



DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED
A Service Sorority Founded in 1913
2021-2022
MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
FOR ALUMNAE CHAPTERS

Eligibility for Membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Constitution and Bylaws (2020 Edition including 2021 amendment related to residency).

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR ALUMNAE MEMBERSHIP INTAKE

Any woman of good character is eligible for alumnae membership in the Sorority provided that she:

1. must demonstrate involvement in public service activities;
2. lives in a primary residence which must be in the chapter service area as identified by the chapter charter or source documentation provided from National Headquarters or regional director or she lives within 50 miles of the chapter's service area (in the same region) that is not in another chapter's service area.
3. holds a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent or higher from an accredited college, university or professional school that is recognized by the US Department of Education, the Council of Higher Education, or the equivalent international accreditation agency;
4. has submitted a completed Application for Membership Packet, to the chapter which includes an official transcript showing a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale or 1.75 on a 3.0 scale, which transcript must be emailed directly to the chapter from the appropriate college or university. The grade point average requirement is not applicable where the applicant demonstrates that:
 - a) it has been 10 years or more since she has received her baccalaureate degree or its equivalent; or
 - b) she has received a professional designation equivalent to master's degree or above; or
 - c) she has received a post-graduate degree or a professional designation equivalent (International Chapters only).
5. is not a member of, nor has been expelled from, any society holding membership in the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc., the Panhellenic Conference, Inc., or the National Multicultural Greek Council, Inc., or Interfraternity Council (IFC);
6. has been approved for membership by majority vote of the members of the chapter through which she is to be initiated. The chapter vote is final. Absent a violation of the Sorority's Membership Intake Program, a chapter vote shall be upheld;
7. has been approved for membership by the Director of the Region of which the initiating chapter is a part;
8. meets all financial requirements of the Grand Chapter and the initiating chapter; and

9. meets all requirements for membership as outlined in the Administrative Procedures for Membership Intake and procedural manuals approved by the National Board.

PUBLIC SERVICE CRITERIA

From its founding in 1913, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated's criteria for membership have included documented and credible involvement of each individual as a volunteer in public service. Therefore, those seeking membership in the Sorority must demonstrate involvement in a public service activity.

As approved by Grand Chapter at the 47th National Convention, public service is not limited to the service area of the chapter.

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED SEEKS WOMEN WHO DEMONSTRATE ACTIVE PUBLIC SERVICE INVOLVEMENT AS OPPOSED TO SELF-SERVING INVOLVEMENT.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated's Public Service Criteria

In Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, public service is that which provides solace, support and/or care for the needy. Public service activities are activities performed above and beyond those that are job-related or those that are done in the interest of the applicant's family or self.

The official Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated definition of Public Service is:

Service provided to a community (not necessarily in the applicant chapter's current service delivery area) validated by an official representative of the entity receiving the service, an official responsible for management of the service mission (third party verification of service is acceptable), or the organization's campus advisor.

Public Service is **UNPAID** voluntarism that is **NOT** mandated or required by an organization in which the candidate is a member (e.g., The Links, Junior League, or Jack & Jill), or for completion of a college requirement for graduation (as determined in the university/college requirements).

Eligible Public Service Examples

- Feeding the homeless, mentorship, organizing clothing drive, serving at a food pantry, organizing drives (e.g., clothing, blood drives, mobilizing voters), volunteering at senior centers).
- Applicants who are volunteering their time to provide tutoring services which **ARE NOT** required as a condition of their employment and/or college/university credit, **WOULD BE** considered eligible public service credit under these guidelines.
- Applicants who are members of community/national organizations (e.g., NAACP, Urban League), in which community service participation is **NOT REQUIRED** as part of their membership, **WOULD BE** considered eligible for public service credit under these guidelines.
- Applicants who are volunteering at an animal shelter assisting with the adoption of pets, caring for rescue animals, and assisting with the care and nurture of animals in a shelter **WOULD BE** considered eligible public service credit under these guidelines.
- Applicants who serve/hold non-profit board membership by way of election or appointment, without fiscal compensation, inclusive of community service benefiting/supporting the community (e.g., feeding the homeless, kids lock-in, food bank volunteerism, etc.) would be considered eligible public service. The

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letter must share the applicant's time on board, services provided to the community and their individual contribution, along with the frequency of service.

- Applicants involved in school organizations that benefit all children (e.g., PTA, troop leader). Note: If the applicant's child is part of the group, the public service letter must verify that the service benefits all children.

NOT Eligible Public Service Examples

- Applicants who are volunteering at any city/state/national official political campaign office or any political campaign duties **WOULD NOT** be considered eligible for public service credit under these guidelines.
- Applicants who are college/university graduate assistants and **ARE REQUIRED** to complete a specified amount of community service hours for graduate credit or completion of a degree, **WOULD NOT** be considered eligible for public service credit under these guidelines.
- Applicants who are officers in a collegiate, community, or national organization and **REQUIRED** to complete a minimum number of public service hours as a condition of being an officer, **ARE NOT** eligible for public service credit under these guidelines.
- **Volunteerism in Delta-sponsored activities/programs is invalid for a letter of recommendation when applying for membership in Delta Sigma Theta.**

Self Serving Involvement:

Self-serving Involvement does **NOT** meet the public service criteria. Self-serving involvement examples such as includes:

- Church activities common/internal to all churches, examples such as Sunday school teacher and singing in the choir, serving as an officer of the church, or completing administrative duties (**NOTE:** However, involvement in church activities that goes beyond the congregation to the community-at-large, (e.g., outreach) such as participation in food banks, clothing collection/distribution, or disaster relief are considered public service)
- Member of an investment club
- Member of a bowling team
- Parental involvement with one's own child's or family member's activities (e.g., PTA, coach of your child's/family member's team, troop leader of your child's or family member's troop)
- Activities associated with a condition of employment
- Activities directly related to course requirements (high school, college/university, etc.)
- Volunteer activities for local, state, and national candidate's election campaigns

Alumnae Applicants

- ✓ An individual must complete a minimum of one hundred and twenty hours (120) hours of public service to the same entity within 48 months (4) years prior to the date of the RUSH. The number of months (48) updated due to the pandemic.

Non-Profit/Not-for-Profit/Foundation established by an applicant

If applicant has established a non-profit, not-for-profit or a foundation, the following criteria **MUST** be met in order for it to be considered eligible for Public Service:

- the organization must have been established **three (3)** years or more (prior to the date of the RUSH);
AND
- the applicant can **NOT** receive any form of payment, reimbursement, stipend, and/or in-kind services for her service and/or time.
 - The Letter of recommendation to confirm public service **MUST**:
 - Include the Applicant's Name
 - Include the name of organization
 - Name, position, date (typed or pen and ink and in Month Day Year format), signature (pen and ink - not digital) and contact information of the person writing the letter. The contact information must include the email address and/or telephone number of the person writing the letter.
 - Must come from a partner organization that has benefited from the services of the applicant's organization or from an elected public official (examples include, but are not all-inclusive of, Alderman, Mayor, City Council member, School Board official, Governor) in the area where the service is being provided; **AND**
 - Be on the partner organization's or the elected official's letterhead; **AND**
 - Include details of the impact of the partnership with the applicant's organization or the impact to the community if the letter is from an elected official. The letter should also highlight the impact of the applicant's direct involvement.

ACADEMIC CRITERIA

It is the responsibility of those seeking membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated to ensure the credit hours and cumulative grade point averages appear on the official transcript provided by the school of current enrollment or the degree-granting institution in order for the application to be considered. Transcripts should reflect a grade point average based on/converted to a 3.0 or 4.0 scale. Only the information provided on the current transcript is used.

A completed Application for Membership must be completed, and an official transcript received showing a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale or 1.75 on a 3.0 scale. The transcript must be emailed directly to the chapter from the appropriate college or university. Note: If the College/University does not offer electronic transcripts, the applicant may contact the chapter president for an alternative.

The grade point average requirement is not applicable where the applicant demonstrates that:

- a) it has been 10 years or more since she has received her baccalaureate degree; or its equivalent; or
- b) she has received a professional designation equivalent to master's degree or above; or
- c) she has received a post-graduate degree or a professional designation equivalent (International Chapters only)

Calculating total credit hours and/or cumulative grade point averages is the responsibility of the registrar of the college/university providing the transcript. Chapters will NOT calculate grade point averages.

MATRICULATION CRITERIA

N/A for Alumnae Chapters

MILITARY ACTIVE-DUTY CRITERIA

Active Duty is defined as:

Full-time service in the Armed Forces or National Guard unit with regular duties and pay.

BACKGROUND SCREENING

ALL applicants are required to successfully pass the background screening prior to being extended an invitation for an interview. The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Membership Intake Background Screening shall be conducted by a company selected and approved by National Headquarters. Applicants are restricted to applying to one (1) chapter within ninety (90) calendar days of the previous chapter's application deadline date. Applicants are responsible for completing and submitting all applicable state forms related to the background screening application process.

RESIDENCY CRITERIA (Alumnae Chapters Only)

Alumnae applicants MUST reside in the service area of the chapter*. Proof of the applicant's primary residence is required and must be submitted with the application. A post office box or business address is NOT acceptable evidence as proof of residency. An applicant's residence shall be verified to determine the eligibility of the applicant. The Sorority defines residence as the place where a person has her true, fixed, permanent/primary home and principal living establishment and to which, whenever she is away, she has intention of returning. Residence established solely for the purpose of seeking membership in the Sorority cannot be considered as fulfilling the definition. A post office box or business address is not acceptable. Falsifying residency information will render the applicant ineligible for membership in the Sorority.

All forms utilized as proof of primary residency must match the name and address provided on the application.

All documents must show the name and address of the applicant and must match the address listed on the application to meet the residency requirement for eligibility. Proof of PRIMARY residency is required from Alumnae applicants and the applicant must reside in the service area of the chapter or within 50 miles of the chapter's service area if the applicant does not live in any chapter's service area. The applicant must live in the same region as the chapter. A post office box or business address is not acceptable.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure ALL requirements of the acceptable form of residency verification is included. For example, if the required date is not provided/included on the document, the applicant MAY NOT utilize that as a form of residency verification.

Applicant must provide two (2) qualifying proofs of PRIMARY residency. Applicants may choose 2 proofs of residency from Category One OR may choose one each from Category One, Category Two, Category Three and/or Category Four.

Proof of PRIMARY residency acceptable forms are listed by category below. Proofs of residency may be provided from more than one category.

Valid proof of Primary Residency (Alumnae applicants only): Applicant must provide two (2) qualifying proofs of PRIMARY residency. Applicants may choose 2 proofs of residency from Category One OR may choose one each from Category One, Category Two, Category Three and/or Category Four totaling two (2) proofs of residency.

Category One (2 items are permitted from this category to meet the criteria):

- Driver's License or State Issued Identification Card (Must include the address. The issue date must be at least 120 days prior the date of the RUSH.); Note: If Driver's License was renewed within 120 days of the RUSH, proof must be provided.
- Current/Active Homeowners/Condominium/Renters Insurance Policy
- Automobile registration/auto tax bill.
- Property tax statement
- 1098 T- Tuition Form (Recent Graduates -within 2 years)

Category Two (only 1 item from this category is permitted):

- Deed, Mortgage Statement
- Lease Agreement with applicant name and address as Lessee Note: Lease must be signed 120 days or more prior to the date of the RUSH

Category Three (only 1 item from this category is permitted): must provide one bill per month for each of the last three months prior to the date of the RUSH

- Utility Bill (gas, electric, sewer)
- Cable bill
- Home phone bill
- Cellular phone bill (recent graduates within one year from date of application). Review transcript.

Category Four: Current military personnel, or spouses and those who have become a veteran within the last two (2) years. If military spouse, name must be listed as 'Accompanying dependent')

May present one of the following:

- Military Orders (Must indicate permanent change of station (PCS) or temporary change of station (TCS), verify active duty, and provide dates of relocation)
 - If military spouse, name must be listed as 'Accompanying dependent'
- Letter from Commanding Officer and/or Post Housing Officer on Official Letterhead, with an Original Signature (pen and ink – not digital) and must identify the current Duty Station

Note: For the online application the Military applicant must upload the same document in both residency fields.

NOTE #1: Your PRIMARY residency will be verified based upon the name and address listed on the proof of PRIMARY residency acceptable forms and the application.

* **International Chapters only:** Consistent with chapter's service area, on file with National Headquarters, and operating agreement

** If granted an interview, **MUST** present Military ID for admittance