

The Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity

Summary of Membership Obligations

The obligations of membership in Lambda Chi Alpha can be found in the Constitution, the Statutory Code, and in other documents. The following summary brings those obligations together in a single document so they will be readily accessible. In the event of any inconsistency, the language of the actual document will control.

Basic Membership Expectations ¹

I will know and understand the ideals expressed by my Fraternity's Rituals and I will strive to incorporate these ideals in my daily life.

I will respect and abide by all Fraternity Laws, regulations, and policies.

I will respect the dignity of all persons. I will not physically, mentally, psychologically, or sexually abuse or haze any human being.

I will strive for the highest academic achievement possible and practice academic integrity.

I will be active in all aspects of the Fraternity and the host institution.

I will always meet my financial obligations in a timely manner.

I will strive to bring into the Fraternity any man who would benefit from an enriching fraternal experience and who would strengthen the Fraternity.

I will neither use nor support the use of illegal drugs; I will neither misuse nor support the misuse of alcohol.

I will protect the health and safety of myself and other human beings.

I will at all times conduct myself as a gentleman and as a responsible citizen, and will hold Members accountable for their conduct.

I will respect my property and the property of others. I will neither abuse nor tolerate the abuse of property.

I acknowledge that a clean and attractive environment is essential to both physical and mental health. I will do all in my power to see that the Chapter property is properly cleaned and maintained.

I will try to enhance every Fraternity Member's experience in any way possible. I will challenge all my Fraternity Members to abide by these fraternal expectations, and I will confront those who violate them.

Rights and Duties of Membership

I agree that cessation of a college course of study

shall not be considered as canceling the general fact of membership or reducing or modifying the moral obligation of a Brother to the Fraternity. I agree that membership in Lambda Chi Alpha is for life, and shall be terminated only by death, resignation, or expulsion. ²

In addition to the rights and duties set forth in the Laws of the Fraternity, I agree to each of the following specific obligations: ³

I will abide by the Laws, customs, traditions, and usages of the Fraternity.

I will pay promptly all legally assessed dues, service charges, and fines.

As long as I am a Collegiate Brother or an Associate Member and an undergraduate student at the institution where my Chapter is located, I will pay all local and General Fraternity dues, fees and assessments unless I have been granted Inactive Standing.

I will attend all regular meetings, all performances of the Initiation Ritual, and all official functions of the Fraternity or my Chapter when possible.

At all regular meetings of the Fraternity, I will vote on all matters before the meeting, including votes on association and initiation, unless the Chapter for special reason shall excuse me.

As long as I am a Collegiate Brother or an Associate Member, I will live in and take meals at the Chapter house where such facilities are provided, unless excused by the Chapter bylaws, by the Chapter Executive Committee or by Code 4-2(b) of the *Statutory Code* as applicable, or unless the rules of the institution require otherwise.

I will put forth a definite effort to assist in the acquisition of new members of desirable type.

Fraternity Rituals, Emblems and Intellectual Property

I understand the secret Rituals of the Fraternity are the Initiation Ritual, the True Brother Evolutions, and the closed version of the Ceremony for Alumni and Graduating Seniors, and the non-secret rituals of

¹ A Mandatory Resolution to Adopt Basic Membership Expectations, 1992 General Assembly

² Article 4, Section 6

³ Article 4, Section 6



the Fraternity are the Associate Member Ceremony, the Ritual for Conducting Business Meetings, the High Zeta Commissioning Ceremony, the open version of the Ceremony for Alumni and Graduating Seniors, and the Memorial Ritual and Funeral Service. ⁴

I understand the Lambda Chi Alpha ritual is based, in part, upon the moral and ethical teachings of the Holy Bible, and I can accept membership without reservation. ⁵ Nevertheless, I understand that the Fraternity's rituals teach a system of values that all Associate Members, Brothers, and Chapters will strive to achieve, but that none of these Rituals espouse specific religious beliefs or teachings. ⁶

I will keep strictly secret the complete contents of the Rituals of the Fraternity, except in cases where the Rituals are officially declared to be non-secret. ⁷

I will not divulge to any non-initiated member the contents nor any part of the Rituals not officially declared to be non-secret, nor will I permit any non-initiated member to witness its exemplification or any part of the Initiation Ritual, unless he be a legally associated candidate for initiation. ⁸

I will memorize the Creed of Lambda Chi Alpha and I will put its ideals into action. ⁹

I will not procure an Official Badge or any Fraternity jewelry bearing Lambda Chi Alpha insignia from any jeweler except a duly authorized representative of the Official Jewelers. ¹⁰

I will wear the Official Badge and the Associate Member pin and the Official Recognition Button only in the manner prescribed by the Laws of the Fraternity, and I will permit the Official Badge to be worn only by those others so permitted under the Laws of the Fraternity. ¹¹

I understand that each Official Badge is the sole property of the Fraternity and that I shall own it on the condition that I shall not part with it, except as specified in the Laws of the Fraternity. ¹²

I will, without question or reservation, surrender my Official Badge in cases of expulsion, resignation, or at such time and place as the Office of Administration shall designate, being credited with the purchase price of the same. ¹³

I will not purchase or attempt to purchase an

Official Badge until after I have paid my Initiation Fee, both local and General Fraternity, to the High Tau of my initiating Chapter nor until the remittance of my General Fraternity Initiation Fee by the High Tau to the Office of Administration. ¹⁴

I will use and display the Coat of Arms, the Official Seal and the Official Flag only in the manner prescribed by the Laws of the Fraternity. ¹⁵

I understand that I will use the intellectual property of the Fraternity, including all names, mottoes or symbols that are patented, trademarked or copyrighted by the Fraternity, only in such ways that are approved by the Office of Administration. I understand that if I use any Fraternity intellectual property in a way considered improper or offensive in the discretion of the Office of Administration, the Office of Administration may take appropriate action against me. ¹⁶

Fraternity Objects and Purposes

I will contribute vigorously toward the accomplishment of the following specific purposes of the Fraternity: ¹⁷

To inspire appreciation for, to encourage the practice of, and to nurture loyalty and devotion to Christian and other moral or religious teachings consistent with the ideals of Lambda Chi Alpha.

To encourage and inspire fraternal feeling and cooperation, and to form unselfish and loyal friendships among its Members.

To establish and foster the highest ideals of manly character and gentlemanly behavior, to appeal to and develop man's nobler sensibilities, and as far as possible, to instill deeply in the hearts and minds of its Members such ideas of thought and behavior as will contribute definitely toward these ends.

To develop the higher qualities of the mind, to nurture respect for learning, and to encourage and reward singular achievement in the field of scholarship, working at all times in harmony with the best in the North American educational systems.

To provide clean and wholesome homes, and recreation for its Members while in college.

To render such other services to its general

⁴ Code 6-1

⁵ Report of Associate Membership - Form A

⁶ A Resolution Regarding the Rituals of Lambda Chi Alpha, 1984 and 2002 General Assemblies

⁷ Article 6, Section 1

⁸ Article 6, Section 1

⁹ A Resolution Regarding the Rituals of Lambda Chi Alpha, 1984 and 2002 General Assemblies

¹⁰ Code 6-2(b)

¹¹ Code 6-3(a) and (c)

¹² Code 6-3(d)

¹³ Code 6-3(d)

¹⁴ Code 6-3(e)

¹⁵ Code 6-6, Code 6-7 and Code 6-8

¹⁶ Code 6-11

¹⁷ Article 1, Section 4

membership as may seem feasible and as may be in harmony with the other aims of the Fraternity.

To contribute definitely toward the spirit of democracy in the college fraternity system and to operate without offense or injury to anyone, working according to a positive and progressive plan rather than a negative or reactionary program.

To encourage its Members to carry into their experiences and relationships the objectives herein defined as a means to improving their professional, social, and community environments both during and after their collegiate experience.

To maintain an order whose Initiation Ritual and symbolism shall be secret.

Chapter Operating Standards

To the best of my ability, I will contribute toward the accomplishment and maintenance of the following Chapter Operating Standards:¹⁸

The total of all Collegiate Brothers and Associate Members must be at least equal to the campus average for fraternities or 40, whichever is smaller, but in no event fewer than 20.

The Chapter must achieve an annual cumulative scholastic grade point average of not less than a 2.75 (on a 4.0 scale).

At least 80 percent of the Collegiate Brothers and Associate Members must be engaged in extracurricular or community activities.

The Chapter must (i) be financially solvent, (ii) have an adequate accounting system, (iii) operate under an approved budget, and (iv) have provided evidence to the Office of Administration of the timely preparation and filing of an annual IRS Form 990, if required by law.

The Chapter must have possession and ownership of a complete set of ritual equipment.

The Chapter must have an officially appointed High Pi.

The Chapter must operate under a set of bylaws that is reviewed and certified by the High Pi every two years as being up-to-date with the Laws of the Fraternity and approved by the Office of Administration, and must enforce all

Laws of the Fraternity.

The Chapter must have an Alumni Advisory Board with at least three members.

The Chapter must have at least two undergraduate Members present at each General Assembly and Leadership Seminar, and the Chapter must designate which undergraduate member will be the Official Delegate representing the Chapter.

The Chapter must have at least three undergraduate Members present at all regional leadership workshops or other regional events in its conclave area.

Illegal Drugs and Alcohol

I will not possess or use illegal drugs, including related paraphernalia, in Chapter houses, on Fraternity premises, at Fraternity functions wherever held, or in any other fashion that would be connected in any way with the Fraternity.¹⁹

I will ensure that the possession, consumption, and distribution of alcoholic beverages on the premises of any Chapter or at any entertainment or function given in the name of, or for the benefit of, Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity is not in conflict with institutional, state, provincial, or local regulations and policies.²⁰

I will not support, under any circumstance, the practice of high-risk or "binge" drinking, defined as the drinking of alcoholic beverages with the intention of becoming excessively intoxicated by consumption of alcohol over a short period of time.²¹

I will not permit, tolerate, encourage, or participate in "drinking games" on Chapter premises or at any Chapter activity or function.²²

I will assist in implementing a membership recruitment program that eliminates the use of alcoholic beverages during any and all membership recruitment activities and functions.²³

Member Discipline

I understand that, if I am found guilty of an offense against the Fraternity, I shall be subject to one or more of the following penalties: (a) expulsion (not applicable to an Associate Member), (b) disassociation (applicable only to an Associate Member), (c) suspension for either an indefinite period or a definite period, (d) probation, (e) fine,

¹⁸ Article 3, Section 3(a)

¹⁹ A Mandatory Resolution Regarding Illegal Drugs, 1982 General Assembly

²⁰ A Mandatory Resolution on Alcoholic Beverages, 2010 General Assembly

²¹ A Mandatory Resolution on Alcoholic Beverages, 2010 General Assembly

²² A Mandatory Resolution on Alcoholic Beverages, 2010 General Assembly

²³ A Mandatory Resolution Regarding Dry Recruitment, 1988 General Assembly

(f) censure, or (g) other lawful penalty. ²⁴

If I am expelled from the Fraternity, I will: ²⁵

Surrender to the High Alpha or next ranking elected officer of the Chapter my Certificate of Membership, my membership card, and my Official Badge.

Remove myself and my personal effects from the property of the Chapter and not return on any occasion.

Cease to identify myself with the Fraternity in any manner on or off campus.

If I am disassociated from the Fraternity, I will: ²⁶

Surrender to the High Alpha or next ranking elected officer of the Chapter my Associate Member Pin.

Remove myself and my personal effects from the property of the Chapter and not return for any purpose.

Cease to identify myself with the Fraternity in any manner on or off campus.

If I am suspended from the Fraternity for an indefinite period, I will: ²⁷

Remove myself and my personal effects from the property of the Chapter and not return for any purpose unless expressly permitted to do so by the Executive Committee.

Not attend Fraternity meetings, vote, or hold office, nor shall I attend any Fraternity social, alumni, or other gathering not attended by the public at large.

Make no application to affiliate with any other Chapter or alumni organization of the Fraternity, nor shall I have any more contact with any other Chapter or alumni organization than I would have with my own Chapter as a suspended Member.

If I am suspended from the Fraternity for a definite period, I will: ²⁸

Remove myself and my personal effects from the property of the Chapter and not return for any purpose unless expressly permitted to do so by the Executive Committee.

Not attend Fraternity meetings, vote, or hold office, nor shall I attend any Fraternity social, alumni, or other gathering not attended by the public at large.

Make no application to affiliate with any other Chapter or alumni organization of the Fraternity, nor shall I have any more contact with any other Chapter or alumni organization than I would have with my own Chapter as a suspended Member.

Be returned to good standing automatically at the end of the designated period of suspension unless I am in violation of said suspension or unless the Chapter's Executive Committee proceeds with further disciplinary action.

If I am placed on probation by the Fraternity, I will follow the terms of my probation as set by the Chapter. ²⁹

If I am fined by the Fraternity, I will, within the time prescribed, pay my fine to the Chapter. I understand that failure to pay a fine shall subject me to automatic suspension for financial delinquency under the Laws of the Fraternity or such other action consistent with the Laws of the Fraternity as the Chapter may determine. ³⁰

If I am censured by the Fraternity, I will cease and desist from the conduct bringing about the censure. I understand that failure to do so shall will subject me to such other action consistent with the Laws of the Fraternity as the Chapter may determine. ³¹

I understand that any violation by me of the foregoing provisions of discipline may subject me to further appropriate action by the Chapter and/or to appropriate civil court action. ³²

I understand that the Automatic Disciplinary Penalties provided for in the Laws of the Fraternity (Automatic Suspension for Financial Delinquency and Automatic Probation/Suspension Discipline for Scholastic Deficiency) shall be effective automatically without hearing, trial, or appeal. ³³

I understand that if I am suspended or put on probation, I will be required to pay prior to return to good standing a fee at least equal to the regular dues of the Chapter and any General Fraternity active dues accrued during the disciplinary period, unless excepted therefrom by the terms of my probation. ³⁴

Other Commitments

I will abide by the Laws of the Fraternity, including the *Constitution*, the *Statutory Code*, Mandatory Policy Resolutions approved by the General

²⁴ Article 7, Section 3

²⁵ Code 7-1 (a)

²⁶ Code 7-1 (b)

²⁷ Code 7-1 (c)(1)

²⁸ Code 7-1 (c)(2)

²⁹ Code 7-1 (d)

³⁰ Code 7-1 (e)

³¹ Code 7-1 (f)

³² Code 7-1 generally

³³ Article 7, Section 6, Code 7-7 and Code 7-8

³⁴ Article 7, Section 10

Assembly, and the Orders of the Grand High Zeta.
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I will abide by the bylaws of my Chapter, the acts of my Chapter, and the acts of my Chapter's Executive Committee and officers. 36

I will not (i) engage in conduct unbecoming a gentleman; (ii) commit slander or libel of the Fraternity, a Chapter, or another Member; (iii) fail to act for the good of the Fraternity or commit an act detrimental to the Fraternity; (iv) violate an oath of membership; (v) commit and a criminal offense that reflects upon the Fraternity; or (vi) violate any applicable civil or criminal law, the Laws of the Fraternity, or the rules of the host institution. 37

I understand that my financial obligations to the Fraternity include a non-refundable General Fraternity Associate Member Fee, non-refundable risk management assessment fee, General Fraternity Initiation Fee, General Fraternity Active Dues following the academic term in which I am initiated, and any local dues my Chapter may charge me. I will pay all dues and fees to my local Chapter on time, and I understand that my Chapter, in turn, will pay all appropriate dues and fees to the General Fraternity based on Chapter membership. I understand that any financial reimbursement for the dues and fees I have paid will come from my local Chapter at its discretion, and not the General Fraternity.

I regard the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity in a spirit of sincerity and respect, with a desire to give its teachings my earnest consideration and with the intention to perform cheerfully whatever tasks I may be assigned for the good of the Fraternity. 38

I am confident I will have the time and means to meet all of my Fraternity obligations as defined in the Laws of the Fraternity. 39

I promise to conduct myself at all times as a gentleman, to show courtesy to all; to avoid unnecessary display of my affiliation with Lambda Chi Alpha; to support the interests of the Fraternity; to labor with diligence to maintain my scholarship, activity in college affairs and other pursuits; and I furthermore promise to receive every member of this chapter as a brother, without reservation or evasion. 40

I am not a member of, and I hereby agree not to affiliate with, any other national general fraternity at any institution or any local general fraternity at this institution. 41

I will neither engage in nor tolerate from others any acts of hazing, whether on or off Fraternity premises. Hazing is defined as any action taken or situation created intentionally to produce physical discomfort or mental discomfort by embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. 42

I understand that membership selection on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability has no place within Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. I will engage in no such discrimination and I will actively seek to prevent it in all Lambda Chi Alpha Chapters. 43

I will neither tolerate nor engage in deliberate or repeated offensive comments, gestures or contact of a sexual nature, as well as date rape, gang rape, and any other form of sexual violence or harassment. 44

Unless I am a law enforcement officer permitted or required to possess a firearm while on or off duty, I will not possess and/or use firearms, explosives, and/or incendiary devices at the Chapter house, on any Chapter or General Fraternity property (or property that could reasonably be considered a "Chapter house" or "Chapter facility") or at any Chapter or General Fraternity function. Should I possess and/or use firearms, explosives, or incendiary devices at any individually-initiated activity that is not on Chapter or General Fraternity property and could in no way be considered a Chapter or General Fraternity-sponsored event or function, my possession or use of these devices will be in accordance with state, local, and federal laws. 45

Agreement as to Legal Relationships

Member and Chapter Discipline. I acknowledge that being a Member of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity is at all times voluntary and consensual. It is a privilege not a right, and it confers no legal rights or property interest of any kind upon me or any Chapter except the benefits of brotherhood. Lambda Chi Alpha may revoke, condition, or restrict my membership or a Chapter's charter or its

35 Article 7, Section 1 (a) and Article 1, Section 3

36 Article 7, Section 1 (a)

37 Article 7, Section 1 (b)

38 Report of Associate Membership - Form A

39 Report of Associate Membership - Form A

40 Report of Associate Membership - Form A

41 Report of Associate Membership - Form A

42 Code 4-8

43 A Mandatory Resolution Regarding Discrimination, 1970 and 2002 General Assemblies

44 A Mandatory Resolution Regarding Sexual Harassment, 1988 General Assembly

45 Code 8-4 and A Mandatory Resolution on Firearms, Explosives and Incendiary Devices, 2012 General Assembly

colonization for cause as the Grand High Zeta or its designee may determine in its absolute discretion. The failure of Lambda Chi Alpha to enforce any of the provisions of its Laws shall not be construed as a waiver of such provisions or the right of Lambda Chi Alpha thereafter to enforce such provisions.

Disciplinary Process; Exclusivity of Remedies. The procedures set forth in the *Constitution* and in the *Statutory Code for Member discipline* are guidelines only, and are the exclusive means to resolve any issues as to my status as a Member. Provided there has been substantial compliance with these guidelines, any procedural deficiencies in determining my status as a Member shall not be the basis of any legal cause of action against the General Fraternity or any Chapter or Member. The procedures set forth for appeal in matters of Member discipline are a sole and exclusive remedy, and I may not assert any rights to enforcement or review of such decisions in a court of law. I expressly waive and relinquish any such non-fraternal rights.

No Agency. I acknowledge that the General Fraternity lends guidance and support to the Members and to the Chapters, but it does not exercise direct oversight or control over the behavior or the activities of any Member or Chapter. I am in no way an agent of the General Fraternity, even if an officer, and I will not represent myself as such. No Chapter is a subsidiary or agent of the General Fraternity for any purpose, and under no circumstances will any Chapter represent itself as such.

Insurance. I acknowledge that the Fraternity provides liability insurance coverage for the General Fraternity, for the Chapters, and for its volunteers, but not for individual Members. I am encouraged to secure my own personal insurance protection against any liabilities that may be imposed on me for damage to person or property, and I agree that I and I alone am responsible for securing my own personal insurance protection. In the event any claim is made by or against me for physical injury to person, personal injury to a person, or property damage to another, I agree that any coverage that may be available to me under any insurance policy secured or maintained by the General Fraternity, will be secondary to my personal insurance and does not provide a defense for me. To the extent any losses or claims to my person or property are covered or coverable by insurance available to me, I irrevocably waive any rights of recovery or subrogation against the General Fraternity, the Chapter, or any other Member.

Release and Indemnification. I acknowledge my

liability and responsibility for my own activities, negligent acts, errors, or omissions and for those of my guests. I release and discharge and agree to pay on behalf of, defend, hold harmless and indemnify the General Fraternity and any of its officers, agents, employees, insurers, members, and volunteers from any claims, damages costs or expenses, including reasonable legal fees, for any loss, damage or injury in any way arising out of, relating to, resulting from, or in connection with my or any of my guests' activities, negligent acts, errors, or omissions, or any violation of the Laws or policies of the Fraternity.

Intellectual Property. I acknowledge that Lambda Chi Alpha is the sole owner of all right, title, and interest in and to the trade name "Lambda Chi Alpha" and its other related trademarks, trade names, emblems and symbols (collectively, the "Licensed Marks"). Lambda Chi Alpha is granting to me a non-exclusive, royalty-free right and license to use the Licensed Marks. I shall at all times use the Licensed Marks only in the manner permitted by the Laws of the Fraternity and in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the General Fraternity. I shall not by any act or omission use the Licensed Marks in any manner that disparages or reflects adversely on Lambda Chi Alpha or its business or reputation. I will not take any action that would interfere with or prejudice Lambda Chi Alpha's ownership or registration of the Licensed Marks. If my membership is suspended, all rights granted to me with respect to the Licensed Marks shall cease immediately, and I will immediately discontinue all use of the Licensed Marks.

Authority and Acceptance. By accepting Membership in the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, I represent that I am authorized to agree to all obligations of Membership, and agree that any of the following methods shall be deemed to provide adequate evidence of my continuing agreement to compliance with such obligations: (i) my payment of any dues or fees to the Chapter or to the General Fraternity; (ii) my participation in or attendance at any Fraternity event; and/or (iii) my acceptance of a Membership Card or Certificate of Membership. I specifically acknowledge the effectiveness and enforceability of my electronic signature on any documents submitted through the General Fraternity website.