

Phi Sigma Pi
Beta Delta Chapter
Beta Theta Initiate Handbook

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Congratulations Beta Etas!

After the two weeks of rush events and the interview process, you have been selected as the newest initiate class of Phi Sigma Pi. Be prepared for a semester with many laughs and challenges but with even greater rewards.

This notebook contains all of the fraternity's expectations of you as an initiate as well as reminders and guidance for the semester ahead. Along with this notebook, you have also been provided with another resource for your semester: **the Brothers of this fraternity**. Remember that every Brother has been where you are now and has completed an initiation semester very similar to the one you will experience.

Do not be afraid to ask them for suggestions or advice!

As your initiate advisor, it is my job to guide and support your initiate class in the following months. **I am always available to answer your questions or concerns**

in regards to expectations of you as an initiate, the fraternity, the Brotherhood, individual Brothers, or anything else that might arise.

Congratulations again on being selected and I wish you the best of luck!

Ben Long

Beta Delta Initiate Advisor

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Congratulations Beta Etas!

Along with this notebook, you have also been provided with another resource for your semester: the Brothers at Large of this fraternity. We are here to help you and all the Brothers of Beta Delta be a cohesive unit. Our goal is to be your advocates and serve as a bridge between you and the Brothers. If at any time you have questions, feel uncomfortable, want to know more details about anything, please reach out to us! Everything said to us is confidential and won't be shared with anyone (unless you specify otherwise). Do not be afraid to ask us for suggestions or advice!

We are always available to answer your questions or concerns in regards to expectations of you as an initiate, the fraternity, the Brotherhood, individual Brothers, or anything else that might arise.

Congratulations again on being selected and we wish you the best of luck!

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--- Semester Overview ---

The primary purpose of the Initiation Program is to prepare Initiates for active membership in Phi Sigma Pi. You will learn and have the opportunity to gather information about what each of you may contribute as part of the Chapter once a Member. Our Initiation Program lasts **four weeks**, and is designed to introduce you to the history and inner-workings of our Chapter while reflecting the standard semester-long expectations we hold ourselves to as a brotherhood.

These first four weeks as initiates will consist of unique events and meetings where you will learn and prove your knowledge of our chapter history, hear from brothers and alumni, and plan & attend some of your own fraternal events. These four weeks will be concluded with final reflections, in which we will reflect on your performance as an initiate, and choose to induct you as a lifelong member.

When inducted, you will have additional events to plan and attend, some of which you will have the opportunity to get a heads start on during the initiation program.

These events are designed to acclimate you to the brotherhood as well as familiarize you with our standard operating procedures.

--- Goals and Requirements ---

Goals of initiation:

Learn about Phi Sigma Pi through:

- ❖ Twice a Week Initiate Advisor meetings
- ❖ Twice a Week class meetings
- ❖ Twice a Week quizzes
- ❖ National Exam

Build lasting friendships within Phi Sigma Pi:

- ❖ Initiate Retreat
- ❖ Informal Brother Interviews
- ❖ Philosophy of Life
- ❖ Initiate and Brother events

Develop pride for Phi Sigma Pi:

- ❖ Class Memorabilia Project
- ❖ Paddle for Big Brothers

Requirements of Initiation:

The requirements outlined below are the minimum we ask that you do to attain the “goals of initiation.” Attitude, enthusiasm, and interactions with the Brotherhood will be taken into consideration when evaluating your progress. Every requirement must be met to be eligible to become a Brother of Phi Sigma Pi. If any of the requirements are not met for any reason, it is the Initiate’s responsibility to speak with the Initiate Advisor and arrange to make-up the requirement.

--- Required Events ---

As a Brotherhood, we plan several events for the initiate class. Each event is designed to show you part of the Brotherhood and part of who we are, as well as helping us get to know you better!

Beta Theta Retreat Date: 02/19-20/2021

Retreat will be held ~~at Falls Lake~~ virtually. The Initiate Retreat consists of a weekend of activities devoted to meeting and learning about your new Initiate class members of PSP. This will be your first real chance to form the bonds of Brotherhood. This is the best and one of the most important events of the semester.

Search for Knowledge Date: 02/27/2021

One of the semester traditions of PSP is Search for Knowledge, which is hosted by our Scholarship committee. This is a great time to work together as a team and show how much you know about the Fraternity.

Mid-Semester Discussion Date: 02/28/2021

This is the point in the semester where the Brotherhood will review your progress towards becoming a Brother. IA, bigs, and littles will set up a meeting to talk about what was discussed at Mid-Semester Discussions.

Alumni-Initiate Event: TBD

This is where Initiates will get to make connections with graduated brothers.

Philosophy of Life (POL) Date: 03/07/2021

This is a chance for your fellow initiates to truly get to know who YOU are as a person. You will be conversing with them about your philosophy of life, which can be anything YOU want it to be. The Brothers at Large will be there to help guide discussion.

National Exam Date: 03/14/2021

The National Exam will be a culmination of the quizzes you have taken throughout the semester. Passing the National Exam is a requirement to become a Brother.

Final Reflection Date: 03/14/2021

Final Interviews are the last chance for you to tell the Brotherhood why you would make a great Brother. These are business casual and a similar format to initiate interviews.

Brother Inductions Date: 03/17/2021

Brother Inductions is a ceremony that makes you officially brothers and the initiation process!

Brotherhood Chapter Meeting: Sundays at 6:00 PM EST

It is required to attend a brotherhood chapter! Make sure you let the IA know that you are present

--- Required Class Projects ---

As an initiate you are required to plan a series of events and participate in events planned for you by the Brotherhood. Each requirement has a purpose and is designed to help in your initiation in some way. Listed below is the name, an explanation, examples, and a deadline for each event. Please let the IA know if you have any questions and/or issues. Be creative!!!

Fellowship Event: Placeholder date of 03/12/2021, completed by 03/14/2021

Fellowship is the leg of our tripod that represents our Fraternal Brotherhood. For this event, you will need to plan a social event and invite the Brotherhood. At the social you will present your Big Brothers with their paddles, and the Brotherhood with your memorabilia project. Most classes have had themes for their social: such as Black and White Ball, Halloween party, Awards show, fiesta, luau, etc.

Beta Delta Paddles Presented at fellowship event

Each of you will receive a Big Brother that is a current PSP member. The paddles function as memorabilia for your Big Brothers. This Brother will guide you throughout the semester and help you to accomplish your requirements. Initiates will present their Big Brother a paddle at your fellowship event. Paddles can become expensive if you do not get them early in advance. Typical places to get these are AC Moore and Michaels.

Creativity is encouraged, but the following is required:

- ❖ The Greek Letters of Phi Sigma Pi in raised letters (raised could be wooden letters)
- ❖ The name of your initiate class
- ❖ Your name
- ❖ Your Big's name
- ❖ Your initiate semester
- ❖ The words: "National Honor Fraternity" ****Not Honors****

Memorabilia Project Presented at fellowship event

The memorabilia project functions as a souvenir of your initiate class for the Brotherhood. Our Historian keeps record of the initiate classes that have been part of PSP. Each class is asked to document the events planned and activities done throughout the course of the semester. These should be compiled into a memorabilia project and presented at your social. In the past, classes have made slideshows, scrapbooks, etc. Be creative!!!!

--- Meetings ---

IA & Initiate Class Meetings

Sundays at 3 PM EST, Wednesdays at 6:30 PM EST

In our meetings I will teach you core elements of the Brotherhood on a national and chapter level. You will have weekly quizzes and you need to receive 90% or higher on each of these quizzes. Receiving less than 90% on three or more quizzes will result in the initiate being brought up for expulsion from the initiation program. If you fail two or more quizzes with a 90% or below you will be put into bad standing. You will not get a chance to retake these quizzes, so study for these before you take them. The only retakes you get will be on the final exam. **The national exam is a mandatory exam that must be passed to become a brother.** These meetings usually take about an hour, depending on the lesson and time of the semester.

During these meetings, you all will also have the opportunity to plan and discuss your projects. Remember that you are Initiates in hopes of becoming a Brother, so feel free to ask for suggestions or help in your meetings. These meetings are for your class, so at any time you can ask any Brother that may be present to leave. These meetings are important because it will introduce you all to the ways our fraternity runs.

Class Officers

The initiate class will vote on class officers to help with the planning of class events. The first position that will be elected is the **Class President**. Their duties are as follows:

- o Runs the Initiate's portion of the IA/initiate meeting
- o Encourages class cohesion (e.g., planning class dinners)
- o Manages the planning of the class bonding event.
- o Designs and orders class t-shirts (or appoints another Initiate to do so)

Additional committees & positions can also be established as the initiate class deems necessary. These positions can include committee heads for a memorabilia project committee, class social committee, etc.

The purpose of these committees and positions are to mirror the activities of active Brothers—serving on a committee (or as a committee head), working together to plan events for the entire Brotherhood and attending events planned by the Chapter is a large part of what active Brothers do. Learning these skills and gaining leadership experience early in your initiate program will prove an invaluable resource when you transition into the Brotherhood.

--- Additional Class Projects ---

The initiate semester is only four weeks long, so as you can imagine, there are more things that must be done before the end of the semester to really get the hang of our chapter!

Fundraiser Completed by: 04/25/2021

Fundraising for the Brotherhood ensures that we can execute events that support our tripod and that our dues are affordable for each Brother. Your class will need to have some sort of fundraising event to fund your fellowship social and memorabilia project. Extra money raised can be used to reduce the cost of your t-shirts. In the past there have been car washes, candy sales, silent auctions, 50/50 raffles, yard sales, bake sales, etc.

Class T-Shirt

The class t-shirt functions as each initiate's personal memorabilia of the semester. Each class must design a unique t-shirt for the class. Each member of the class should order a t-shirt and you may offer them to the Brotherhood if you wish. The t-shirt must include:

- ❖ Class Name (i.e. Beta Gamma)
- ❖ Semester (i.e. Fall 2018)
- ❖ It may say Phi Sigma Pi, and may include the Greek letters

--- Newly Inducted Member Attendance Requirements ---

Once inducted, you will have additional attendance requirements that are slightly different than that of a normal brother. Wholistically across the entire semester, requirements for your initiation semester will be similar to that of a standard member.

Scholarship Event Completed by: 04/25/2021

Scholarship is the leg of our tripod that strives to acquire and share knowledge. Initiates or new brothers must attend a scholarship event that will meet these goals. Past scholarship events have included tours of museums, watched and debated educational movies, participated in a group dance class, etc.

Leadership Event Completed by: 04/25/2021

Leadership is the leg of our tripod that devotes our Fraternity to the community. We ask the initiates or new brothers to attend a leadership event by the end of the semester. Past leadership events have worked with the soup kitchen, planned a game day at an after school program, organized food drives, etc.

Weekly Chapter Meetings:

Newly inducted members are required to attend our weekly chapter meetings every Sunday evening at 6:00 PM EST. Attendance will be taken twice at each meeting. Newly inducted members are allowed 4 half absences, meaning that you may miss roll call for any reason four times for the remainder of the semester.

During committee meetings, newly inducted members will be rotated through different committees each week to gain a perspective of the functionality of each committee, as well as contribute ideas and assist with brainstorming and planning.

Weekly IA Meetings:

Every Sunday at 3:00 PM for at least three Sundays following inductions, there will be continued meetings between the initiate class and IA. These meetings are designed to introduce New Brothers to portions of the bylaws, standard chapter operating procedures, etc. Meetings will be casual and last no more than 1 hour.

--- *Brother Interviews* ---

Brother Interviews (Recommended each week: 4)

All must be finished by 04/25/2021

You are required to interview a given portion of the active Brothers in our chapter. A certain number of interviews will be due by the end of the semester. The following rules apply to interviews:

- ❖ Must be a minimum of 30 minutes. Brothers may cut the interview short, but an initiate must be available for a full 30 minutes. Have questions prepared to ask the Brother.
- ❖ Group interviews are at the discretion of the Brother, and are not encouraged.
- ❖ Phone, IM, etc. conversations are NOT interviews.
- ❖ Interviews are not permitted during official Brother or Initiate events. (Retreat may be an exception at the discretion of the Brother)
- ❖ Do not ask a brother for an interview through Facebook, Twitter, or Text message unless otherwise stated. The appropriate way of contacting a brother would be through email.
 - You must obtain a Brother's signature for the interview to be valid.

If you do not get your required number of interviews by the end of the semester, **you will be removed from good standing by the brotherhood**, and will have to appeal in front of the entire brotherhood to be put back into good standing.

If you have trouble getting an interview or a Brother misses an interview, let me know

--- Initiate Policies ---

Attendance

Your attendance is expected and required at all events planned by your class and by the Brotherhood. If you cannot attend an event you must let your IA know at least 24 hours before the event. If there is an emergency, let me know and we will figure something out. If properly planned, the initiate may be given the opportunity to make-up an event. (This is at the IA's discretion.) Excused absences will only be given for class, work, family emergencies, and others at the IA's discretion.

Pinning

During your time as an initiate you will be required to have your initiate class pin on you at all times. The pin is to symbolize your commitment to Phi Sigma Pi by being proud to show the pin and take pride that you are joining Phi Sigma Pi. The pin does not have to be specifically worn on your clothes, it can be on a backpack or purse. You are required to wear the pin to any interview, meeting or function thrown by Phi Sigma Pi. This policy does not pertain to a virtual online initiation program/semester.

Alcohol/Drinking Policy

Phi Sigma Pi is a dry fraternity. No Initiate, even if they are of age, may drink around a Brother at Phi Sigma Pi sanctioned events. Sanctioned events are those events planned or announced using Beta Delta Chapter resources and declared official events. Initiates are also prohibited from consuming alcohol before said events. If an initiate is accused of violating this policy, the Executive Board will investigate and actions will be taken.

Hazing

Phi Sigma Pi takes a strong stance against hazing. If at any point in your initiate semester you feel uncomfortable, notify your IA or another Brother immediately (Brothers at Large can be an anonymous resource for you as well). Everything that we do and ask you to do is meant to build bonds between you and the Brotherhood and to develop pride for the Brotherhood.

Continued on the next page...

Voting

The Initiation Program is essentially a two-way evaluation: the Brothers evaluate if you are a good fit for the Brotherhood, and you evaluate if the Brotherhood is a good fit for you.

The initiate class will be voted on by the Brotherhood at the end of the Initiate Program. Your completion of all the requirements above, your demonstration of the qualities of scholarship, leadership, and fellowship, and other traits such as common courtesy will be evaluated during the voting. This voting will determine if you will become a part of Phi Sigma Pi Brotherhood.

While voting is important and is good to keep in the back of your mind, don't focus on it. You are encouraged to use your time as an initiate to learn about Phi Sigma Pi, your initiate class and the Brothers, and as a chance to grow through your new experiences. And don't forget to have fun—you won't experience anything like the initiate program again!

BROTHER-INITIATE LINE

Brothers and Initiates are prohibited from establishing any new romantic relationships or engaging in any sexual contact or behavior. This includes actions that may be perceived, by a reasonable person, as either a romantic relationship or sexual relations of any type. There are NO exceptions to this rule. If an initiate is suspected of being involved romantically, or otherwise, with a current Brother, it could result in expulsion from the program.

- ❖ If an initiate is accused of violating any policy, the Executive Board will investigate and actions will be taken.

--- Conclusion ---

If you have any questions or problems, like trouble keeping up with everything, trouble studying for quizzes, or trouble not related to Phi Sigma Pi, feel free to contact the Initiate Adviser, the Brothers at Large, or any other active Brother. A contact list is provided for you in your binders and on the chapter's website. Always remember that you are working toward being a part of a Brotherhood, and Brothers are here to support you in that endeavor.

The Beta Delta Chapter of Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity welcomes you as one of its newest Initiates and wishes you the best of luck throughout your initiation program.