



Est. 1977

Spring 2025 Member Handbook

www.austincc.edu/ptk

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Welcome to Alpha Gamma Pi	2
Meet the Officers	3
Meet the Advisors	8
Contact Sheet	9
What is Phi Theta Kappa?	10
History of the Alpha Gamma Pi Chapter	11
Symbols of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society	12
Hallmarks	13
International Programs	14
Member Benefits	17
Scholarships	18
Organization Hierarchy	19
Membership Criteria	21
Chapter Status	22
Chapter Status Benefits	23
Earning Hours for Chapter Status	24
Spring 2025 Meetings	25
Committees	27
Spring 2025 Participation Record	31
Helpful Websites	34
Notes	35

Welcome to Alpha Gamma Pi

Welcome to Alpha Gamma Pi, the local chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Austin Community College! All of us serving on the Spring 2025 officer team want to congratulate you on your dedication to academic excellence in having met the criteria for membership. Induction into Phi Theta Kappa is first and foremost recognition of your academic success, and we encourage you to remain persistent and curious as you continue your journey through college and beyond.

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) was first established as an honor society in 1918 at Stephens College, Missouri. Flash forward to today, and PTK has a presence on nearly 1300 college campuses across 11 nations. The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) recognized Phi Theta Kappa as the official honor society for two-year colleges in 1929. More than 4.3 million students have been inducted since the founding, with approximately 250,000 active members globally, making Phi Theta Kappa a true catalyst around the world.

Dedicated to the Hallmarks of Scholarship, Leadership, Fellowship and Service, PTK aims to provide opportunities for you to grow as a well-rounded contributor in the community. You'll have the chance to attend workshops and professional development, work with your local college, and lead, research and complete projects in areas that you're passionate about. All while being part of a driven community of students looking to become the next generation of changemakers.

Meetings of the Alpha Gamma Pi chapter are hosted weekly, and we highly encourage you to follow our page on MySL for the latest news and opportunities throughout the semester.

This handbook is your tool for learning more about Phi Theta Kappa, the Alpha Gamma Pi chapter, and for keeping track of events and participation. The officer and advisor team are here to answer any questions.

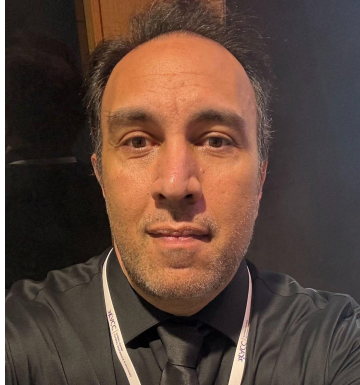
Once more, congratulations, and welcome to Phi Theta Kappa!

- Your Spring 2025 Team

Meet the Officers

Lou DiSimone [louis.disimone@g.austincc.edu]

PRESIDENT



Hello everyone. My name is Lou DiSimone and I'm the Spring '25 Alpha Gamma Pi Chapter President. I was accepted to Columbia University's School of General Studies last Spring, but deferred for a year to try and open up a few less costly options . I hope to study Cognitive Science, but am also open to a Business degree. I've been with PTK for four semesters now (serving as officer or co-chair of HIA). My grand entrance to PTK happened when I managed to score too high on the leaderboards during trivia night and ended up revealing myself as more than just a fly on the wall. Make your mark and get involved; PTK gets better the more you put into it!

Meggie Huggins [meggie.huggins@g.austincc.edu]

PARLIAMENTARIAN VICE PRESIDENT



I am the Parliamentarian VP for AGP Spring 2025. I am a social work and sociology double major who will be graduating in May. My favorite animal is a penguin and I have had the privilege of being bit by one. My vision for this semester is to positively improve accessibility.

Apollo Fisher [apollo.fisher@g.austincc.edu]

SECRETARY



Hi, everyone. My name is Apollo, and I'll serve as your secretary this semester! I love all things music, playing guitar and piano, as well as collecting CDs/records. I hope to help create a welcoming environment for everyone at meetings and events, and I'm excited to create fun and engaging opportunities this semester through the Feeding Families Committee!

Michelle Holloway [michelle.holloway@g.austincc.edu]

HONORS IN ACTION



Hello my name is Michelle Holloway and I am the Honors in Action Officer for Spring 2025! Besides attending Austin Community College, I like to cook and bake. I mostly just make sweets. This semester I hope to have more in-person meetings and impact a larger portion of the community with our action project!

Ronald Ngamby [ronald.ngamby@g.austincc.edu]

HONORS IN ACTION



Hello. My name is Ronald Ngamby. This is my last semester as a member and officer at PTK. Fun fact: I've been an officer five times now. I've also been an HIA officer before, so I'm joining again this spring semester. I want to give the next officers research that they can use to create an amazing product.

Alexandra Bulla [alexandra.bulla@g.austincc.edu]

COLLEGE PROJECT



Hi, I'm Alex! A proud Colorado native, I've called Austin home for the past eight years. Currently, I'm pursuing a career and education in Neuroscience. I'm passionate about mental health advocacy, personal growth, and all things nature, and I strive to be a supportive, approachable person in everything I do. When I'm not focused on my studies or extracurriculars, I work as a teacher, beautician, and beauty business consultant. This term, my goal is to foster an inclusive community within and beyond Alpha Gamma Pi, and to inspire others to discover their inner voices and unlock their fullest potential.

Marina “Mars” Loredo [rachael.loredo@g.austincc.edu]

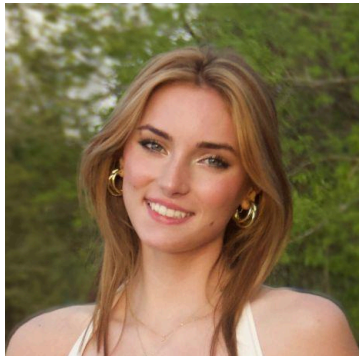
COLLEGE PROJECT



Hello! My name is Laith, and I have the privilege of serving as the Vice President for the North Region of PTK. I'm an avid writer who loves getting lost in books and volunteering at the local animal center. This term, I'm excited to boost student engagement by coordinating more on-campus and virtual events. My goal is to ensure every member feels connected, supported, and motivated to make a difference.

Lorali Bookout [lorali.bookout@g.austincc.edu]

TREASURER



Hello, my name is Lorali Bookout. I grew up in Austin, Texas and even after moving around the state I always find my way back. I'm working on a degree in electrical engineering and plan to transfer next year. Outside of school, I love oil painting and working with all art mediums.

Walter Beck [@walter.beck@g.austincc.edu]

TREASURER



Howdy, y'all! I'm Walt, Hufflepuff House, proudly serving alongside Lorali as your Treasurer for the Spring 2025 semester. You'll find me around Highland campus, at Bennu, and at our service projects wherever they may be - I'm big on service. Phi Theta Kappa is a conduit of community, emphasizing hallmarks that allow us, as student leaders, to explore and showcase our talents in new and exciting ways. As part of our collective mission to advance these hallmarks, I hope to mentor our diverse membership forward in identifying and achieving their unique goals as Kappans and as Riverbats.

Asmaa Kajjaj [asmaa.kajjaj@g.austincc.edu]

PUBLIC RELATIONS



Hello everyone! This is Sven, your PR Officer for the semester. Sven is an English nickname I've had since early middle school, and how I would prefer to be called. My real name is Min Min Htut and I'm an international student from Myanmar/Burma, having come to ACC to pursue an associates in Computer Science. It's been a fun and inspiring time interacting with people and cultures here in Texas since the year or so I've arrived, and I look forward to even more with my time as PR officer for AGP.

Serena Rangel [serena.rangel@g.austincc.edu]

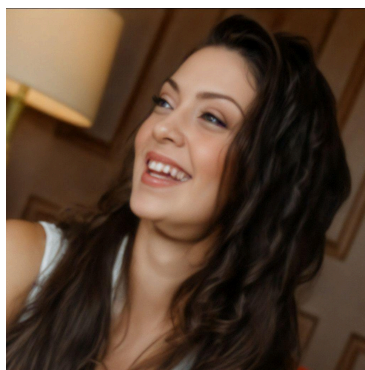
HISTORIAN



Hello everyone, I am Serena Rangel, your Historian for this semester. I've been involved in Alpha Gamma Pi since I was inducted and love helping our chapter, as well as serving the greater Austin area community. When I'm not busy with PTK, I manage my partner's company, Creative Homebase. We produce all of our art and other endeavors through our Creative Homebase studio.

Alexandria Magierski [alexandria.magierski@g.austincc.edu]

SOUTH REGION VICE PRESIDENT



Hi, y'all! My name is Alexandria, and I'm the South Region VP for the Spring '25 semester. I originally studied theoretical astrophysics and have a deep love for teaching math and science. I'm passionate about learning, spending time with my veritable zoo of furballs, and enjoying art, reading, and nature. This semester, I envision the Service as a Lifestyle Committee fostering fellowship and education as we work together to create meaningful and lasting change in our community. Through impactful service projects and collaborative learning, our members will leave a positive legacy while building connections that inspire continued growth and service.

Reena D'Aloia [maureen.daloia@g.austincc.edu]

CENTRAL REGION VICE PRESIDENT



As the Central Regional Vice President for Phi Theta Kappa, I am excited to lead initiatives like the "Tails & Trails Team," a project focused on volunteer work with adoption events, animal fundraisers, and environmental clean-ups. Outside of PTK, I enjoy music, caring for my three dogs, and indulging in skincare routines. My vision for this term is to help more members (including myself) achieve gold status, plan 3-4 impactful events and fundraisers, and create numerous opportunities for volunteer hours.

Carter Ibrahim [carter.ibrahim@g.austincc.edu]

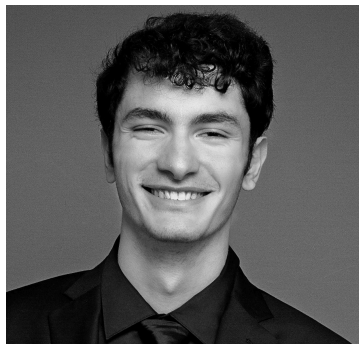
EAST REGION VICE PRESIDENT



Hello, my name is Carter Ibrahim and I'm the East Region Vice President for the Spring semester of 2025. I'm a Business Administration major planning to transfer next fall. I'm the founder and president of the Society for Financial Education, a club at ACC that promotes financial literacy and professional development. I am also a co-owner of Sunkissed Sorbet. We sell all-organic, honey-sweetened sorbet with the goal of making healthy, organic food more accessible. Outside of academics and business, whenever I have the time, I enjoy working on my project car, a 1968 Chevelle Malibu. I can't wait for all of the exciting things ahead.

Laith Khireiwish [laith.khireiwishlaith@g.austincc.edu]

NORTH REGION VICE PRESIDENT



Hello! My name is Laith, and I have the privilege of serving as the Vice President for the North Region of PTK. I'm an avid writer who loves getting lost in books and volunteering at the local animal center. This term, I'm excited to boost student engagement by coordinating more on-campus and virtual events. My goal is to ensure every member feels connected, supported, and motivated to make a difference.

Meet the Advisors

Mary Kohls [kohls@austincc.edu]

ADVISOR, 1986 - PRESENT



Mary Kohls is the chair of the Computer Information Technology Department, she has been a professor at Austin Community College since 1980.

Since 1986, Mary Kohls has been an advisor for the Alpha Gamma Pi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. She has been the person who has provided guidance, advice, and the wisdom necessary to grow the Alpha Gamma Pi Chapter to what it is today!

Jon-Mikel Pearson [jon-mikel.pearson@austincc.edu]

ADVISOR, 2024 - PRESENT



My name is Jon-Mikel (or JM) and I have three dogs (Atlas, Ranger, and Tony) who I absolutely love: all three are some variant of an English Bulldog. I am into horror movies and can easily binge watch an entire OG TV season (23 one-hour long episodes) in a weekend. For those who are curious, I have lived in Indiana, California, New York, and now Texas. I even managed to live in NYC for an official 24 hours!

I graduated ACC with 3 degrees, including the BAS - Software Development and completed grad school at Texas A&M University - Central Texas in Information Systems - Cybersecurity. I am currently an assistant department chair and I work with students from many different organizations including PTK.

I have been involved with PTK in some way since Spring 2018. I have been a chapter member, chapter officer, alumni member, alumni officer, and now I am a co-advisor for this great chapter. I am very excited to be part of Phi Theta Kappa this semester.

Contact Sheet

Officer Title	Name	Email
President	Lou DiSimone	louis.disimone@g.austincc.edu
Parliamentarian VP	Meggie Huggins	meggie.huggins@g.austincc.edu
Secretary	Apollo Fisher	apollo.fisher@g.austincc.edu
Honors in Action	Michelle Holloway	michelle.holloway@g.austincc.edu
Honors in Action	Ronald Ngamby	ronald.ngamby@g.austincc.edu
College Project	Alexandra Bulla	alexandra.bulla@g.austincc.edu
College Project	Marina "Mars" Loreda	rachael.loredo@g.austincc.edu
Treasurer	Loralie Bookout	loralie.bookout@g.austincc.edu
Treasurer	Walter Beck	walter.beck@g.austincc.edu
Public Relations	Asmaa Kajjaj	asmaa.kajjaj@g.austincc.edu
Historian	Serena Rangel	serena.rangel@g.austincc.edu
Regional VP Campus	Name	Email
South Region VP	Alexandria Magierski	alexandria.magierski@g.austincc.edu
Central Region VP	Maureen "Reena" D'Aloia	maureen.daloia@g.austincc.edu
East Region VP	Carter Ibrahim	carter.ibrahim@g.austincc.edu
North Region VP	Laith Khireiwish	laith.khireiwishlaith@g.austincc.edu
Chapter Advisors	Phone	Email
Mary Kohls	(512) 223-3185	kohls@austincc.edu
Jon-Mikel Pearson	(512) 223-3194	jon-mikel.pearson@ausitncc.edu

What is Phi Theta Kappa?

Purpose of Phi Theta Kappa

“The purpose of Phi Theta Kappa shall be to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students. To achieve this purpose, Phi Theta Kappa shall provide an opportunity for the development of

leadership and service, for an intellectual climate, for exchange of ideals, for lively fellowship for scholars, and for stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence.”



The Mission of Phi Theta Kappa is two-fold: To recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students. To provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service, and fellowship programming.

History of Phi Theta Kappa Phi Theta Kappa International Society traces its beginnings to the original six charter members under the name Kappa Phi Omicron at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, in 1910. The Society continued to grow, and in the spring of 1918 was one of many honorary groups in Missouri.

At a meeting of the presidents of Missouri Junior Colleges for Women in 1918, it was decided to organize a new honorary society, chapters of which would have a common character, stand, and similarity of organization. The name Phi Theta Kappa was chosen, and the Society was incorporated in Missouri as a national organization.

Phi Theta Kappa confined its activity to women's junior colleges, but in 1924 through constitutional amendment, the field of activity was enlarged to cover all junior colleges. In 1926, Phi Theta Kappa expanded beyond the borders of Missouri and into coeducational institutions. The American Association of Community Colleges recognized Phi Theta Kappa as the official honor society for two-year colleges in 1929.

History of the Alpha Gamma Pi Chapter

The Alpha Gamma Pi Chapter was chartered in October 1977, at the Texas Regional Leadership Conference. Mike DeVault and Mae E. Thompson, counselors at Austin Community College, were the founding sponsors, and Ramon Dovalina, Dean for Student Services, chartered the chapter for Austin Community College.



Five Austin Community College students with outstanding grade point averages were selected to become the charter members. These students worked diligently from October 1977 to April 1978 to organize themselves into a chapter with bylaws that identified the criteria for membership and the procedures for inviting and inducting new members. Since starting the chapter, Alpha Gamma Pi chapter continues to sponsor activities to provide members with opportunities for scholarship, service, and leadership development.

Sponsors/Advisors who have guided the chapter:

- Mae E. Thompson, Sponsor 1977 - 1986
- Mike DeVault, Sponsor 1977 - 1979
- Emma Moore, Sponsor 1978 - 1986 and Advisor 1986 - 1992
- Rosemary Gillett-Karam, Sponsor 1979 - 1981
- Ramon Dovalina, Advisor 1981 - 1986
- Walter Cooper, Advisor 1991 - 2005
- Dr. Reed Peoples, Advisor 2006 - 2024
- Mary Kohls, Advisor 1986 - Present
- Jon-Mikel Pearson, Advisor 2024 - Present



PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY

Symbols of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

The Name of the Society

The name of the Society is Phi Theta Kappa (ΦΘΚ). This is an abbreviation of the Greek words phronimon (wisdom), thumos (aspiration), and katharotes (purity). "PTK" is the abbreviation used when it is technically necessary, such as for a website URL or an email address. Similarly, we are Phi Theta Kappans.

Phi Theta Kappa Emblem

The Phi Theta Kappa emblem consists of a golden slab; keyed at the top and bottom. Gold is the most noble of metals, it represents the nobility attained by those who achieve intellectual leadership and refers to the golden opportunities that abound. Across the slab is the black band representing the three ideals that bind us together with the three Greek letters that mean wisdom, aspiration, and purity.



Behind the band, is a wreath, on the one side composed of oak leaves and on the other laurel. The oak leaves stand for stability and strength of character, as symbolized by the sturdy oak. The graceful, curling leaves of the laurel signify achievement and success, all attributes for membership in our Society. Above the band is the head of Athena, a symbol of learning. The base features the Greek letters meaning light, the light of knowledge and learning, common ideals for the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society members. This badge stands as a symbol of the high idealism of our organization and membership in our select group.

Pins

The Golden Key Pin, fashioned after the emblem of the Society, is worn only on one's left side and is for members and honorary members only. The pin is for dress attire, and should only be worn on a lapel during chapter events or when representing the chapter.

The Five Star Competitive Edge Pin is only for those members who have earned the Five Star Level of Competitive Edge, achieving advanced skills in areas such as communication, professional etiquette, team building, and critical thinking.

Colors

The colors of Phi Theta Kappa are blue, for scholarship, and gold for purity.

Flower

The White Rose typifies puberty and beauty of light, with its white buds signifying new intellectual association.

Hallmarks



The four hallmarks of scholarship, leadership, fellowship, and service are important ideals of our society. They are designed to provide personal growth & encourage the development of a balanced individual. As individual members develop their hallmark qualities, their chapters, colleges, & surrounding communities all grow & benefit.

Scholarship focuses on scholarly research that identifies causes, needs, and potential solutions regarding the honors study topic. The honors study topics have been the most important aspect of the comprehensive Phi Theta Kappa program for student development. They are always timely, international in scope, issue-oriented, and appropriate for interdisciplinary study. Activities are planned each semester to incorporate the honors study topics, which include guest speakers, community services, films, discussions, games, and fun. The foundation of the honors study program is Honors in Action.

Leadership involves building an effective research team and preparing leaders by developing leadership skills and fulfilling leadership roles. This hallmark is dedicated to encouraging leadership in our chapter, on our campus, and within our community. Phi Theta Kappa offers opportunities for leadership development. As a member, you can become a leader as a chapter officer, regional officer, or as an international officer. The relationships you make with persons in leadership roles will make you a more effective student and help you achieve your personal and career goals.

Service engages members in improving the community through volunteer opportunities and the needs that require further research to identify solutions. As a member of Phi Theta Kappa, you have many opportunities to serve your surrounding community. You can assist your chapter by participating in the programs of the Society. Externally, you can serve the college and your community through projects targeted to the specific needs of our local organizations.

Fellowship focuses on working together as a team and encouraging unity within our college, community, and other Phi Theta Kappa chapters. Camaraderies increase as you become acquainted with your fellow members at the local, regional, and international levels. Attending Regional and International conferences allows greater opportunities for fellowship with international members. The Society provides a way for members to become acquainted with college faculty and administrators, political and civic leaders, and persons of international reputation.

International Programs

Once you register and pay the one-time \$96 fee, you have access to the following programs and benefits.

CCSmart - Community College Smart

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society's 2021-2022 student leadership team, a group of five peer-elected students from across the nation, decided to address community college stigma. They wanted to focus on the positive aspects of the colleges. They developed CCSmart as an awareness campaign with the goal of changing the conversation about community colleges, promoting student-led advocacy of community colleges, & providing reliable information to the public about community college opportunities.

<https://ccsmart.org/>

College Project

Designed to help chapters gain administrative support by reaching out to the college administration to assist them in any project that supports the college.

Community College Completion Corps (C4)

Alongside Austin Community College, Phi Theta Kappa is committed to actively encouraging the completion of a college credential, an associate degree or certificate, among community college students. We are counting on our members to raise awareness of the importance of college completion not only for students but for the colleges and communities they serve.

Five Star Competitive Edge

Get a leg up on the competition for scholarships, transferring, and your dream job. Your college classes are only part of your education. Soft skills, such as communication, professional etiquette, team building & critical thinking, are just as important and can give you an advantage over others.

<https://www.ptk.org/benefits/professional-development-courses/>

Healthcare Edge

Prepares you to successfully transition from your academic program to a career in the healthcare field.

- Learn to engage in effective patient care
- Communicate with patients & families
- Professionalism in a healthcare environment
- Discover ways to manage self-care
- Seek & gain employment in healthcare

Employment Edge

Designed to help you successfully enter the workforce.

- Chart your career path
- Develop a resume
- Build your digital footprint
- Learn how to network
- Nail the interview
- Negotiate your salary

Transfer Edge

Prepares you to successfully transfer to a four-year college.

- Understand financial aid & student loans
- Create a personal transfer timeline
- Increase your chances of acceptance
- Make the most of your campus visits
- Submit a strong transfer application
- Create a scholarship resume

Research Edge

Teaches the principles of conducting scholarly research & introduces you to Honors in Action

- Explore the basics of Honors in Action
- Learn best research practices
- Engage in the Honors in Action project

Hallmark Awards

Hallmark Awards are given based on competitively judged applications to recognize individuals, chapters & regions for excellence in the Society's Hallmarks of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Fellowship as exemplified through Honors in Action activities.

Honors in Action & Honors Study Topic

Honors in Action is an opportunity provided by Phi Theta Kappa International to apply learning and practice real-world problem-solving by developing an in-depth, action-oriented project related to Honor Study Topic research. Members will use the Honor Program Guide inside the Honor Study Topic, which is developed every two years by the Honors Program Committee as a guideline for chapter research and action. The Honors Study Topics have been the single most important aspect of the comprehensive Phi Theta Kappa program for student development. <https://www.ptk.org/programs/honors-in-action/>

Nota Bene Literary Competition

A literary competition for members, includes scholarships and publication opportunities. The application will open this semester and is due by late April 2025. Entries will be submitted online.

PTK Connect

Phi Theta Kappa's free online search tool for transfer scholarships, colleges, and career pathways. <https://www.ptk.org/ptkconnect>

Founders Medal Award

The Phi Theta Kappa Founders Medal Award recognizes a graduating PTK member who has written the finest essay reflecting on the value of community college education each year. There will be a medal awarded at the winning student's graduation ceremony and \$1,000 cash prize, sponsored by the Phi Theta Kappa Board of Directors.



*Genevieve Kent Elbaor and Lou DiSimone with residents
at Brookdale for their Fall 2023 HIA Project*

Member Benefits

Scan the QR Code or go to ptk.org/benefits/member-discounts/ to find out more about the following benefits!

Better Help and Phi Theta Kappa have partnered to offer all members, advisors, and alumni one FREE month of online therapy.

Visit betterhelp.com/ptk/

StudyBuddy.live offers online prep courses for the TEAS exam for allied health, nursing, and pre-nursing majors. Use discount code PTK15. Students can apply for the StudyBuddy TEAS Prep Scholarship.

PTK Travel Discount Program. PTK is pleased to offer an exclusive worldwide travel discount service to members, alumni, and advisors. Savings average 10-20% below-market on all hotels and car rental suppliers (including special rates for leisure and personal rentals at Enterprise & National Car Rental)

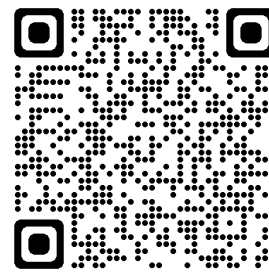
HUSK offers PTK members savings on fitness club memberships (with month-to-month options at more than 2,000 fitness clubs nationwide), online diet programs, and exclusive discounts on home exercise equipment, videos, health coaching, nutritional foods and more!

Dell PTK members are able to participate in Dell's Member Purchase Program, which is a discount program that allows all members, family, and friends to receive member-only pricing on all personal purchases from Dell.

Lenovo PTK members can save on Lenovo PCs! Visit the Phi Theta Kappa/Lenovo website for limited-time eCoupons and other special offers.

Daily Harvest will extend a \$50 discount to new users. PTK members and advisors are invited to explore the chef-crafted food built on sustainable sourced fruits and vegetables.

American Medical Student Association Scholarship AMSA offers PTK 34% off ASMA membership - 4 years for only \$49.50! The AMSA Pre-Med Transfer Scholarship is designed to help a PTK member close the goal of a career in medicine with a one-time award of \$5,000!



Scholarships

Chapter Scholarships

Gold and Silver chapter members are encouraged to apply for the \$500 chapter scholarships to continue coursework at ACC, including these scholarships:

- Mae E. Thompson
- Walter B. Cooper
- Alpha Gamma Pi
- Golden Opportunity Scholarship (To assist in paying Chapter Fees)

Regional Scholarships

- Walter B. Cooper
- Texas STARS Scholarship - This scholarship is for continuing coursework at the community college, with awards ranging from \$500 to \$1,000
- Maverick All-Texas Academic Team
- All Phi Theta Kappa members selected to the All-Texas All-Academic Team are offered many scholarship opportunities

International Scholarships

There are hundreds of millions of dollars in university partner scholarships and over one million in competitive scholarships available annually! Your membership gets you exclusive access to these PTK-only scholarships and transfer opportunities at four-year colleges.

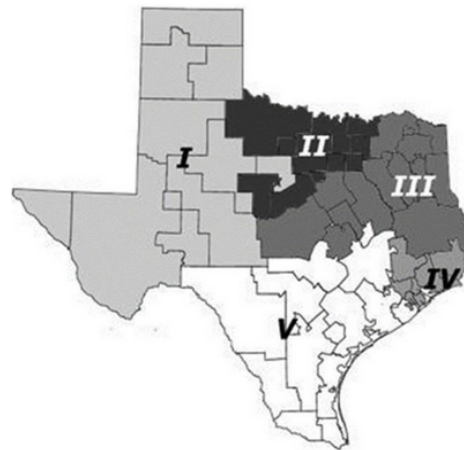
There are three types of scholarships available at PTK International:

- **Competitive Scholarships**
 - These scholarships reward academic excellence and leadership among members and provide substantial financial support to help students achieve their educational goals.
- **Need-Based Scholarships**
 - These scholarships support students facing significant challenges and are designed to help students stay enrolled and prevent them from dropping out of college due to financial hardships.
- **University Partner Scholarships**
 - These scholarships are available from hundreds of four-year colleges that are looking for high-performing transfer students. Many partners offer specific scholarships for PTK members.

Organization Hierarchy

Phi Theta Kappa has always maintained fidelity to its founders' commitment to provide enrichment in the four hallmarks: scholarship, leadership, service, and fellowship. Driven by these ideals, the society has grown from a handful of chapters in Missouri to over 1,300 chapters and 120 alumni chapters in all 50 states and abroad.

On the International level, Phi Theta Kappa is separated into four geographic Divisions. An International President is elected every year at the annual International Convention, & each Division is represented by a Division Vice-President who is elected by chapters attending the convention. These four Divisions comprise a total of 30 Regions. The Texas Region, which is the largest by total membership, is divided into five Districts. At the annual Regional Convention, attending chapters elect a Regional President and five District Vice-Presidents. Our Alpha Gamma Pi chapter is in District V in the Texas Regional & Division II Internationally. It is guided by a team of fifteen officers, elected at the end of each fall and spring semester.



Our District Five Representative:



Dominica Hunt Carey [d5vp@txptk.org]
DISTRICT V VICE PRESIDENT

Dominica Hunt Carey was born in Columbus, OH, and is the proud mother of three children: Abby, Josiah, and Sevyn. She joined Phi Theta Kappa through the Lambda Theta chapter at Temple College in May 2023, initially serving as VP of Membership. By October 2023, she had ascended to Vice President of Lambda Theta and then to Vice President of District Five of the Texas Region of Phi Theta Kappa in March 2024. She was nominated to the All-Texas Academic Team in 2024. Dominica is currently pursuing an Associate of Science in Nursing at Temple College. She is dedicated to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, increasing membership and fellowship, and showcasing the quality education and experiences offered by community colleges, particularly through the CCSmart initiative. Let's have an amazing year!

PHI THETA KAPPA DIVISIONS

DIVISION I

- 363 Chapters
- 6 Regional Organizations
 - Carolinas (NC, SC, Bermuda)
 - Middle States (DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA)
 - New England (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)
 - New York
 - Ohio
 - Virginia/West Virginia

DIVISION II

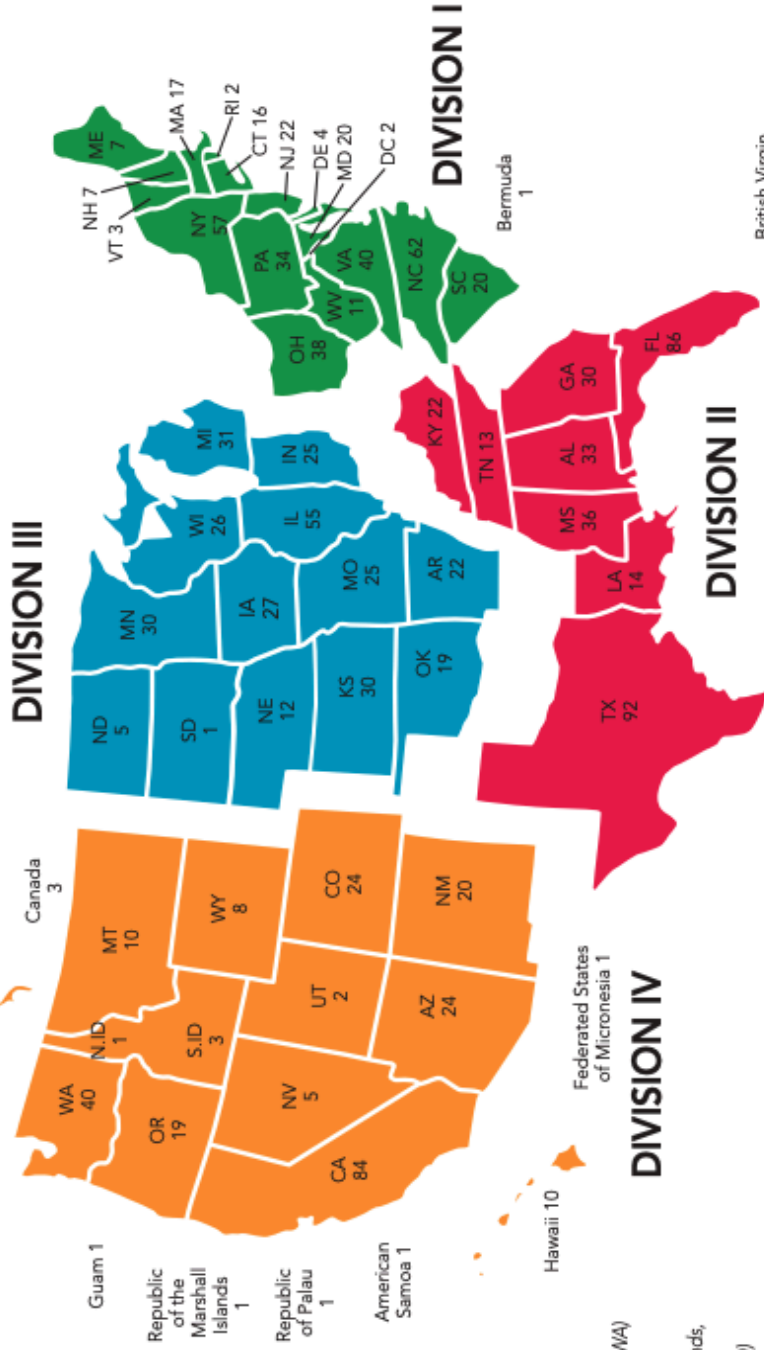
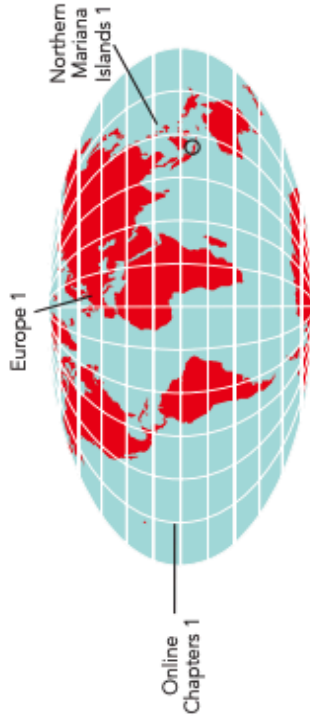
- 328 Chapters
- 7 Regional Organizations
 - Alabama
 - Florida (FL, BVI, Peru)
 - Georgia
 - Kentucky
 - Mississippi/Louisiana
 - Tennessee
 - Texas

DIVISION III

- 308 Chapters
- 8 Regional Organizations
 - Heartland (KS, NE, MO)
 - Illinois
 - Indiana
 - Iowa
 - Michigan
 - Minn-Kota (MN, ND, SD)
 - Oklahoma/Arkansas
 - Wisconsin

DIVISION IV

- 264 Chapters
- 7 Regional Organizations
 - Arizona
 - Colorado/Wyoming
 - Greater Northwest (AK, AB, MT, N. ID, WA)
 - Nevada/California
 - New Mexico
 - Pacific (Palau, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, AS, GU, HI)
 - Rocky Mountain-Cascade (OR, UT, S. ID)



British Virgin Islands 1

Jamaica 1

Peru 1

Hawaii 10

Federated States of Micronesia 1

Updated 7/23

Membership Criteria

To qualify for new membership you must be:

- Currently enrolled in at least 6 semester credit hours
- Enrolled in a degree program
- Completed at least 12 college-level credit hours at ACC, with a minimum GPA of

ACC Credit Hours	12-23 Hours	24-45 Hours	46+ Hours
Minimum ACC GPA	3.5	3.4	3.25

Membership Requirements Checklist

New & Returning Members

- Record meeting dates & participation hours on the Participation Record Form
- Submit your Participation Record by End of Day **April 22nd, 2025**



Chapter Status

What does it mean to achieve status within the chapter? Alpha Gamma Pi recognizes members for their level of contribution to the chapter throughout the semester, each with their own associated benefits. Requirements for each level of status are outlined below.

Bronze Status

New Members

- Attend one of the New Member Orientations
- Complete the PTK Chapter Membership Application
- New members pay a one-time fee of \$96 at <https://join.ptk.org/>, this includes a chapter fee, regional fee, & international fee

Returning Members

- Returning Members should attend the Returning Members Meeting and are encouraged to attend New Member Orientations to assist officers
- Returning members must pay a \$10 chapter fee in person or at the QR code below:



Silver Status

New and Returning Members

- Complete all requirements of Bronze Membership
- Attend at least 2 general meetings
- Participate in at least 2 committees one of which is College Project or Honors in Action
- Participate in a total of 12 hours

Gold Status

New and Returning Members

- Complete all requirements for Bronze and Silver Membership
- Attend at least 4 general meetings
- Participate in at least 3 committees one of which is College Project or Honors in Action
- Participate in a total of 20 hours

Chapter Status Benefits

Provisional Status

- Development of leadership skills & team building
- Participate in service projects for the college & community

Bronze Status

- Receive all Provisional Status benefits
- Recognition for academic achievement on a local, regional, & international level
- Phi Theta Kappa seal and stamp affixed to your transcript
- Receive Phi Theta Kappa Golden Key membership pin
- Graduation Regalia is available for purchase
- Certificate of membership from the international office and membership ID Card
- The opportunity to be published in the honors anthology, Nota Bene

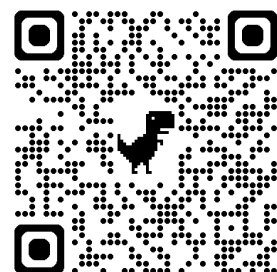
Silver Status

- Receive all Bronze benefits
- Silver Membership Certificate
- Eligible to apply for Alpha Gamma Pi chapter scholarships
- Attend regional & international conventions & receive financial support for travel
- Graduation regalia:
 - After 1 Semester: the PTK Tassel is presented to you
 - After 2 Semesters: the PTK Stole is presented to you
 - After 3 Semesters: the PTK Honor Cords are presented to you

Gold Status

- Receive all Silver benefits
- Gold Membership Certificate & Recognition Gift
- Serve on Austin Community College's Councils & Committees
- Recognition of Gold membership on your resume and transfer applications

*ACC offers benefits for students, including student support, tutoring, free groceries and so much more! Find out here: <https://students.austincc.edu/>



Earning Hours for Chapter Status

Why should I get Silver or Gold status?

Earning Silver or Gold status makes you eligible for chapter scholarships & letters of recommendation from advisors. If you exceed the requirements for Gold, you open yourself up for further opportunities.

Earning Hours

You earn hours when you attend committee meetings or volunteering. Committee meeting hours include weekly meetings, events & donations. Service hours are specified & given by Committee Chairs. Service hours include participating in action-based projects & events, such as volunteering or helping the chapter. Another requirement to earn Silver or Gold status is to attend general meetings. Make sure that you sign in at each meeting to receive credit. Also, mark your participation record under general meetings. You can earn time & a half if you bring a guest, limited to one per meeting

- Member: 1 Clock Hour = 1 Hour of Participation
- Guest: 1 Clock Hour = ½ Hour of Participation

Participation Record

The Participation Record is where you record all your volunteer hours, donations, & meetings attended. Near the end of the semester, you will turn this in & the chapter will determine whether you earn Bronze, Silver, or Gold status with the chapter. To verify your participation we will use sign-ins at events & meetings, as well as donation drop-off records.

Get Credit For Your Hours

Sign in at all chapter events, meetings, & donation drop-offs. Record all chapter activities you participate in on your Participation Record.

- **For Donations:** List the committee as well as the items that are donated
- **For Committee Meetings:** List the date & the committee name
- **For Service Hours:** List the date, committee name, event, & hours

Participation records must be turned in by April 22nd, 2025. Submit a paper copy early at the general meeting on April 18th, 2025 or email your participation records to the officers below by the deadline:

- Lou DiSimone, President - louis.disimone@g.austincc.edu
- Apollo Fisher, Secretary - apollo.fisher@g.austincc.edu

Spring 2025 Meetings

For the most up-to-date information, online meeting links, and other pertinent meeting details, please refer to the calendar at <https://tinyurl.com/PTKCAL-Spring25>

02 / 14 | General Meeting - Committee Fair

Online & HLC Presentation Hall - Building 2000, Room 1550

Get started this semester by learning about the many committees our chapter is running this semester so you can get involved!

02 / 21 | General Meeting - Transfer/Career Services Night

Online & HLC Presentation Hall - Building 2000, Room 1550

Planning on transferring to a university after ACC? Come and learn about the many resources that ACC provides to assist you in your academic journey!

02 / 28 | General Meeting - TRC “Behind the Scenes” Prep

HLC Building 2000 Room 2226

Join us for a special behind-the-scenes look at how we prepare for the upcoming TRC conference! This is a great opportunity to get involved, collaborate with fellow members, and see firsthand what goes into planning a successful event. Your help and ideas can make a difference—come be part of the process!

03 / 14 | General Meeting - Financial Literacy

Online Only

Looking to improve your financial literacy? Join us online or in person for an insightful discussion on financial planning, budgeting, and how these skills can benefit you!

03 / 28 | General Meeting - CPR Awareness

HLC Building 2000 Room 2226

Join us in person for an important session on CPR awareness. This meeting will provide you with valuable knowledge that everyone should know!

04 / 11 | General Meeting - Culture Night

HLC Building 2000 Room 2226

Explore the vast array of cultures of your fellow PTK members! Reach out to Asmaa Kajjaj (asmaa.kajjaj@g.austincc.edu) if you want to be a part of Culture Night!

04 / 18 | General Meeting - Craft Fair

HLC Building 2000 Room 2226

Get creative at our Craft Fair meeting! This is a great opportunity to showcase your artistic side, explore different crafts, and connect with fellow PTK members in a fun and interactive setting!

04 / 25 | General Meeting - Officer Duties/Nominations

Online & HLC Building 2000 Room 2226

Be nominated or declare your interest in running for Chapter office!

05 / 02 | General Meeting - Returning Members Awards/Speeches

Online & HLC Building 2000 Room 2226

Join us for the last meeting of the semester to hear the nominated officers' speeches and celebrate your achievements!

Committees

Committees are officer-led initiatives that provide members opportunities to earn hours toward their individual chapter status progress and for personal development through the four PTK Hallmarks of Fellowship, Leadership, Scholarship, and Service. The chapter itself is required to complete an Honors In Action and College Project annually to maintain its Five Star Status with Phi Theta Kappa International.

College Project (Required for Five Star Chapter Status)

The Phi Theta Kappa College Project is **designed to engage students in leadership and service** that support their college's mission and establish a positive rapport with the college administration. The process of completing the College Project fosters student growth and helps fulfill our mission to provide college students opportunities to grow as scholars and leaders.

COLLEGE PROJECT OFFICERS:

Alexandra Bulla [alexandra.bulla@g.austincc.edu]
Marina "Mars" Loreda [rachael.loredo@g.austincc.edu]

Honors In Action (HIA) (Required for Five Star Chapter Status)

Honors in Action is a program put on by PTK International that allows students to use research, problem-solving, and service that requires action to resolve or help with challenges in the community. This semester we'll tackle research initiatives delving into the Power of Stories. **Join Phi Theta Kappa's Honors in Action project to make a real difference!**

HONORS IN ACTION OFFICERS:

Michelle Holloway [michelle.holloway@g.austincc.edu]
Ronald Ngamby [ronald.ngamby@g.austincc.edu]

Feeding Families

Are you interested in serving your ACC Community in a practical way? Help provide groceries to ACC Students by volunteering at the Student Care Center every Tuesday @7am and by participating in volunteer opportunities through the Central Texas Food Bank! Email apollo.fisher@g.austincc.edu if you would like to volunteer!

CHAIR:

Apollo Fisher [apollo.fisher@g.austincc.edu]

Fundraising

Are you interested in **planning events** and **working with a team**? Join our Fundraising Committee to create and organize events for the greater good of our chapter. This is a fantastic opportunity to enhance your skills in team communication, collaboration, and organization, all while **learning the professional way to ask for money**. You'll work closely with our treasurers to plan and participate in events that fundraise for our organization. We hope to see you there!

FUNDRAISING OFFICERS:

Loralie Bookout [loralie.bookout@g.austincc.edu]

Walter Beck [walter.beck@g.austincc.edu]

Keep Austin W.E.I.R.D. Committee

The purpose of the KAW committee is to improve accessibility across the district through initiatives to improve navigation, training, pain points, and resources. This semester the focus is on identifying pain points at Highland, improving campus navigation, putting together student org tool kits and training, gathering data, and to suggest improvements to commencement. The committee will partner with SAS and other college leadership.

CHAIR:

Meggie Huggins [meggie.huggins@g.austincc.edu]

Outreach

Outreach is all about connecting with students, spreading the word about PTK, and making sure everyone knows about the amazing opportunities available! From hosting events to improving our presence online, we work on a variety of projects that benefit our chapter and community.

CHAIR:

Asmaa Kajjaj [asmaa.kajjaj@g.austincc.edu]

Service as a Lifestyle Committee

Welcome to the Service as a Lifestyle Committee! Our focus is on how to use your unique skills and resources to make a lasting impact in our community. Many of us have developed special skills that we love—whether it's building projects, gardening, cooking, making websites or apps, creating meaningful art, coaching and mentoring, practicing yoga and meditation, recruiting volunteers, fundraising, or caring for others. In the Service as a Lifestyle Committee, we'll explore how to apply your gifts and talents to the causes you care about, showcasing how service can be multifaceted and how easy it is to use the tools at your disposal to create meaningful change.

CHAIR:

Alexandria Magierski [alexandria.magierski@g.austincc.edu]

Small Business Creation Committee

The Small Business Creation Committee will teach members how to successfully launch a small business in a step-by-step format. Each meeting will cover a key stage in development, from brainstorming and determining feasibility to establishing a solid business plan, setting a budget, building a marketing strategy, staying organized, and effectively launching the business.

CHAIR:

Carter Ibrahim [carter.ibrahim@g.austincc.edu]

Tails and Trails

This committee is about giving back to our four-legged friends and the environment through volunteering and donating to various shelters, as well as trail and lake environmental cleaning. When the weather gets warmer, there will be opportunities to go out on paddle boards or kayaks for an hour or two after the lake cleanup.

CHAIR:

Reena D'Aloia [maureen.daloia@g.austincc.edu]

Wellness Committee

Get involved in the Wellness Committee, where we integrate mindfulness and self-understanding into both our study routines and daily lives. We will explore key aspects of the psyche that are vital for students, as well as the external challenges they face, and learn strategies to navigate and manage these issues. Topics will be shared in advance for discussion during our meetings, where we will collaborate to raise awareness and develop healthier coping mechanisms. This initiative will help cultivate a sense of community while providing support for navigating challenging semesters and strengthening our emotional foundations. I hope you will join us!

CHAIR:

Laith Khireiwish [laith.khireiwishlaith@g.austincc.edu]

Yearbook

Join the Yearbook Committee and help create memorable, lasting projects that showcase all of AGP's exciting activities and events. From taking photos during events, designing posters and developing the 2025 yearbook, there are plenty of ways to get involved. This is also a great opportunity for fellowship and service, since we attend all AGP events. Everyone is welcome to be involved, and I hope to see you there!

CHAIR:

Serena Rangel [serena.rangel@g.austincc.edu]

ALPHA GAMMA PI

Spring 2025 Participation Record

Due: April 22nd, 2025

Full Name:

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ACC Email Address:

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Membership: (Circle One)

New Member	Returning Member
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Initial Meetings: (Circle date attended)

Returning Members Meeting	New Member Orientation		
January 31st	New Member Orientation Date:		
	One-on-one	Date:	With:

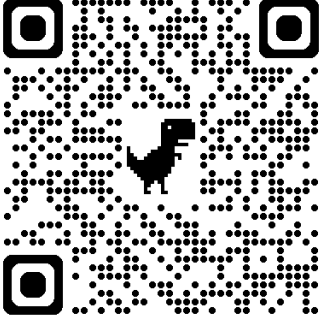
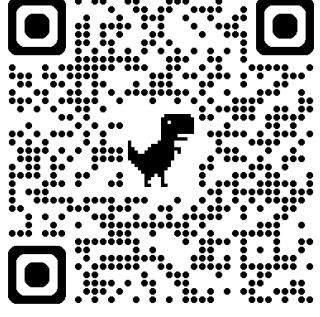
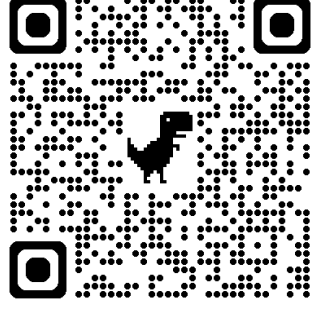
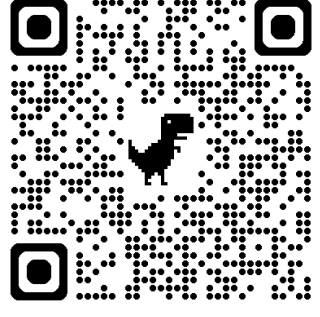
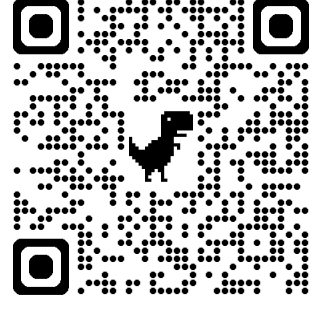
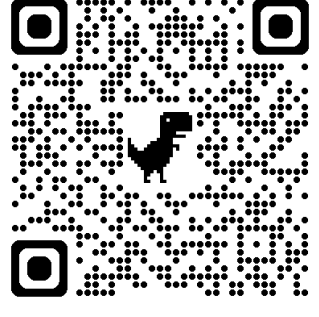
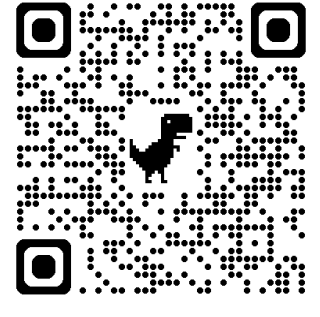
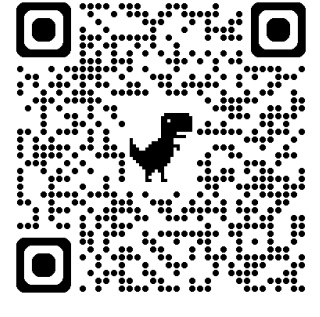

General Meetings: (Place an "X" under meetings attended)

02 / 14	02 / 21	02 / 28	03 / 14	03 / 28	04 / 11	04 / 18	04 / 25	05 / 02

Donations: (Please list items that were donated) (Please enter hours in decimals not minutes)

Date	Committee	Items	Hours

Helpful Websites

Chapter Website	Chapter Instagram	PTK Website
 <p data-bbox="300 703 503 735">austincc.edu/ptk</p>	 <p data-bbox="706 693 941 724">@_alphagammapi</p>	 <p data-bbox="1193 682 1291 714">ptk.org</p>
Chapter Discord	Chapter Newsletter	PTK Connect
 <p data-bbox="211 1218 592 1249">https://discord.gg/G4K4TUeJkz</p>	 <p data-bbox="698 1207 950 1239">eepurl.com/6P71D</p>	 <p data-bbox="1136 1207 1356 1239">connect.ptk.org</p>
Chapter Linktree	Texas Region Website	CCsmart
 <p data-bbox="227 1722 576 1753">linktr.ee/_alphagammapi</p>	 <p data-bbox="730 1722 917 1753">texas.ptk.org</p>	 <p data-bbox="1161 1711 1331 1743">ccsmart.org</p>

Notes

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