

**ALPHA PHI OMEGA
ALPHA GAMMA CHI CHAPTER
CODE OF CONDUCT & JUDICIAL PROCEDURES**

PREAMBLE

“Alpha Phi Omega is destined to be one of the greatest college fraternities in the world because it has its foundations, the highest ideals of the ages, the most perfect standard the generations have been able to produce, a standard accepted by all nations, all religions and all people, one where the motivating idea is to look for the good and to try to do good to everyone regardless of who or what belief, and furthermore has the practical application in most commendable educational social.”

Frank Reed Horton
March 1929

“Alpha Phi Omega teaches us through our principles of Leadership, Friendship and Service that we are the architects of our own ambitions and that each of us has the opportunity to develop ourselves to be whatever we seek to be.”

“A FRIEND IS SOMEONE WHO LIKES YOU DESPITE YOUR FAULTS, one who is honest and loyal toward you, one who brings out the best in you and overlooks the weak things that you do. If you fail, the friend gives you confidence, and if you do something wrong, inspires you to do it right, thereby giving you a sense of belonging.”

“Friendship is a give-and-take relationship. True friendship is measured by the amount of respect and devotion you feel and practice. A friend has a good sense of humor; uses good judgment, and will help you in difficulties; is considerate and not ashamed to be with you; does not tell jokes about you or turn away from you because another person may refuse to associate with you.”

“A friend is someone you can turn to in time of need and to whom you can tell your troubles in confidence. Above all, the way to have a friend is to be a friend.”

“In developing and executing a chapter service program, both the Brothers and those being served should benefit. Brothers should feel good about the quality of volunteer work they have done. They should feel challenged and have had the opportunity to learn new skills and strengthen friendships.”

“However long you are involved with Alpha Phi Omega, as a student or as an alumnus the philosophy of service, the leadership skills and the joy of helping others should remain with you. This commitment to our three Cardinal Principles is one of the continuing benefits of membership in Alpha Phi Omega.”

All quotes above are from the Alpha Phi Omega Pledge Manual (February, 1991), and this wisdom is to guide us in our understanding of each other and the situations that we create. As members, we should never lose sight of our commitment to the goals, principles, and ideas of Alpha Phi Omega and of this chapter. It is our duty to maintain this fraternity in all of its ways.

Everyone’s behavior and actions can be understood, but remember, “It’s only when we realize how much we do not understand, that true understanding begins.”
(Anonymous)

Article 1- CODE OF CONDUCT

Section 1- Code of Conduct Defined

Clause 1: This Code of Conduct shall be binding on all Brothers and Pledges of this Chapter.

Clause 2: Any member who has been charged with a violation of this Code of Conduct must have an arraignment hearing (unless otherwise stated in this document) to discuss the charge.

Clause 3: Brothers or Pledge of this chapter shall behave and act as follows:

1) Brothers or Pledges of this chapter shall strive to uphold the purpose of Alpha Phi Omega as stated in its Pledge Manual.

2) Brothers or Pledges shall not...

a) Haze in any way,

b) be physically violent in any way towards other member,

c) do anything that causes bad publicity for Alpha Phi Omega,

d) willingly offend other Brothers or Pledges at official Alpha Phi Omega functions.

e) harass another member,

f) disregard a directive within reason given by an officer as defined to be in authority in this chapter (assuming said directive is within the jurisdiction of said person's office).

Clause 4: A Brother or Pledge shall attempt to solve intra-fraternity problems in the following manner:

1) When a Brother or Pledge has a problem relating only to chapter business (not involving a specific person), or when a Brother or Pledge has a personal problem with another Brother or Pledge that also relates to chapter business, said individual may do the following:

a) deal with the individual first.

b) Next, go to the officer who has jurisdiction in the matter.

c) Next, go to the Sergeant-at-arms.

d) Next, go to the President.

2) When a Brother or Pledge has a personal problem with another Brother or Pledge that does not relate to any chapter business, the fraternity is **not** involved.

SECTION 2- VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW

Any Brother or Pledge who has been found guilty in a court of law for any felony charge will be automatically suspended from this chapter and will require a chapter Judicial Hearing (no arraignment Hearing necessary) to decide whether or not said member should have his/her membership status revoked.

SECTION 3- VIOLATIONS OF UNIVERSITY POLICY

Violations of University policy by a Brother or Pledge shall be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Executive Committee due to the effect on the Chapter.

SECTION 4- VIOLATIONS OF FRATERNITY POLICY

Clause 1: The following *charges* require a Judicial Hearing automatically and do not require an Arraignment Hearing.

- 1) Hazing,
- 2) Extreme behavioral misconduct toward another brother or Pledge,
- 3) Destruction of Fraternity Property.

Clause 2: An Arraignment hearing will proceed for any *charge* not listed in **Clause 1**.

ARTICLE II- JUDICIAL ACTIONS

SECTION 1 - ARRAIGNMENT HEARINGS - The chapter's Arraignment Hearings shall be as follows:

Clause 1: When any Judicial matter arises within this chapter and when a formal charge has been declared against a Brother or Pledge, the President[^], Sergeant-at-Arms[^], and one faculty advisor shall meet with the accuser(s) and the accused at the earliest possible convenience for all those listed herein to discuss the matter.

Clause 2: The President shall preside at this hearing, and he/she shall have rights (according to the latest edition of "Robert's Rules of Order, Revised") to conduct the meeting.

Clause 3: The written charges from each accuser shall be read by the Sergeant-at-arms at this meeting, and the accused shall answer to each charge.

Clause 4: After each charge has been discussed, at least two of the three officials present must vote affirmatively to bring said charge to a Judicial Hearing.

Clause 5: Any one derision of this hearing may be overturned if necessary by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of all active chapter members before the Judicial Hearing is held.

SECTION 2- JUDICIAL HEARINGS

The chapter's Judicial Hearing process shall be as follows:

Clause 1: The hearings shall occur at regular chapter general meetings. The first Judicial Hearing shall be announced two weeks in advance. The President[^] and Sergeant-at-arms[^] must attend this meeting. This part of the meeting is only open to Brothers, advisors, accuser(s), and the accused (unless otherwise stated in this document). Chairperson of the Advisory Committee taking precedence.

Clause 2: The chairperson shall have voice privileges and no voting privileges at this Hearing. However, the chairperson shall have rights (according to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Revised") to conduct the meeting and he/she shall have the power to break a tie vote.

Clause 3: To pass any decision at this hearing an affirmative vote by three-fourths of all active chapter members present is required.

Clause 4: The accuser(s), the accused, all active chapter members, and the chairperson of this Hearing shall be required to attend all Judicial Hearing meetings. If the accuser(s) or accused cannot attend the Hearing, an official representative shall be selected by the chapter to represent said individual. This

representative shall be someone who has the best interests of the represented party in mind.

Clause 5: At the first meeting of this Hearing other meetings shall follow at least once per week until the Judicial matter has been resolved.

Clause 6: For each charge against the accused:

- 1) The charge must be read to the chapter.
- 2) The accuser(s) and the accused must have at least one opportunity to speak to the chapter before debate begins on the charge.
- 3) The accuser(s) may present as much evidence as necessary.
- 4) The accused must have an opportunity to refute each item of evidence if so desired.
- 5) A judgment must be made by the chapter on the charge after all evidence has been presented. This judgment may be to suspend or revoke membership, or to allow said member to retain all membership privileges.
- 6) Any member of this Hearing the accused, and the accuser(s) may ask questions at any time, and may call witnesses into the meeting, one at a time.
- 7) A witness may be questioned by any member of the Hearing, the accused, or the accuser(s).

Clause 8: A witness must leave the meeting when all questions to said witness have been completed, except when said witness is a member of the Hearing, the accused, or the accuser(s).

Notes:

- 1) The (^) represents... or other person acting officially in that position in the absence of said officer.
- 2) Any occurrence of the word "Brother" in this document refers to only Active, Associate, and Honorary members of this chapter. In other words, Advisor and Alumni members of this chapter are not bound by this document.

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