



Sigma Chi New Member Education Plan Spring 2019

Alpha Chapter | Miami University

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Message from Magister

Sigma Chi Pledge,

I want to formally congratulate you on your bid acceptance to the Alpha Chapter of Sigma Chi. During the recruitment process, I hope the brothers have answered your questions about Sigma Chi and our Alpha Chapter. Moreover, I want you to know your obligations and commitments as a member of Sigma Chi. The process of accepting a prospective member into our order requires a vote of 90% of the entire chapter. We are very impressed by your credentials and believe you to possess the qualities of the Jordan Standard. We believe you will advance the interests of the Fraternity through your deeds and actions.

In this time before your formal pledging begins, our chapter must ensure that you fully grasp the nature of our values and the deep and binding nature of our commitment to friendship, justice and learning. During progress toward becoming a Sigma Chi you will be charged to conduct yourself throughout life as a man of honor and a gentleman; a warm, trusted and dependable friend, with deep respect for the needs of your brothers and the interests of all in the preservation of the fraternal bonds and the reputation of the Fraternity; to maintain the secrecy of the Ritual and to obey the laws of the Fraternity and your chapter; to perpetuate the interests of the Fraternity and your brothers in all honorable ways; and to realize a responsibility to not only your own chapter brothers, but to all Sigma Chis

Once again, congratulations and I hope you enjoy and learn from the journey that awaits you.

In Hoc Signo Vincas,
Hunter Meacham
Magister

Dear Parents,

Our brotherhood is pleased and gratified that your son has chosen Sigma Chi as the fraternity with which he hopes to affiliate. As Pledge Educator of the Alpha Chapter of the Sigma Chi Fraternity, I want you to know about your son's pledgship and our expectations of him. In choosing to pledge Sigma Chi, your son has voluntarily taken on certain obligations and responsibilities. These responsibilities have a definite purpose: making him a better man, further developing his character and personality, and of great importance, respecting those teachings you have instilled within him throughout his life. May I further explain the purpose of the pledging period by presenting to you the objectives of Sigma Chi's Preparation for Brotherhood Program:

- To cultivate and maintain the high ideals on which Sigma Chi was founded: Friendship, Justice and Learning,
- To foster and preserve high academic standards,
- To train the undergraduate in leadership responsibility and instill the idea of good citizenship,
- To take inspiration from the White Cross and follow the principles outlined by our Founders to a life of spiritual fulfillment,
- To stimulate participation in college programs and to develop close cooperation between Sigma Chi membership and college officials, faculty, and other student organizations, and
- To provide a helping hand of brotherhood for the achievement of purposeful living, both in the college community and in the years that follow.

The duties and responsibilities of my office as pledge educator are centered around the planning and implementation of the above objectives. My primary responsibility in this office will be acting as a teacher and counselor for the pledge class. Please feel free to browse through one of the reference tools given to your son, The Norman Shield, so that you may gain a broader understanding of his pledgship and the history of our Fraternity. Also, please feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions or concerns about your son's Sigma Chi experience. Our chapter would like to extend an invitation to you to stop by our chapter house some evening for dinner or during the weekend. I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Hunter Meacham | Magister (Pledge Educator)

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Introduction

The undergraduates of Sigma Chi are the lifeblood of the Fraternity. The manner in which we develop our new pledges will shape the fate and future of Sigma Chi. The purpose of the Preparation for Brotherhood Program is to ensure that each of our new pledges, regardless of their home chapter, receives the same quality education about our organization. An effective pledge experience, followed by a meaningful Initiation, will create a deep love for Sigma Chi in our new brothers. As Magister, you play a vital role in this process. The Preparation for Brotherhood Program you implement should accomplish the following objectives. As a result of the program, your pledges will:

1. Gain a comprehensive orientation to Sigma Chi – its history, values, ideals and programs, as well as, understand Sigma Chi’s commitment/contributions to the Greek world, campus and community,
2. Demonstrate knowledge of Sigma Chi operations and governance at the local chapter, province and international levels,
3. Develop a deep sense of personal responsibility to cultivate true brotherhood with members of the Fraternity,
4. Develop an understanding of Sigma Chi’s values-based leadership model and its application to their daily life, and...
5. Be prepared to begin a lifelong commitment to Sigma Chi through exposure to our Ritual.

Remember that each pledge has a primary responsibility to the university. Pledgeship should be an integral part of their university life which contributes to, not detracts from, school itself.

Seven Values of Sigma Chi

Courage
Widom
Integrity
High Ambition
Self Control

Courtesy
Fidelity

Sigma Chi Alcohol-Free Recruitment

Sigma Chi prides itself on the diligence that goes into the recruitment of new members. Potential recruits are weighed against a standard that has been an integral part of this organization for decades. This is known as the Jordan Standard, and the seven tenants that it contains serves as the minimum requirement for enrollment into a pledge class. Such emphasis is put into an unbiased and values-based recruitment that alcohol has no place in any recruitment event nor during bid distribution.

Anti Hazing Statement (from the Sigma Chi Fraternity Handbook)

Sigma Chi is based on the principles of Friendship, Justice and Learning. We condemn hazing as it conflicts directly with these principles and it will not be tolerated. If you feel that you are being hazed, you have the right and obligation to leave the chapter immediately and report the offenses to the Chapter Advisor, Grand Praetor and Sigma Chi International Headquarters.

Sigma Chi is adamant about the total elimination of hazing in its chapters throughout North America. Sigma Chi has made clear in the Statement of Position Concerning Pledge Training & the Ritual, in 6.02.f of the Executive Committee Regulations, the Governing Laws and in the Statement of Position Concerning Pledge Training and the Ritual that hazing activities will not be tolerated. Those who participate are subject to expulsion from the Fraternity.

Our Chapter's Definition of Hazing

Hazing can be described as any incident or activity that may or may not cause mental or physical harm to a student looking to join an organization. These incidents along with any formal and unofficial acts of initiation are strictly prohibited in our new member program.

Our Standards/Code of Conduct

Educational Standards

Attendance/Course Completion

Pledges are expected to complete all components of the P4B program. This includes Sigma Chi U eLearning, Journaling, and attendance at all Ceremonies, Group Sessions and Experiential Exercises scheduled. If scheduling conflicts occur (e.g. athletic or academic conflicts, emergencies), pledges are expected to notify their Magister in advance. Any missed Group Sessions or Experiential Activities must be made up within the same week (to allow the pledge to proceed with Sigma Chi U elearning activities). It will be the pledge's responsibility to meet with their Magister to review the materials missed. Dress code for all meetings will be suit and tie unless explicitly stated otherwise.

Exams

Pledges will receive one of seven exam segments at the end of each Learning Course beginning in Course 2. The successful completion of these seven exams achieves the International requirement. The pledge will have two opportunities to pass each exam at an accuracy level of 75 percent or better. We suggest Magisters check these averages regularly to spot any problems early. (See the Sigma Chi U User Guide.)

If the pledge has not achieved an accuracy level of 75 percent on their second attempt, we suggest the following protocol be followed:

1. Pledge must communicate the problem immediately to their Magister.
2. Magister and Chapter Advisor will determine if the pledge is eligible to continue.

Academic Standards

To be eligible for initiation, a pledge must: have attained an accumulated scholastic grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, or have a GPA at or above the all-men's average at the host institution specified in the charter of the initiating chapter or, if no college scholastic grade point average is available at the time of initiation, then:

- 1) Graduated in the top twenty-five (25) percent of his high school (or equivalent) graduating class or
- 2) Must have a minimum high school GPA of 3.0 and reasonable belief that he will have at least a collegiate GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or
- 3) Have a collegiate GPA at or above the all-men's average at the host institution.

Financial Requirement

All pledges must be paid up and current in all financial obligations to the chapter and Fraternity, including any chapter dues as well as Pledging and Initiation fees. In order to fulfill fiduciary responsibilities, dues for both active and new members is set at \$850 per semester.

Pledge Disciplinary Procedures

If, during the pledge period, a pledge does something that is unbecoming of a Sigma Chi or if he cannot meet the academic minimum standard set forth by the International Fraternity, the chapter should follow normal judicial protocol.

Any degradation, humiliation, or intimidation used as part of a judicial process is forbidden.

Preparation for Brotherhood

The education of a Sigma Chi is a lifelong process. The Fraternity's Preparation for Brotherhood program is the first step on a learning continuum that does not end with a member's Initiation. It is the beginning of the journey of brotherhood that continues throughout a person's lifetime. The overarching goal of the Preparation for Brotherhood program is to ensure that each new pledge, regardless of their chapter, receives the same education about Sigma Chi. Through a blended learning approach, pledges and active brothers will engage one another in-person, through experiential activities, readings and online using the new Sigma Chi U learning management system.

Within Sigma Chi's current pledge programming, the main consistency is an I-week period following the standard pledge program. While some brothers might say their I-week was the best part of their pledgship experience and served as an inspiration, others no longer speak of their I-week or were even driven from our Fraternity as a result of it. The Preparation for Brotherhood program takes the best parts of our I-week program and spreads them throughout the entire pledge program, bringing the same level of inspiration and engagement to the participants each week.

Throughout the program's eight courses, which are all built around Sigma Chi's founders, values and education, pledges will:

1. Gain a comprehensive orientation to Sigma Chi – its history, values, ideals and programs, as well as understand Sigma Chi's commitment and contributions to the Greek-letter world, campus and community;
2. Demonstrate knowledge of operations and governance at the local chapter, province and International Fraternity levels;
3. Develop a deep sense of personal responsibility to cultivate true brotherhood with members of the Fraternity;

4. Develop an understanding of Sigma Chi values-based leadership and its application to their daily life; and
5. Be prepared to begin a lifelong commitment to Sigma Chi through exposure to our Ritual.

Preparation For Brotherhood Module Completion Dates:

Date	Required Modules
Feb 6	C1, C2, C3, C4, 1.1
Feb 7	1.2, 1.3
Feb 12	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6
Feb 19	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4
Feb 26	4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5

New Member Education Period Event Description

Chapter: Sigma Chi
Activity #: 1, 2
Activity Title: Pledge Class Introductions

Description, History and Goals:

After the pledge class is established, new members are encouraged to come to the chapter house to meet their pledge brothers as well as actives in an informal setting. This meeting is not mandatory and simply serves as an additional opportunity for new members to wind-down from rush with their new pledge class.

Chapter: Sigma Chi
Activity #: 3
Activity Title: Formal Pinning Ceremony

Description, History and Goals:

This is the official beginning to pledgship. Pledge Class members will receive pledge pins and Norman Shields at the chapter house. Chapter members and alumni will speak on the importance of the pledge process historically and outline expectations. All chapter members will be in attendance to support the new pledge class. At the end of this ceremony , pledges will receive their Sigma Chi big brother. Afterwards, pledge class will be given an overview of the pledge process as well as expectations in a classroom setting in the chapter house library.

Chapter: Sigma Chi
Activity #: 4
Activity Title: Group Session 1

Description, History and Goals:

This group session session is designed to: introduce new pledges to the purpose and protocol of the Preparation for Brotherhood Group Sessions, take a deeper look at the content and purpose of The Jordan Standard, introduce the ConnΣXtions Process, introduce the Sigma Chi tradition

of the Literary Exercise, conduct the first Candle Pass of the P4B Program and explain its purpose. This will occur in a classroom setting in Harrison Hall Room 302.

Chapter: Sigma Chi
Activity #: 5
Activity Title: Man In the Glass

Description, History and Goals:

The Man in the Glass helps our pledges understand that true character happens when no one is looking. It stresses the importance of personal responsibility and integrity. It is designed to encourage introspective thought and emphasize the importance of integrity as a fraternity man. This activity occurs at the chapter house, with brothers leading the pledge class into individual activity stations. Each station involves a separate reading, followed by a discussion.

Chapter: Sigma Chi
Activity #: 6
Activity Title: Group Session 2

Description, History and Goals:

This group session focuses on the values that makes a Sigma Chi who he is. It also involves learning the fundamental purposes of the organization and why our founders felt this was important. This will occur in a classroom setting in Harrison Hall Room 302.

Chapter: Sigma Chi

Activity #: 7

Activity Title: Group Session 3
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Description, History and Goals:

This group session focuses the Sigma Chi Creed. Pledges will discuss their own personal creed as well that they will have prepared beforehand. This lesson emphasizes the importance of living with a purpose and remaining true to it. Chapter officers will attend the meeting and discuss our chapter's history along with how the organization operates. This will occur in a classroom setting in Harrison Hall Room 302.

Chapter: Sigma Chi

Activity #: 8

Activity Title: Illumination

Description, History and Goals:

The purpose of "Illumination" is to illustrate the importance of individual contribution within the chapter, and to identify how, within The Spirit of Sigma Chi, different temperaments, talents, and convictions bring people of different abilities together for the purposes of pursuing higher ideals. This activity will occur at the chapter house library and involves a history lesson involving the loss of Sigma Chi charters since 1970 followed by a discussion.

Chapter: Sigma Chi

Activity #: 9

Activity Title: Group Session 4
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Description, History and Goals:

This session focuses on the Values-Based Decision Making Model Sigma Chi's use to sort through the difficult choices that may face them in college and throughout life, brothers will help pledges to understand the role/responsibilities of the Risk Manager within the chapter structure. This will occur in a classroom setting in Harrison Hall Room 302.

Chapter: Sigma Chi
Activity #: 10, 11, 12
Activity Title: Ritual Bridge

Description, History and Goals:

The Ritual Bridge is a three-part orientation in preparation for initiation. These sessions are held in a classroom setting like all prior group sessions. These meetings are used as a means to answer any questions prior to initiation and ensure that all members of the pledge class understand what they have learned to this point. Additional materials pertaining to fraternity symbols and mottos will be given in these meetings as well.

Completion of the Preparation for Brotherhood Program

When pledges have successfully completed the P4B Program, the following process must be initiated by the Magister.

From the Sigma Chi Governing Laws

S3.12 Pledgeship shall be terminated by the candidate's initiation, only by agreement between the candidate and the chapter, or by a vote of not less than 20 percent of the active members present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the chapter, unless the chapter bylaws prescribe some higher percentage.

S3.13 Prior to his initiation, each candidate's eligibility under Section 3.07 shall be affirmed by:

- a. A formal vote of final approval by not less than 80 percent of the active members present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the chapter, and
- b. The tacit approval of the Grand Consul, who shall disapprove only for a stated cause based on the provisions of Section 3.07.

Big Brothers

The Preparation for Brotherhood Program places heightened emphasis and importance on peer-to-peer coaching. The Big Brother will play a variety of roles in the education process of a pledge including: Guide, Coach, Resource, Role Model, and Advocate.

Note:

Some chapters have developed different names for the relationship between a pledge and an active member serving as his guide. It is important to make sure that the name we use to describe this relationship is consistent with its intent.

Many chapters use the term Pledge Father/Pledge Son, Pops/Sono, or similar designations. This designation has a much different meaning than intended in our fraternal association. It is parental terminology.

The Big Brother/Little Brother relationship is more of a sibling relationship like that of brothers in a family. We are all brothers (not fathers/sons) tied together by our Ritual. Therefore, the proper designation should be Big Brother/Little Brother.

Academics

Sigma Chi - Alpha Chapter bylaws states that a minimum of a 3.00 GPA is required at all times, for all interested potential rushees, to be considered for membership. No person shall be eligible for initiation into Sigma Chi Alpha unless he has sustained a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 in accordance with the university regulations and those of the International Sigma Chi Fraternity. This will be strictly enforced

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