

DELTA CHI

FRATERNITY

OFFICER RESOURCE: ALUMNI INITIATION

For most members of Delta Chi, they join the Fraternity on a college or university campus. They attended recruitment events, connected with one another during an Associate Member program, and experienced Delta Chi while as an undergraduate student. However, this is not the only way our members are able to join or experience our brotherhood. Alumni initiates are not an honorary title or position, but are a way to provide the gift of brotherhood to someone who may not have had the opportunity to join previously. Alumni initiates are full members of Delta Chi with the same rights and responsibilities as any other member, and they can provide a unique and valuable perspective as an engaged alumni.

UNDERSTANDING THE ALUMNI INITIATION PROCESS

Below are some helpful considerations as you think about how to introduce Delta Chi or the process of alumni initiation to prospective members:

- **Identify Potential Candidates:** Any adult male who has not been initiated into membership of another social fraternity is eligible for membership in Delta Chi. While we often think of family members, there are other possible options. Your faculty advisor, a campus staff member, neighbors, local business owners, and community or service partners, can be great candidates for membership. Consider who your chapter/provisional chapter may have already developed a relationship with, and how membership may be beneficial for them.
- **Help Them Understand Why:** It's not uncommon for a candidate for alumni initiation, when approached about the possibility of membership, may ask "why would I want to do this?" or "why now?" The most common understanding that people have for membership in a fraternity is the undergraduate experience. Help them to see the benefits of joining Delta Chi in the same way that you would when recruiting another potential member, but in a way that would be appealing for them. Some may be excited about the networking opportunity, others may be interested in getting involved or giving back, or it may even be the chance for them to belong to something bigger than themselves. Share all of the continued opportunities and benefits for alumni membership with potential candidates.
- **Understand the Process:** The [Alumni Engagement BRIEF](#) gives full details about the process for alumni initiation, but there are three major initial steps to follow before a ceremony may occur: unanimous vote of approval by the undergraduate chapter/provisional chapter; approval by the Alumni Board of Trustees; and notification to the Executive Director (typically by the "E") of the candidate's qualifications and why they are being recommended for membership.
- **Complete the Paperwork:** Once approval has been received, you would treat this like any other initiation by submitting an Alumnus Initiation Application, paying the Initiation Fee (or requesting a waiver by the Executive Director per Delta Chi Law), and completing the Ritual of Delta Chi (where they witness only the last section). They should be added to the chapter/provisional chapter alumni roster after the ceremony.
- **Welcome them to Delta Chi:** Initiation into membership is the first part of their journey as a member. They should receive alumni newsletters and communication and be invited to attend and feel welcome at events. They should be encouraged to join an Alumni Chapter (if one is located nearby), participate in the Alumni Rededication Ceremony, or get involved as a volunteer at the local, regional, or international level.