on the Party’s knowledge are organized. It is also needed to strengthen the examination of applicants on training courses, and lay emphasis on the course learning process, so as to help applicants to have a deeper understanding on the knowledge of the Party’s history and have a good command of knowledge.

Second, it is needed to strengthen the applicants’ theoretical study and improve their humanistic accomplishment. That platform mainly includes four aspects: supervising the study of professional knowledge and assessing the learning effects, such as periodically checking whether they pass the final examinations as well as English and computer tests, and checking the class ranking of applicants; actively encouraging reading and requiring every applicant to read one of the original

works of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought and Deng Xiaoping Theory once in the first year of college. Then they need to write experience and ideological reports in combination with professional knowledge and social hotspots. The applicants are encouraged to participate in social researches, conduct social surveys and write survey reports.

Third, it is needed to strengthen the practical education of applicants, and provide them opportunities to temper their quality in practical experience and voluntary services. The school should actively encourage them to participate in youth vanguard volunteer activities as well as community services. Applicants also need to participate in the relay of love. Each person should participate in at least three activities of caring for left-behind children or widowed elderly, and go to rural areas and nursing homes to participate in caring activities. They also need to participate in the model practice plan, and set good examples of “demonstration dormitories”.

Fourth, it is needed to strengthen democratic assessment and consolidate the mass base of applicants of Party application. It mainly consists of the following four parts: the evaluation of the students’ mass basis and recognition among classmates; the evaluation of the applicants’ performance in the team of young pioneers; the inspectors’ quarterly evaluation of the cultivation and investigation results; the Party branch’s evaluation of the actual performance of the applicant.

### **3.3 Implement new standards for the Party’s recruitment with the indicator system as reference**

This project has been implemented in the student Party branch. 285 active applicants for Party membership have their own digital “scorecards”. After completing certain tasks, they can achieve the required points. The level of the points is an important reference for the development of Party members and provides a new reference standard for the Party’s recruitment.

In the course of implementation, it is found that in order to change the deviation existing in the process of selecting undergraduate Party members, we must combine quantitative evaluation with qualitative evaluation, establish an operable, scientific and reasonable objective evaluation system, and evaluate the realistic performance of development objects on the basis of this objective system. Cultivating students through this method, we can change the process of “self-growth” into “cultivated growth”, and from “self-maturity” to “educated maturity”. The development of students can be carried out in accordance with the rules; the quality the Party’s recruitment can be guaranteed.

## **4. Effectiveness and Response**

### **4.1 The theoretical accomplishment of applicants has been further improved**

Through activities organized by the party organization, such as the procedural propaganda, examinations on the Party’s knowledge and the government’s policies, Party history training courses and enlightenment education courses, the applicants have deepened their understanding on the party. Their motivation for joining the Party has been further purified; their attitude towards joining the Party has been corrected; their theoretical accomplishment has been constantly improved, which has a good foundation for enhancing the self-consciousness of their Party spirit. At the same time, in the practice of social investigation, their Party spirit has been further deepened; their understanding of the theoretical knowledge has been further deepened.

### **4.2 The aim consciousness of applicants has been further enhanced**

Through the development of the project, the pioneer leading role of applicants has been further strengthened; their service consciousness and ability have been improved. 285 comrades took the lead in theoretical study and actively participated in social practice as well as voluntary services. At critical moments, they came forward bravely. They actively participated in the College New Year Party, cared for the elderly in the apartment for the elderly for a long time, conscientiously abided by the daily schedule, actively participated in classroom learning and encouraged other students to study hard, which reflected the purpose of serving the masses.

### **4.3 The vanguard and exemplary leading roles of applicants have been further developed**

By participating in the demonstration posts of the Party's applicants, the identity consciousness of the applicants has been enhanced; the vanguard exemplary role has been brought into play. After one year of the implementation, among 285 active applicants for Party membership, 213 (75%) scored more than 80 points in the compulsory course of the final semester examination; 85 (30%) were ranked among the top 10 in the performance in compulsory course. Students in the classes where the applicants belonged also behaved well and abided by school rules. There was no fighting, cheatings in the examination, or staying out at night. The atmosphere in dormitory and classroom has been improved.

## **5. Discussion and Enlightenment**

The implementation of the "points system" has pointed out the direction for the growth of applicants. The scoring management system provides a quantitative standard for assessing the quality of applicants' cultivation. Through exploration and implementation, we have the following enlightenment.

### **5.1 It is important to build a model**

To carry out the "points system" for active applicants for Party membership, we should select Party groups with cohesion, solid foundation and good quality according to different categories and majors, and focus on building good models so that other groups can learn from them. Successful exploration and practice of the "points system" for applicants in this branch laid a good foundation for the implementation of the system in the whole college and even in the whole university.

### **5.2 Assessment standard is the core**

Only by combining the points of applicants with practical work related to the growth and development of students, such as theoretical study, voluntary service, social practice, experience and professional study, can we guide the applicants to approach the Party organizations. Active applicants for Party membership can take the lead in abiding by school rules and regulations and advocating the new culture, and play a better exemplary role for ordinary students. Only when they get high marks can they be accepted by all students; the training of applicants can then achieve tangible results.

### **5.3 Diversified forms**

The cultivation of applicants should be rich in content and diverse in form. The cultivation and education of the active applicants for Party membership should not only have rich contents, but also have various forms. The rigid, mechanical meeting learning is not the only choice. We can carry out debates, drama shooting, volunteer service, social practice and other activities in the light of actual conditions, or organize social research activities such as reading sessions, group psychological counseling and visiting professional institutions.

## **6. Conclusion**

This paper constructs a "points system" for the cultivation of active applicants for Party membership from four aspects. It is a full-process and all-round education system which provides quantitative reference for the growth of applicants as well as the Party's recruitment. The system has been implemented in a student Party branch of Sichuan Agricultural University and achieved good results.

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