



**Gamma Sigma Alpha
National Greek Academic Honor Society**

Information Packet
Revised Summer, 2016

What is Gamma Sigma Alpha?

- Gamma Sigma Alpha National Academic Greek Honor Society (GSA) is the premier organization committed to the academic success of our members and in common purpose and alignment with the academic missions of our host institutions. Founded in order to combat the negative stereotypes around sorority & fraternity membership and academic performance. Headquartered in Denver, with over 215 chapters in the United States and Canada. We hope your Greek community joins our prestigious roster!

Who can join Gamma Sigma Alpha?

- Students are eligible for membership based on grade point average and membership in a fraternity or sorority—whether it be local, regional or inter/national. The Society strives to uphold the high ideals of scholastic achievement and therefore, only students with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) at the start of their junior year or a grade point average of 3.5 or higher in any semester during their junior or senior year are eligible.

What benefits are there for members?

- Initiated members have access to scholarships and graduation honor cords and receive campus, regional and national recognition for their academic achievements. Your campus can utilize this group of students to serve as role models in the fraternity/sorority community. Gamma Sigma Alpha also boasts about the membership to your inter/national fraternity/sorority headquarters so that you can be recognized at conventions, in publications and on the web. Graduate student scholarship applications are due each year in April.

What benefits are there for the school?

- Your college/university is eligible for regional and national awards for GPA achievements, as well as encouraged to apply for our mini-grant funding opportunity. In addition, adding a local dues to the national dues can allow Gamma Sigma Alpha on your campus to generate some revenue for academic programming, student scholarships, attendance at regional conferences and other activities. Submission for Regional GPA award consideration and the Gamma Sigma Alpha Academic Honor Roll is submitted two times a year. Honor Roll submissions are welcomed any time and are posted on the Gamma Sigma Alpha website.

What requirements does the chapter have to meet?

- Most of our chapters operate as a recognition society, hosting initiation events each semester, but not requiring anything over and above that. If the students desire to be more active or visible on campus, we encourage it, but it is not a written expectation.

How do we start a chapter?

- The process is simple whether the school has hosted a Gamma Sigma Alpha chapter in the past and it has gone dormant or if this is a brand new chartered chapter. It can take as little as 3-4 weeks and the easiest way to recruit is to have your Greek Life office run a grade report to find students who meet the qualifications. A checklist for this process can be found online at: www.gammasigmaalpha.org. You can also announce eligibility for Gamma Sigma Alpha at Greek meetings and hand out applications to be submitted with grade reports/transcripts.

Contact our office: director@gammasigmaalpha.org, www.gammasigmaalpha.org, 866.793.5406

History of GAMMA SIGMA ALPHA

1989

- Gamma Sigma Alpha (ΓΣΑ) was founded November 9, 1989 at the University of Southern California
- First ΓΣΑ display unveiled at the 1989 Association of Fraternity Advisors (AFA)
- National Interfraternity Conference (NIC) Annual Conference in Dearborn, MI

1990

- Official Seal and Badge adopted in Fall 1990
- University of Wisconsin-Madison establishes the second ΓΣΑ Chapter

1991

- First meeting of the ΓΣΑ Board of Directors at the AFA/NIC Annual Meeting
- California State University-San Bernardino establishes the third ΓΣΑ
- National Panhellenic Conference features ΓΣΑ in the Fall issue of the PH Factor

1992

- National membership certificate designed and printed
- ΓΣΑ establishes six new chapters
- Board of Directors establishes a National Charter

1993

- Official charters are sent to all ΓΣΑ chapters
- ΓΣΑ chapters initiate 1,102 Greek scholars and the 38th chapter is established

1994

- ΓΣΑ chapters initiate 1,384 Greek scholars and the 64th chapter is established
- Lists of the ΓΣΑ members are compiled and sent to their respective national organizations

1995

- ΓΣΑ chapters initiate 1,722 Greek scholars and the 91st chapter is established
- ΓΣΑ begins to solicit contributions for the first edition of the ΓΣΑ Literary Magazine
- New badge design features ΓΣΑ letters is approved

1996

- Northwestern State University in Louisiana chartered as the 100th chapter
- ΓΣΑ chapters initiate over 2,000 Greek scholars
- Buttons and ribbons are introduced to increase visibility at conferences

1997

- ΓΣΑ initiates more than 2,500 Greek scholars and the number of chapters climbs over 120
- Honor cords and podium banners are made available to all members and chapters
- ΓΣΑ receives the NIC Laurel Wreath Award at the AFA/NIC Annual Conference

1998

- ΓΣΑ initiates approximately 2,500 Greek scholars and the 132nd chapter is established
- ΓΣΑ co-sponsors the NASPA Interfraternity Luncheon
- ΓΣΑ collegians from Northwestern University, Purdue University and the University of Michigan are panel participants at the NIC/NPC Academic Forum

1999

- ΓΣΑ initiates approximately 2,500 Greek scholars and the 141st chapter is established
- ΓΣΑ is incorporated and receives 501.c.3 status as a not-for-profit organization
- ΓΣΑ establishes a website

2000

- ΓΣΑ chapters initiate approximately 3,000 Greek scholars and the number of chapters exceeds 145
- ΓΣΑ co-sponsors the NASAP Interfraternity Luncheon
- ΓΣΑ hires a public relations consultant and begins to place advertisements in Perspectives
- ΓΣΑ co-sponsors the AFA Annual Meeting, supplies notepads and presents a program at the conference

2001

- ΓΣΑ initiates approximately 3,000 Greek scholars and the number of chapters climbs above 150
- ΓΣΑ begins funding graduate research on academic issues at Bowling Green State University (BGSU)
- ΓΣΑ continues to co-sponsor the NASPA Interfraternity Luncheon
- ΓΣΑ adopts a new tagline: Achieve More!

2002

- ΓΣΑ initiates over 2,500 members and the 154th chapter is chartered at San Diego State University
- ΓΣΑ continues its research initiative in partnership with BGSU and the AFA Foundation, results made available via the website at www.gammasigmaalpha.org
- ΓΣΑ begins presenting regional awards and continues to co-sponsor the NASPA Interfraternity Luncheon

2003

- ΓΣΑ initiates almost 2,750 members and the 163rd chapter is chartered at Elmhurst College

- ΓΣΑ begins presenting \$1,000 graduate scholarships
- ΓΣΑ presents its academic excellence awards at the regional conferences
- ΓΣΑ continues its research initiative with BGSU and providing sponsorship to the NASPA Interfraternity Luncheon

2004

- ΓΣΑ grows to 173 chartered chapters
- ΓΣΑ presents \$2,500 in graduate scholarships to students attending The John Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, The Medical School at the University of Pennsylvania, and Arizona State University Law School.
- ΓΣΑ continues to present regional academic awards at the five regional conferences.
- Outcomes from the sponsored research initiative at BGSU are presented at the AFA Annual Meeting and a NASPA regional conference.
- ΓΣΑ continues as a sponsor of the NASPA Interfraternity Luncheon

2005

- ΓΣΑ presents 3 graduate scholarships to initiated members attending the University of South Wales, University of Michigan and Harvard University Law School
- ΓΣΑ continues to present regional academic awards at the five regional conferences
- ΓΣΑ gives scholarships to three attendees at the Association of Fraternity Advisors Annual Meeting
- ΓΣΑ continues as a sponsor of the NASPA Interfraternity Luncheon

2006

- ΓΣΑ grows to 176 chartered chapters and begins a strategic planning process
- ΓΣΑ awards two graduate scholarships to Erica Martin at University of North Dakota and Katrina Mueller at Central Michigan University
- ΓΣΑ expands the research initiative with BGSU to involve other institutions
- ΓΣΑ sponsors three Greek advisors at the AFA Conference in New Orleans and the NASPA Interfraternity Luncheon

2007

- ΓΣΑ grows to 187 chartered chapters
- ΓΣΑ begins "Got Grades" public relations initiative
- ΓΣΑ presents graduate study scholarships to members attending University of Alabama-Birmingham and James Madison University
- ΓΣΑ gives scholarships to two attendees at the AFA Conference
- ΓΣΑ continues to sponsor the NASPA Interfraternity Luncheon and present regional academic awards

2008

- ΓΣΑ initiates over 2,000 Greek scholars during the 07--08 academic year
- Headquarters is officially moved from the University of Southern California to Indianapolis, Indiana within the North American Interfraternity Conference suites, effective August 1, 2008.
- An external Executive Director is hired

2009

- ΓΣΑ charters 4 new chapters in the Spring of 2009, bringing total of chapters to 204
- Six undergraduate members of ΓΣΑ are awarded scholarships to assist in graduate study pursuits.
- ΓΣΑ launches a newly designed website at www.gammasigmaalpha.org and begins to accept credit cards

2010

- ΓΣΑ initiates over 2,400 Greek scholars during the 09--10 academic year
- The Society continues partnership with the National Student Affairs Archives at Bowling Green State University and archives 20 years of memorabilia and records for preservation
- Eight new chapters were established during the 2009-2010 academic year, bringing total to 212.

2011

- Over 2700 scholars are inducted into the society during the 2010-2011 academic year
- Five new chapters charter: University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, California State University, San Marcos, Samford University, State University of New York, New Paltz, University of New Haven
- Regional Award Submissions, Honor Roll Schools Recognized and Scholarship Applicants: Each process brought in more candidates than ever before.
- A new web-based initiation processing tool is launched in the fall.

2013

- National Office moved to Denver, Colorado.

2014

- ΓΣΑ celebrates 25th Anniversary and dedicates a bench at University of Southern California, where the organization was founded.
- ΓΣΑ conducted its first Honorary Initiation at the AFA meeting.

2015

- ΓΣΑ adds Undergraduate Scholarship opportunities.



GAMMA SIGMA ALPHA

CHAPTER INITIATION FORM

GAMMA SIGMA ALPHA

National Greek Academic
Honor Society

Institution: _____ Contact Person: _____

Shipping/University Address _____

Contact Phone _____ Contact E-- -mail _____

Frat/Sorority Advisor _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Initiation Date _____

If you wish to pay via credit card, you must submit initiate information on our website, visit www.gammasigmaalpha.org for more information.

Each of the Greek members listed below are in good standing with his/her chapter, has fulfilled the academic eligibility requirement of Gamma Sigma Alpha (3.5 cumulative GPA out of 4.0 as a junior 60 or more units) or 3.5 out of 4.0 in any junior or senior semester), and has submitted the **\$35 per inductee** national membership fee.

Please check this box if chapter is requesting a charter (never initiated students before)

THERE IS NO MINIMUM NUMBER OF STUDENTS TO START A NEW CHAPTER OR REACTIVATE A DORMANT CHAPTER.

Name (Print legibly, name will appear as printed on membership certificate)	Affiliation	E-mail address *used only to share information regarding scholarships
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		

Add additional pages as necessary. There is no minimum or maximum number of initiates required.

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO ENCLOSE A CHECK MADE OUT TO "GAMMA SIGMA ALPHA" FOR \$35.00 PER INDUCTEE. *This fee covers membership certificate and badge. Graduation cords are sold separately and are \$ 10 each. If you want/ need rush shipping, please include \$25. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU ORDER GRADUATION HONOR CORDS AT THE SAME TIME AS INITIATION FOR EFFICIENCY IN PROCESSING.

Signature of University Administrator who has verified academic records of students requesting initiation.

Signature

Title

Date

RETURN TO:

Gamma Sigma Alpha
 PO Box 3948
 Parker, CO 80134

GAMMA SIGMA ALPHA

MATERIAL ORDER FORM

Name _____ E-mail _____ Phone _____

Institution _____ Shipping Address _____

City/State/ Zip _____ Frat/Sorority Advisor _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

If you wish to pay via credit card, you must submit initiate information on our website, visit www.gammasigmaalpha.org for more information



Number of Initiates _____ at \$35 each, totals _____

*Membership initiation request form must accompany this form

Number of Graduation Cords at \$10 each, totals _____

Date of graduation ceremony: _____

Gamma Sigma Alpha banners are \$100 each for banner:

Number of banners ordered, totals _____

Gamma Sigma Alpha Badge Cut-Outs (for use in ritual) are \$20 each:

Number of cut-outs ordered, totals _____

Gamma Sigma Alpha Replacement Badge (if lost) are \$10 each:

Number of replacement badges, totals _____

Name of Initiate for badge replacement. _____

Year of Initiation _____

Replacement Charter (if lost) \$10 each: totals _____

** There is the option of a powerpoint slide of the seal that can be used in place of the banner. If desired, simply e-mail director@gammasigmaalpha.org.*

Additional Ritual Materials:

- www.batteryoperatedcandles.net : Battery operated tea candles- round and taper available
- www.amazon.com : Search-Anything book- \$5.99 for a roll book
- www.candlelightsolutions.com/mountain-laurel-6-candle-ring.html : Set of 2 laurel wreaths for \$24

**If you don't have all of the exact items, improvise as best you can. The important thing is the presentation of the ritual.*

Please add \$25 if you need rush shipping. _____

Free shipping if order is over \$50, Please add \$10 shipping if minimum order is not met. _____

Total _____

**Items pictured from top:
Banner, Badge cut-out*

Send this form with your check made out to:

**Nicole Singleton, Executive Director
Gamma Sigma Alpha, Incorporated
PO Box 3948
Parker, CO 80134**



GAMMA SIGMA ALPHA

SAMPLE LETTER TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

GAMMA SIGMA ALPHA

National Greek Academic
Honor Society

Date

Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Dear _____,

Congratulations! Your outstanding academic achievement makes you eligible to become a (founding) member of Gamma Sigma Alpha on our campus. Gamma Sigma Alpha is a National Greek Academic Honor Society. I hope you will seize the opportunity to become a lifetime member of Gamma Sigma Alpha and join over 20,000 Greek scholars from over 215 campuses in this prestigious organization. In doing so, you will give honor to the Greek ideal of scholarship and foster a positive image of Greeks in academics.

Our induction will be held on _____ at _____. There will be a (reception, informal gathering, meet & greet) following the ceremony. Guests (parents, friends, chapter advisors, professors, administration) may attend the induction. Please return the attached membership form with your check for _____ by _____. This fee includes the pin and membership certificate you will receive at the ceremony (and the graduation cords if you opt to include that for your students). If your parents or special friends would like to attend, please feel free to invite them.

I look forward to congratulating you in person on _____. If you have questions, please e-mail me at _____.

Interfraternally,

Greek Advisor (IFC/PHC/NPHC/NALFO, etc)



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Sample Membership Information for Chapter Induction Records

*This information is not required by the national office, but most institutions find it valuable to maintain records of their own.

Name: _____ Greek Affiliation: _____

E-- -mail: _____ Campus Phone: _____

Campus Address: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Permanent Phone: _____ University ID Number: _____

Name as you would like it to appear on the membership certificate (please print):

Check included: _____ \$45 for membership dues and graduation honor cords

_____ I plan to attend the induction ceremony on _____

_____ I'm unable to attend the induction ceremony, please contact me about an alternate induction



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SUGGESTED CHAPTER PROGRAMMING IDEAS

Below is a list of suggested activities that have proven successful for Gamma Sigma Alpha chapters across the country. Have one you want to add? E-mail to director@gammasigmaalpha.org.

Monthly recognition/appreciation of faculty.

Take out a campus newspaper ad listing GSA members each semester (list the new members names, affiliation and major).

Create an Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award

Provide faculty advisors with "mini-grants" of up to \$50 to spend on their chapters for academics.

Take out a campus newspaper ad listing all Greeks who achieve Dean's List status each semester.

Create an All-Greek academic recognition event.

Honor all-Greek and chapter valedictorians.

Greek library study-a-thon.

Purchase a rare book for the campus library.

Provide tickets for attendance at campus/community cultural events -- concerts, plays, exhibits, historical tours for members.

Give scholarships to attend leadership conferences, or for tuition and fraternity-related expenses (i.e. UIFI).

Enter a team in Greek Week and other All-Greek University events.

Sponsor academic enrichment programming -- Greek study sessions for general education requirements, act as tutors, sponsor sessions on study skills such as time management, listening, note-taking, writing paper, preparing of exams.

Hire a tutor for 101 classes (English and Math) and offer to all new members of the Greek community weekly.

Underwrite the costs of All-Greek scholarship recognition -- plaques, certificates, etc.

Team up GSA members with faculty mentors.

Become a member of the campus Honors Assembly and a part of campus-wide academic recognitions ceremonies.

Enter the names of GSA members in the commencement programs (where other honor society members are listed).

Create a Faculty Advisors program for your Greek community

Gamma Sigma Alpha Chapters by State Updated (Summer 2016)

Alabama

Auburn University
Huntingdon College*
Jacksonville State University
Miles College
Samford University*
University of North Alabama
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of South Alabama
University of West Alabama

Arizona

Arizona State University
Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff
University of Arizona

Arkansas

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
University of Arkansas, Little Rock
Arkansas Tech University
University of Arkansas-Fort Smith*

California

University of Southern California*
California State University, San Bernardino
California State University, San Marcos*
Occidental College
California State University, Fullerton
University of the Pacific
University of San Francisco
California Polytechnic University, Pomona
California State University, Northridge*
Moravian College*
St. Johns University*
Woodbury University
San Diego State University
University of California, Irvine*
University of California at Los Angeles*
University of California at Berkeley
University of Redlands*
Woodbury University*

Colorado

Colorado State University
University of Denver
University of Northern Colorado
University of Colorado, Boulder

Connecticut

University of Connecticut*
Trinity College*
University of New Haven*

Southern Connecticut State University*

Florida

University of South Florida
University of Florida, Gainesville
Florida State University, Tallahassee
University of Miami*
University of North Florida

Georgia

Brenau University*
University of West Georgia
Georgia State University
Mercer University
University of North Georgia
Valdosta State University
Georgia Southern University
Kennesaw State University

Idaho

University of Idaho, Moscow

Illinois

Eastern Illinois University
Lake Forest College
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University*
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana
Illinois Wesleyan University
Elmhurst College*
Western Illinois University

Indiana

University of Evansville
Ball State University*
Indiana University, Bloomington
Indiana University, Southeast
Purdue University
University of Southern Indiana
Indiana State University
California University of Pennsylvania
Valparaiso University

Iowa

University of Iowa
Iowa State University*
Coe College
Simpson College

Kansas

Washburn University*
Baker University

(*) Active chapters

Pittsburg State University

Kansas Cont.

University of Kansas

Kentucky

Centre College*

Morehead State University

Northern Kentucky University

Murray State University

Western Kentucky University*

Louisiana

Southeastern Louisiana University,

Hammond

Northwestern State University, Natchitoches

Maryland

Salisbury State University

University of Maryland, College Park

McDaniel College*

University of Maryland, Baltimore

Massachusetts

Bridgewater State College

Babson College

Michigan

Albion College*

Michigan State University

Eastern Michigan University*

Kettering University*

Michigan Technological University,

Houghton

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*

Western Michigan University

Wayne State University

Oakland University

Grand Valley State University

GMI Engineering & Management Institute

Minnesota

Minnesota State University, Mankato

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Mississippi

University of Southern Mississippi,

Hattiesburg

University of Mississippi*

Missouri

Truman State University

Washington University, St. Louis

University of Missouri, Columbia

Central Missouri State University

Drury University*

Northeast Missouri State

Nevada

University of Nevada, Reno*

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

New Hampshire

New England College*

Dartmouth College*

New Jersey

Jersey City State College

Rutgers University, New Brunswick*

Rutgers University, Camden*

Rider University*

Monmouth University*

Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison

New Mexico

University of New Mexico

Eastern New Mexico University, Portales

New Mexico State University*

New York

Adelphi University*

Brooklyn College

Rochester Institute of Technology

St. John's University, Queens*

St. John's University, Staten Island*

St. Lawrence University*

Slippery Rock University

State University of New York, Oneonta

State University of New York, New Paltz*

State University of New York at Delhi*

State University of New York at Plattsburgh

New York Institute of Technology

University at Buffalo*

Pace University*

Long Island University*

Colgate University

North Carolina

Barton College

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*

University of North Carolina, Wilmington

North Carolina Wesleyan College

University of North Carolina,

Greensboro

Appalachian State University Elon

University*

University of North Carolina Wilmington

North Dakota

University of North Dakota*

(*) Active chapters

Ohio

Ashland University
Baldwin-Wallace University*
Ohio Wesleyan University*
Bowling Green State University
Case Western Reserve University*
Ohio State University, Columbus
University of Mount Union
Capital University
Marietta College
Wittenberg University*
Kent State University
Ohio Northern University
University of Akron*
University of Toledo*
Denison University
Miami University*

Oklahoma

University of Oklahoma

Oregon

Oregon State University
Willamette University

Pennsylvania

California State University of
Pennsylvania*
University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia
Indiana University of Pennsylvania*
Lycoming College*
Clarion University
West Chester University
University of Pittsburgh*
Moravian College*
Pennsylvania State University
Kutztown University*
Bloomsburg University
Washington & Jefferson College*
Dickinson College
Ursinus College
St. Francis University

South Carolina

University of South Carolina
Clemson University

Tennessee

East Tennessee State University*
University of Tennessee- Martin Christian
Brothers University
Cumberland University
Austin Peay State University*

Texas

Texas Christian University*
University of Texas-Austin
Trinity University*
University of Texas- Arlington
University of Houston
Baylor University
Texas A&M University, College Station
University of North Texas
Southern Methodist University
St. Mary's University*
University of Texas—Pan American
Midwestern State University

Utah

Southern Utah University
Weber State University

Vermont

University of Vermont*

Virginia

College of William and Mary
Longwood College
Virginia Polytechnic Institute- State
University*
Radford University*
Randolph-Macon College*
Virginia Wesleyan College
University of Virginia College at Wise*

Washington

University of Puget Sound
University of Washington
Washington State University

West Virginia

Bethany College*
Davis and Elkins College
West Virginia Wesleyan College

Wisconsin

St. Norbert College
Lawrence University
University of Wisconsin-Madison
University of Wisconsin-Stevens
Point
University of Wisconsin-Platteville
University of Wisconsin--Oshkosh
Beloit College

Canada

University of British Columbia*

(*) Active chapters