

# Inactive and Alumnus Status

## Inactive Status

As explained in Delta Chi Law, (see below) if a member is enrolled at the same institution in which his initiating chapter or colony is located, then he is a “student member”. As a student member, with the exception of a graduate student, he is either “active” or “inactive”. With the exception of a graduate student, he **cannot** be granted “Alumnus Status.” This would be a direct violation of Delta Chi Law.

If a student member is inactive then he must be inactive. There is no such thing as “almost alive.” Either you are or you are not. An inactive student member cannot:

1. attend any chapter (or colony) social events (not even on a pay at the door” basis)
2. live in the chapter house
3. attend chapter meetings
4. play on any of the chapter’s intramural teams
5. be listed on the chapter’s scholastic roster
6. be eligible for the Fraternity’s accident insurance program
7. be a chapter officer
8. represent the chapter in any capacity (IFC, Conventions, Regional Conferences, etc.)

In the movie, “Spiderman, his father tells him that with great power come great responsibility. While it may at first seem odd that a non-member can attend one of our social events when a member (who is inactive) cannot, we need to remember that the member took an oath to Delta Chi that the non-member chose not to take.

## Alumnus (“Alumni” is plural) Status

According to Delta Chi Law, any initiate not then enrolled at the chapter or colony into which he was initiated or to which he has subsequently affiliated, except for university vacation periods during which enrollment is not required to maintain student status, shall be an alumnus member of the Fraternity.

Q: What if he intends to come back in a year (or next semester)?

A: He is an alumnus until he does.

Q: What if he didn’t get his degree?

A: Receiving or not receiving a degree is not part of the definition.

Q: What if he received a degree and has returned to get a second undergraduate degree?

A: If he has enrolled at an institution where there is no Delta Chi group or where there is a Delta Chi group with which he had never previously affiliated and does not affiliate, then he is an Alumnus.

Delta Chi Law, By-Laws, Article V:

V. **MEMBERSHIP IN THE FRATERNITY**

1. **CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP**

- (1) **STUDENT MEMBER**--An initiate of the Fraternity enrolled at the same institution in which his initiating chapter or colony is located shall be considered a student member, whether as an undergraduate or graduate student, unless otherwise provided in Delta Chi Law, except that a graduate student may at his option elect alumnus status.
- (2) **AFFILIATION OF MEMBERS OF OTHER CHAPTERS**--Any undergraduate chapter may affiliate any member of the Fraternity upon presentation of a duly executed Affiliation Card.
- (3) **INACTIVE STUDENT MEMBER**
  - (a) **STATUS DEFINED**--A student member in inactive status shall be prohibited from material participation in chapter activities including, but not limited to, social activities, sports programs, living in the chapter house, voting at chapter meetings, holding chapter office, and representing the chapter in any capacity.
  - (b) **PROCEDURE**--A student member may receive inactive status only through one of the following:
    - (i) Written notification by the member, such notification shall not impair any written financial agreements between the member and the chapter.
    - (ii) Motion of the member's chapter with approval by a two-thirds vote of both the chapter and its Alumni Board of Trustees.
    - (iii) For financial indebtedness only, by action of the Alumni Board of Trustees by a two-thirds vote.
  - (c) **RETURN TO ACTIVE STATUS**--An inactive student member may return to student member status by petition to the chapter with approval by a two-thirds vote of the chapter and its Alumni Board of Trustees.
- (4) **ALUMNUS STATUS**--Any initiate not then enrolled at the chapter or colony into which he was initiated or to which he has subsequently affiliated, except for university vacation periods during which enrollment is not required to maintain student status, shall be an alumnus member of the Fraternity. No alumnus member of the Fraternity shall have the right to vote in the meetings of an undergraduate chapter. Graduate students who are student members of a chapter shall have all of the rights of membership.

## **Fraternity Ala Carte**

Brotherhood is a two way street; if you want its benefits, you must live up to its obligations. Too many members believe that they can “go inactive” and split the two. They wish to renege on their obligations to the Fraternity but still want to take advantage of its benefits. Like a cafeteria, they want to pick only those things they are interested in: intramurals, parties, hanging out at the house, whatever. They usually acquiesce to token payments for some of the chapter’s direct, out-of-pocket expenses, but these are only the marginal costs. That should be okay, they argue, because they are, after all, “brothers.” I strongly disagree. They aren’t acting like brothers at all. They are leaving the rest of the brothers with the responsibility of taking care of all the things that make possible the activities these “brothers” want to have available on demand. It isn’t fair; it isn’t brotherly. Some older members argue that they have paid dues long enough and it is now time for younger brothers to "carry them." This only causes the dues for the younger brothers to be higher than they need to be. The older members need to realize that the dues they paid last year went to pay for last year's activities. Nothing was put away from prior dues to cover them for a free ride in the future. It's a "pay as you go" proposition.

A brother has two choices as a student, remain active and accept the obligations along with the benefits or go inactive and forego both. That means not representing the chapter in any way, not attending chapter meetings, not attending social events, not living in the house, etc. If Delta Chi is a true priority in their lives they will support it. If they aren't willing to support it then that says where Delta Chi is in their priority list.