



Alpha Chi

National College Honor Society

Alpha Chi's Ideals

As Alpha Chi begins its second century, emphasis is being given to promoting critical, constructive, inclusive, and respectful conversations about important societal matters that contribute to one's search for truth and personal growth.

Our mission is to broaden the collegiate experience by:

- Encouraging Student Creativity and Research
- Fostering Excellence and Service in Action
- Promoting Personal Growth through Diversity
- Equipping Compassionate Listeners and Leaders
- Providing a Path for Academic and Professional Mentoring
- Exemplifying How to Make Scholarship Effective for Good

The name Alpha Chi comes from the first letters of the Greek words *Aletheia* (truth) and *XAPAKTHP* (character). Alpha Chi identifies the intersection of these two tenets in the following practices:

- Tenacity for improved communication skills and a willingness to reflect on our societal impact
- Respect and reason in discourse that leads to responsible and purposeful action
- Understanding different world views and truths with empathy
- Thoughtful and character-driven use of intellectual leadership
- Humility that encourages each other to growth

Alpha Chi – A Great Partner

Our member institutions enjoy the benefit of a relationship with a prestigious honor society with a century of experience in interdisciplinary scholarship. Alpha Chi encourages high-achieving students to value their potential to make a difference in the world by using the knowledge and skills obtained in their college years, and we partner with each institutional chapter to accomplish this with:

Our Focus on Undergraduate Research and Creativity

- Annual national and regional scholarship competitions and awards
- A national stage on which to present original research and creative work to a multidisciplinary audience of their peers with a chance to win cash prizes in 30 different disciplines
- Undergraduate publication in *Aletheia*, Alpha Chi's peer-reviewed, undergraduate research journal

Service Opportunities and Academic Engagement

- National service initiatives annually
- Activity grants (up to \$500 per chapter annually) for creative, on-campus academic or service programs
- Combined activities and events with other nearby chapters; virtual events expand those possibilities



2018 Research & Creativity Forum at Portland Convention

A Diversity of Experiential Learning

- Access to academic and professional networking and learning from professionals who are making a difference in their areas of expertise
- Annual opportunities for travel to a large city for life-changing experiences
- Broadened learning with access to presentations from young scholars and creatives outside their own disciplines from a variety of colleges to lessen the impact of the silo syndrome

Professional Development

- Student, faculty, and staff opportunities for leadership roles from the chapter to the national level
- Experiences as elected representatives, session speakers, moderators, manuscript editors, and judges
- Travel and housing grants for national convention participation (up to \$1,600 per chapter annually)

Multidisciplinary Collaboration

- Unlike discipline-specific organizations, Alpha Chi encourages student members to work collaboratively with students of all majors. Each fall chapters can enter a team in our collaborative research project competition where the top team prizes are \$5,000 and \$2,500.

Embedded Networking and Mentoring

- Getting involved with an Alpha Chi chapter is a wonderful way to make long-lasting connections from induction to graduate school and beyond.
- Chapter advisors and leadership teams serve your students as personal and academic mentors.
- From in-person conventions to online events, the opportunity to build friendships and collaborate with others who share intellectual curiosity is crucial.

On-Campus Recognition

- Alpha Chi members receive recognition as distinguished students and members of one of the largest and most prestigious college honor societies in the world. Inductees receive a membership certificate suitable for framing and a recognition lapel pin (both distributed by the chapter advisor upon induction).
- Alpha Chi members should receive special recognition at commencement by being recognized in the commencement program and by wearing their blue and green honor cords, honor stole, or the member medallion.



NC Phi's convention delegation smiles for a group photo



Students write notes to go with Meals on Wheels deliveries

Alpha Chi National College Honor Society is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization (EIN 74-6047760) that has been an active and certified ACHS member since 1955. The one-time fee for a student's lifetime Alpha Chi membership is \$55, and chapters may add a reasonable local fee not to exceed the national fee. There are no other national fees charged to remain a member or maintain a chapter.

Alpha Chi—Dedicated to Making Scholarship Effective for Good

AlphaChiHonor.org

How to Partner with Alpha Chi

If you are interested in adding Alpha Chi as a valuable partner in the work of your institutional mission, the chapter chartering process is outlined below. If you have questions or would like to speak with someone, please contact:

Lara Q. Noah, Executive Director
Alpha Chi National College Honor Society
8 Shackleford Plaza, Ste. 200, Little Rock, Arkansas 72211
lnoah@alphachihonor.org or 800-477-4225

Charter Petition Process

Eligibility: To be eligible for consideration for a chapter of Alpha Chi, an institution must offer, at minimum, the baccalaureate degree, and must be a member in good standing of the regional accrediting association of the territory in which it is found. As of 2017, only petitions from not-for-profit institutions are considered.

Required Items:

- ❖ Chapter Charter Petition Form – available upon request from office@alphachihonor.org
- ❖ One-time charter fee of \$250
- ❖ Letter of support from your institution's chief academic officer or other academic or administrative officer

Procedure: Send these items by mail to the address above, and the executive director will prepare a ballot by email to the National Council, Alpha Chi's board of directors, for approval by an affirmative two-thirds vote of its members. If the chapter is not approved, the fee will be returned.

Once a charter has been approved, the president of Alpha Chi's National Council will assign a Council member to visit and facilitate the installation of the chapter at a mutually agreed upon date preferably within the academic year of charter approval. While the appointed Council member will travel at Alpha Chi's cost, the institution may want to arrange housing on or near campus.

The National Office will begin working with the Chapter Advisor (see reverse) as they invite eligible students to become founding members of the new chapter and host the ceremony to officially install the chapter on your campus. Your steps during this process are to: 1) follow any institutional guidelines for recognizing a campus organization; 2) obtain and verify a list of eligible students; 3) send invitations through our chapter admin portal; and 4) plan the inaugural induction of new members.

A chapter banner and engraved charter plaque will be provided to each new chapter. The administration is encouraged to purchase the other ceremonial items (table runner, candles, etc.) for use in the inauguration and subsequent induction ceremonies. Those items are available in the Alpha Chi store at www.BrownsAwards.com.



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Making Scholarship Effective for Good

Traits of an Excellent Alpha Chi Chapter Advisor

The chapter's primary advisor is a position appointed by the institution's president or chief academic officer.

Great Chapter Advisors Are:

- Invested in student success
- Willing to mentor student research and creativity
- Understanding of campus culture and policies
- Invested in honors students and enjoys good rapport with them
- Ready to add value to campus, civic, and professional life
- Trustworthy with student records and able to manage a local dues budget
- Available for travel to an annual conference
- Willing to collaborate with co-advisors, other academic departments, and campus organizations

Chapter Advisor Key Responsibilities:

- Promote Alpha Chi on campus
- Identify and invite eligible students to join Alpha Chi
- Organize a public Induction Ceremony for new members at least once per academic year, be it in-person or virtual (chapters are welcome to invite and/or induct new members each semester)
- Foster student research
 - Oversee scholarship nominations
 - Oversee program proposals for annual convention
- Facilitate student leadership
 - Chapter officers and chapter life
 - An annual campus academic program
 - Civic engagement and service opportunities
- Maintain communication with the Alpha Chi National Office
 - Annual chapter report filing
 - Stay abreast of national communications



Advisors at work reviewing scholarship competition nominations

National Office Advisor/Officer Support:

- Advisor and student officer onboarding
- Online portal for invitation management and collection of new member fees
- Invitation and induction support (member pin and certificate fulfillment)
- Chapter event planning resources (Chapter Activity Grant program)
- Convention support (national travel and housing grants for convention participation)
- Toll-free support Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm Central at 800-477-4225 and office@alphachihonor.org, 8 Shackleford Plaza, Ste. 200, Little Rock, AR 72211

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How to Evaluate the Credibility of an Honor Society

All campus administrators and faculty should beware of predatory organizations that call themselves honor societies without requiring high academic standards for membership. These organizations can charge exorbitant initiation and membership fees and often more than once. They exist primarily to make a profit rather than to create opportunities for the students they purport to serve. Some have found ways around privacy laws and invite students via email from a national (non-campus) office, without input from a campus academic advisor to verify that the student would qualify as a high achiever. **If an honor society has not been certified as meeting the high standards of the Association of College Honor Societies (www.achshonor.org), examine the following criteria:**

Minimum Scholastic Criteria

- Undergraduate (General)—Rank in the upper 20% of the class
- Undergraduate (Specialized and Leadership)—Rank in the upper 35% of the class. That rank converts to a 3.2 or 3.3 GPA in most cases; 3.0 is likely too low in this age of grade inflation. Honor societies that advertise a minimum 3.0 are probably more appropriately labeled as Recognition Societies (a definition that has been generally accepted since 1925).
- These criteria are minimums; many societies have higher standards.

Governance

- Membership participation in setting authority for control of the affairs of the organization
- Governance by officers/board members elected by the membership
- Membership participation in approving and amending bylaws
- Full financial disclosure
- **Recognition as a 501(c)3 non-profit (the organization itself—not only a foundation or arm of the organization)**

Campus Chapters

- Formal chartering of each campus chapter by institution and college/department petition, approved by official action of the governing body of the national organization
- Candidate selection by the campus chapter
- Membership invitation by an official chapter
- Chapter representation in national governance

Web Site—These should be accessible to the public:

- National Officers and Headquarters Staff
- National Office mailing, telephone, and e-mail addresses
- Criteria for membership
- Benefits of membership
- Membership fee
- Constitution and/or Bylaws
- Chapter charter policies and procedures



Warning Signs that Raise Questions about Credibility

- Address limited to a post office box/number
- Missing web site items (above), especially bylaws—thus transparency is lacking
- Missing contact information for the Chief Executive Officer
- An online application (certified honor societies issue invitations to qualified candidates only from institutional chapters)
- Vague and flexible eligibility standards
- No structure of institutional chapters
- Lack of non-profit status (Not sure if it's a non-profit? See <https://www.guidestar.org/Home.aspx>.)