PHI SIGMA PI

NATIONAL HONOR FRATERNITY

Gamma Omicron Chapter Initiate Handbook

Alpha Chi Class Fall 2021

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: About Phi Sigma Pi……...3
Chapter 2: Communication…….4
Chapter 3: Rules……...5
Chapter 4: Chapter Meetings……..7
Chapter 5: Initiate Requirements……...9
Chapter 6: Initiate Point System…..……...10
Chapter 7: Bigs and Littles……...11
Chapter 8: After Initiation……...12

About Phi Sigma Pi

We are an Honor Fraternity.

“Phi Sigma Pi takes the best attributes from an Honor Society, a Service Fraternity and a Social Fraternity and blends them into one organization different from all others.”

We follow a tripod.

“Phi Sigma Pi is built on a Tripod of three ideals: Scholarship, Leadership and Fellowship. This Tripod provides direction in our organization, our programming and in our actions as Members. Combined, the Tripod guides our Members to be successful contributing citizens while at campus and into their professional careers.”

We are gender inclusive.

Definition: Including individuals anywhere along the gender spectrum, as opposed to ”coeducational”, which specifically indicates sex rather than gender.

“Members of Phi Sigma Pi are admitted based on their ability to uphold our Tripod and how they will represent our Brotherhood. While acceptance into Phi Sigma Pi is in no way linked to gender, we recognize members’ gender identity rather than sex.”

Communication

Formal Information

All formal information will be sent via email. Email is Auburn University's official venue for communication, and it will be ours as well. Everything you are expected to know will be sent via email-dates, times, events, etc.

Day to Day Information

Day to day information can be communicated through GroupMe. Using this venue is easier to get you guys information more quickly, because sending out ten emails everyday gets difficult. Also it is a way to hold a group conversation with discussions. The Brother Chapter uses Facebook a lot, but Initiate Chapter will primarily use GroupMe. This is a free app for smartphones, and is still accessible to those without a smartphone.

We also use GoogleForms and GoogleDocs for signup sheets and for polls to determine good times for everyone. These require no signup of any sort and are sent via email.

Texting and phone calls are also acceptable.

Rules

Purpose of the Rules

Gamma Omicron's Rules may seem strict, but the entire purpose of these rules is to prevent hazing or anything that could be misconstrued as hazing. Phi Sigma Pi, including the Gamma Omicron Chapter, has a zero tolerance for any form of hazing.

We define hazing as "any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental, physical or emotional health or safety of any individual, regardless of the person's willingness to participate", including "any activity that could adversely affect the mental, physical or emotional health of the individual; and any other activities which are not consistent with the regulations and policies of the sheltering institution, or behavior considered as unbecoming of a Member of Phi Sigma Pi."

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for all chapter meetings and events. The Gamma Omicron Chapter of Phi Sigma Pi accepts only University-approved excuses for absence from meetings and events.

Other excuses for missing meetings will be accepted at the discretion of the Initiate Advisor.

Alcohol

Initiates of the Gamma Omicron Chapter may attend any official or unofficial Chapter event at which alcohol is present. However, they must not drink alcohol while at said official or unofficial Phi Sigma Pi event.

Official Chapter events are explicitly sanctioned by the Chapter. An unofficial Chapter event is any gathering of two or more brothers that *could* be construed as resulting from their membership in Phi Sigma Pi.

Social Media

Initiates of the Gamma Omicron Chapter may engage in social media with any current Brothers. This includes: Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, etc. Texting and phone calls are also acceptable.

Vehicles

Initiates of the Gamma Omicron Chapter may drive/ride in the same car as Brothers. Brothers are not allowed to solicit rides from Initiates.

Chapter Meetings

Attendance

Attendance of all Initiate Chapter meetings is required. This is when quizzes are taken, announcements are made, and committees meet. Chapter attendance is integral to the initiation process.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given during each Initiate Chapter meeting. These quizzes are graded and required as part of the initiation process. Study guides will be given for the quizzes one week prior to being taken. Initiates are always given any information that may be asked on a quiz.

Announcements

All information regarding quizzes, events, etc will be given out during Initiate Chapter meetings. All information will also be repeated via email. Many announcements require immediate discussion of the initiate class-another reason why attendance is mandatory.

Committees

Each Initiate Class forms committees as a practice and understanding of the committees in the Brother Chapter. Each committee is required to plan and implement an event pertaining to their committee, in which a high majority of the Initiate Class is able to attend. The committees are as follows:

Scholarship: The scholarship committee is responsible for planning events that teach or educate, whether this be academic, cultural, social, etc. Previous scholarship events have included: a Yoga instructional session, a trip to the Julie Collins Smith Museum, attendance of a play, a resume-building workshop, and a tour of the Ecology Preserve.

Fundraising: The fundraising committee is responsible for raising funds for the Initiate Class. Previous fundraising events have included: receipt nights, an auction, a raffle, and a volleyball tournament.

Service: The service committee is responsible for planning events that allow Gamma Omicron to give back to the community. Events can be planned in conjunction with another group or organization, or done alone. Previous service events have included: tutoring at local schools, a cleanup of local parks, volunteering at Storybrook Farm, and collecting supplies for the animal shelter.

Philanthropy: The philanthropy committee is responsible for teaching the Initiate Class about Phi Sigma Pi's philanthropy, the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Foundation (HOBY). This can be any type of presentation- video, powerpoint, etc, as long as it informs the Initiate Class of who HOBY is and what they do.

Social: The social committee is responsible for planning events that create memorable bonding moments between the Initiates. Previous social committee events have included: hiking at Chewacla State Park, a bowling night, an Initiate dinner at a local restaurant, and a tailgate party.

Each committee is also responsible for electing a committee chair. The committee chair is responsible for keeping attendance at the committee's event and keeping in contact with the Initiate Advisor on dates, times, etc of events.

Initiate Brother at Large

The initiate class will be responsible for electing a brother at large for the duration of their initiation. The job of the brother at large is to be a safe person for initiates to come to with any information that they are uncomfortable telling the Initiate Advisor.

Initiate Requirements

All initiate requirements are mandatory. Lacking any of these requirements can result in an initiate not being qualified for final initiation into the Gamma Omicron Chapter of Phi Sigma Pi.

The initiate requirements are as follows:

- Accruement of at least 60 points
- Attendance of all Initiate Chapter Meetings
- Attendance of all Initiate Chapter Committee events
- Score of at least 80% on the National Exam
- Payment of dues by the deadline given
- Signing of the Risk Management Form by the deadline given
- Attendance of Initiation

Initiate Point System

How it Works

The purpose of the Initiate Point System is to keep all initiates on track with their quizzes, committee event attendances, and all other required events so that all Initiates are held to the same standards. Various requirements are worth various points. All Initiates must reach 60 points to be eligible for Initiation. Any changes made in the point system may be allowed by the Initiate Advisor.

Points

The required points are awarded as follows:

- Attend Initiate Chapter **- Required, no point value**
- Wear pin to Initiate Chapter
    - 1 pt each time, maximum 6 pts
- Weekly Quiz **- Required**
    - maximum 24 pts
    - Up to one retake per quiz; at the sole discretion of the Initiate Advisor
        - **A+** (6 pts)
        - **A** (5 pts)
        - **B** (4 pts)
        - **C** (3 pts)
        - **<C** (0 pts)
- Attend Initiate Committee Events **- Required**
    - 5 pts each, maximum 25 pts
    - 2 pts for an Excused absence
- Meet with Big
    - 3 pts each time, maximum 12 pts
- Attend Brother Chapter **- 1 Required**
    - 3 pts each, 6 maximum
- Attend a Brother Event **- 2 Required**
    - 5 pts each, 15 maximum
    - Any Brother events that Initiates are invited to will appear on the Initiate Calendar and Ourhouse
    - Additional attendance of a Brother Event
        - 5 pts
- Play on or attend PSP Intramural games

    - 1 pt each, 3 maximum
- Bonus Points
    - 1 bonus point in every minutes email, text your Initiate Advisor the code word to receive your point.
    - 1 pts each time, maximum 6 pts

Bigs and Littles

Why Bigs and Littles

The purpose of Bigs and Little in the Gamma Omicron Chapter is to start a bond between the Initiates and the Chapter. The Bigs are there for support, to answer questions, and essentially help the Little become part of our Brotherhood and integrate into the Chapter.

How They are Matched

All Initiates and prospective Bigs will attend a “speed dating” session, in which all Initiates and prospective Bigs will have time to talk and get to know each other. At the end of the session, both Initiates and prospective Bigs will be responsible for filling out a GoogleSlides sent to them by the Initiate Advisor. The Initiates and prospective Bigs will then be paired up into Bigs and Littles, and then revealed at a time and date let known by the Initiate Advisor.

Big/Little Hangouts

Bigs and Littles are encouraged to “hangout” as often as they would like, with the points awarded for this are capped at 4 hangouts. All rules described in the “Rules” section still apply for Bigs and Littles.

If any Little feels uncomfortable, neglected, hazed, etc by their Big, they are encouraged to see the Initiate Advisor immediately so as to rectify the situation. They may be assigned a new Big, if that is their wish, and the proper steps to correct the improper behavior of the Big may be taken.

After Initiation

Being Eligible

After you acquire at least 60 points (as outlined previously), you will be eligible to be voted upon for Initiation by the chapter. If you are voted through, then upon your passing of the National Exam (80%), you will be eligible for initiation.

Initiation

You will then go through an Initiation ceremony, similar to your Pinning ceremony. After that ceremony is when you officially become a Brother of the Gamma Omicron Chapter of Phi Sigma Pi. The Tuesday immediately following that, you will come to the normal Brother chapter and participate in PSP as an official Brother.

Initiation is a long process, but it is a process that makes us all understand who PSP is and why we are a part of it. It’s the process that makes us all Brothers.