



CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please check one: *New Chapter* *Reinstate Chapter*

1. Name of Institution _____

Branch Main Campus State Supported Private
(Please check all that apply.)

2. Building/Location _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

3. Name of Chapter Councilor _____

Title of Chapter Councilor _____

Department _____

Street Address/PO Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Fax # _____

(Include Area Code)

E-mail Address _____

Website: _____

4. Secondary Contact Name _____

(For This Location---Must Be Faculty or Administrator/Not a student)

Title & Dept. _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

5. Institution Accredited by _____

6. What is your institution's definition of an adult non-traditional student?
7. Does your institution provide services and courses specifically designed to meet the needs of adult learners?
Yes No
8. Are the majority of the courses offered by your program for college credit?
Yes No
9. Please check degrees granted for adults in higher education:
Associates Degree Bachelor's Degree
Other _____
10. Enrollment: Total _____ Traditional _____ Adults _____
11. How many separate campus locations will this chapter serve including the one listed on page one of this application form? _____. On a separate sheet of paper, please provide a detailed list with all location names and addresses this chapter will serve in addition to the one shown in questions 1 & 2.

Where did you hear about Alpha Sigma Lambda? _____

Please submit your application materials by e-mail attachment to: alsiglam@eiu.edu.

Your application materials include: One copy of the completed application form and one copy of the revised draft of your chapter. When applying by e-mail, the chapter dues check should be mailed to the home office address upon submission of your application by e-mail attachment. The Executive Director and/or the Office Manager will review the files, make suggestions for revisions, and notify you regarding changes or with questions concerning your application/constitution. You will make any necessary revisions and re-submit the completed materials. The finalized versions of your application and constitution will then be distributed by e-mail attachment to all Executive Board members by the ASL office manager. The ASL office manager will notify you upon approval of your chapter's application for charter.

If you are unable to submit your materials via e-mail attachment, please fax copies of your proposed constitution and completed application form to the ASL Home Office at (217) 581-6697.

If your institution's course catalog is available via the web, please include the web address below:

Upon approval of your charter, a banner with the name of your institution, Greek chapter name, and the corresponding Greek letters will be ordered for you and a packet of basic materials for your first induction will be prepared. Upon payment of your \$375.00 application fee/first year's dues and approval of your chapter's charter, your materials will be shipped to the Chapter Councilor.

Date _____ Name _____

Title _____
 (Name & Title of the person who will serve as the Chapter Councilor)

CONSTITUTION INSTRUCTIONS

After your chapter has received their Greek chapter name from the Home Office Manager, your chapter may submit the constitution applications.

If you have not received the Greek chapter name, please contact the home office.

The chapter will have the status of one of the following:

- Honorary: the chapter will not hold meetings or elect officers
- Hold meetings & elect officers

There is a template for both kinds of chapters, please be aware of what template you need for your chapter.

You must submit a faxed or e-mail copy of the completed application form and the constitution draft to the ASL Home Office for review prior to forwarding your completed materials. The Home Office Manager and Dr. Pamela J. Collins, the Executive Director, will review the materials and advise you regarding any necessary changes before your application is sent on to the Society Board Members for consideration.

Applications are reviewed as they are received. The Home Office will distribute materials to the Executive Board and each member has 10 (ten) working days to review the materials and return his/her determination to the Home Office Manager. When materials are submitted entirely online with online catalogs available, the entire process can take as few as 5 working days to complete.

Additional Information for you:

*The templates do not have to be re-written. You may fill it out online or download the .pdf and submit it (via fax, mail or email).

*Additions to the articles in the template may be made but all the basic items within the articles **MUST** be present in your own Constitution in order to receive approval for chapter membership. You may also add articles and/or by-laws as needed. Additions must be submitted for approval with your Constitution to the Home Office.

*If your institution's course catalogs are available online, your materials may be submitted entirely by e-mail attachment to: alsiglam@eiu.edu. This will greatly speed the application process.

Questions? Please contact the Home Office Manager at (217) 581-7106 or at alsiglam@eiu.edu.



CHAPTER CONSTITUTION

For Chapters Who Elect Officers and Hold Meetings

The Constitution of _____ College/ University chapter of the Alpha Sigma
Lambda Honor Society, Called the _____ chapter.
(Assigned Greek chapter name)

ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSE

- Section 1. The name of this organization is the _____ chapter of the Alpha
Sigma Lambda Honor Society. (Assigned Greek chapter name)
- Section 2. Its purpose is to provide an on-campus association for and recognition of academically
outstanding students in continuing higher education.
- Section 3. This society shall be a non-profit organization devoted to the advancement of scholarship.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Student members shall be comprised of _____ College/University students who meet
the criteria detailed in Section 2 below*
- Section 2. This chapter shall satisfy the following requirements for election of students to membership:
- Members must be matriculated and have a minimum of twenty-four graded semester
hours taken through and graded at _____ College/University in an
undergraduate degree program. These college credits must not include transfer credits.
 - At least twelve credits of the student's total credits must be earned in courses in Liberal
Arts/Sciences, not including applied Arts/Sciences courses. Accepted transfer courses
may be added to the 24 credits earned at this institution until the Liberal Arts/Sciences
requirements are fully satisfied.
 - Members shall be selected only from the highest twenty percent of the class who have
twenty-four graded credits and are matriculated in an undergraduate degree program.
 - Those selected must have a minimum grade point index of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale. The
cumulative scholastic record of the student as interpreted by _____
College/University shall be the basis for computing scholastic eligibility.
- Section 3. This chapter may elect faculty, administrative officers, and staff to membership, provided that the
number of such active members at any time shall not exceed twenty members or ten percent of the
total membership of the chapter, whichever is larger. Faculty, staff, and administrative personnel
shall be exempt from all student membership criteria as outlined in Section 2 of this article.

*Note: Students are invited to membership into a chapter through a member institution. Student may not apply to the Home Office for individual membership at large.

**ARTICLE III
REPRESENTATION AND LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

- Section 1. The _____ College/University Dean of Continuing Education or a designated Deputy of the College/University shall be the Chapter Councilor and the Chapter's representative to the society convention. This Chapter Councilor shall be registered with the Executive Director.
- Section 2. The Chapter Councilor shall, whenever possible, attend the annual convention and be available to meet with the President of the Board of Councilors.
- Section 3. Except as otherwise specifically stated in this constitution, in the absence of a standing rule to the contrary, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern meetings of this organization.

**ARTICLE IV
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

- Section 1. The Chapter members shall elect:
(for a renewable term of one year)
- a. A President
 - b. A Vice-President
 - c. A Secretary
 - d. A Treasurer
- Section 2. The chapter may recommend student representatives for invitation to the chapter meeting.
- Section 3. The President shall serve as the presiding officer of the chapter and as a member ex-officio of all committees.
- Section 4. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President will assume the duties of this office. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice-President shall serve the remainder of the President's term.
- Section 5. The Secretary shall record minutes of the meetings of the chapter.
- Section 6. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all fiscal matters.
- Section 7. There shall be a Nominating Committee appointed by the President to solicit nominations from the membership and to present the slate of candidates for positions in Section 1.
- Section 8. Election of officers shall be by secret on-campus ballot at least 30 days prior to the annual Awards Ceremony. (Or whenever you decide)
- Section 9. The President shall appoint such committees as may be necessary to further the aims of the organization.

**ARTICLE V
FINANCES**

- Section 1. The chapter's fiscal year shall begin on _____ (select a date) of each year.
- Section 2. The annual dues for institutional membership shall be paid when billed by the Home Office.
- Section 3. An annual review of the chapter's financial records shall be submitted to the chapter's Councilor by the chapter's treasurer.

**ARTICLE VI
AMENDMENTS**

- Section 1. Constitutional amendments will be drafted by the officers of the chapter and submitted in draft form to all active chapter members present at any stated meeting of the chapter. These proposed amendments will then be discussed at the next chapter meeting and may be revised by a simple majority of those present and voting.
- Section 2. Following ratification of the amendment, a copy shall be placed in the chapter's campus records and one copy sent to the Home Office for placement in the chapter's permanent files.

**APPENDIX
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**

To determine eligibility for membership, follow these steps in the sequence given. This example is based on the criteria established in Article II of the Society's Constitution. Individual chapter criteria may be higher but may never be lower than that of the Society's Constitution.

Identify:

1. Adult Student Status according to the criteria outlined in Article I, Section 2 and Article II, Section 4 of the Society's Constitution.
2. Residency Requirement: Matriculated undergraduate adult students who have earned 24 credits or more at the respective chapter's institution. (Must not include transfer credits within the residency requirements.)
3. Distribution Requirements: Students who have 12 or more credits in Liberal Arts/Sciences. (May include transfer credits to complete the distribution requirement.)
4. Top twenty percent of the student pool remaining after completing steps 1, 2, and 3 of these instructions.
5. Students who have a GPA of 3.2 or above after completing steps 1, 2, 3, and 4 of these instructions. (Individual chapters may require a higher GPA for students to qualify for membership through their institution.)



CHAPTER CONSTITUTION
For Honorary Chapters (without officers or meetings)

The Constitution of _____ College/ University chapter of the Alpha Sigma
Lambda Honor Society, Called the _____ chapter.
(Assigned Greek chapter name)

ARTICLE I
NAME AND PURPOSE

- Section 1. The name of this organization is the _____ chapter of the
Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society. (Assigned Greek chapter name)
- Section 2. Its purpose is to provide an on-campus association for and recognition of academically outstanding
students in continuing higher education.
- Section 3. This society shall be a non-profit organization devoted to the advancement of scholarship.

ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Student members shall be comprised of _____ College/University students who meet
the criteria detailed in Section 2 below.*
- Section 2. This chapter shall satisfy the following requirements for election of students to membership:
- a. Members must be matriculated and have a minimum of twenty-four graded semester hours
taken through and graded at _____ College/University in an undergraduate
degree program. These college credits must not include transfer credits.
 - b. At least twelve credits of the student's total credits must be earned in courses in Liberal
Arts/Sciences, not including applied Arts/Sciences courses. Accepted transfer courses may
be added to the 24 credits earned at this institution until the Liberal Arts/Sciences
requirements are fully satisfied.
 - c. Members shall be selected only from the highest twenty percent of the class who have
twenty-four graded credits and are matriculated in an undergraduate degree program.
 - d. Those selected must have a minimum grade point index of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale. The
cumulative scholastic record of the student as interpreted by _____
College/University shall be the basis for computing scholastic eligibility.

Section 3. This chapter may elect faculty, administrative officers, and staff to membership, provided that the number of such active members at any time shall not exceed twenty members or ten percent of the total membership of the chapter, whichever is larger. Faculty, staff, and administrative personnel shall be exempt from all student membership criteria as outlined in Section 2 of this article.

*Note: Students are invited to membership into their chapters by member institution. Students may not apply to the Home Office for individual member at large.

ARTICLE III REPRESENTATION AND LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 1. The _____ College/University Dean of Continuing Education or a designated Deputy of the College/University shall be the Chapter Councilor and the Chapter's representative to the society convention. The Chapter Councilor shall be registered with the Executive Director.

Section 2. The Chapter Councilor shall, whenever possible, attend the annual convention and be available to meet with the Society President of the Board of Councilors.

Section 3. Except as otherwise specifically stated in this constitution, in the absence of a standing rule to the contrary, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern meetings of this organization.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Dean of Continuing Education at _____ College/University or a designated Deputy of the College/University shall serve as the sole member of the executive committee for the _____ chapter.

Section 2. The chapter shall operate strictly as an honorary unless or until sufficient student interest has been shown to warrant the election of student officers. At that time, student members shall elect officers as outlined by the Society's Constitution guidelines in effect at that time.

Section 3. The Home Office shall be notified when the change in procedures is established and the date and manner in which the changes shall take effect.

ARTICLE V FINANCES

Section 1. The chapter's fiscal year shall begin on _____ (select a date) of each year.

Section 2. The annual dues for institutional membership shall be paid when billed by the Home Office.

Section 3. The Chapter Councilor shall maintain full responsibility for the chapter's finances.

**ARTICLE VI
AMENDMENTS**

- Section 1. Constitutional amendments for this chapter will be drafted by the Chapter Councilor and/or the Executive Committee of the chapter.
- Section 2. A draft of the proposed amendment will be submitted for approval to the Executive Director of the Alpha Sigma Lambda Home Office.
- Section 3. Upon approval by the Executive Director, the amendment shall be considered ratified and a finalized copy placed in both the files of the chapter and the Home Office.

**APPENDIX
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**

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Identify:

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5. Students who have a GPA of 3.2 or above after completing steps 1, 2, 3, and 4 of these instructions. (Individual chapters may require a higher GPA for students to qualify for membership through their institution.)

Alpha Sigma Lambda

The ASL colors and symbols:

Colors:

Burgundy denotes power, action, and the confidence to go after your dreams. The color of blood – the essence of life and living.

Gold denotes wisdom, wealth used wisely, prosperity, success, good health, and optimism

Symbols on the ASL crest:

Alpha	A	First
Sigma	Σ	Scholarship
Lambda	Λ	Leadership

The ASL Motto:

First in Scholarship and Leadership



Love of Knowledge



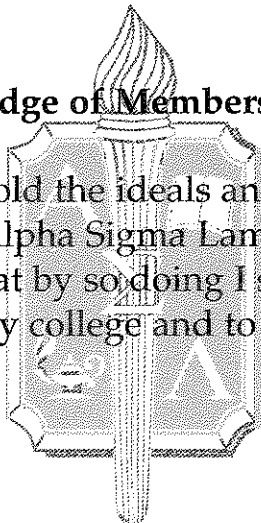
Wisdom

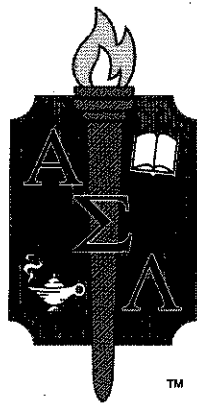


Life

Pledge of Membership

I promise to uphold the ideals and further the aims
of Alpha Sigma Lambda,
believing that by so doing I shall increase
my value to my college and to my community.





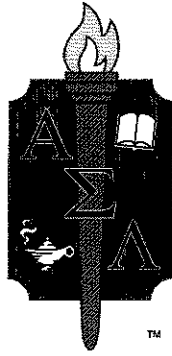
Greek Chapter Names

The Greek name assigned to your chapter has no specific meaning when translated into English. For example: "Alpha and Omega" denote "First and Last" only because they are the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet. "Mu" denotes "middle" because it is the middle letter of the Greek alphabet. No other Greek names have any specific meaning in English.

Some institutions request a specific Greek name for their chapter. We try to accommodate the chapter if the requested chapter name has not already been assigned to one of our other member institutions. Unless a chapter has requested a specific chapter name, the Greek name given to your chapter was chosen because it was the next unassigned name on the Home Office's list.

We are sometimes asked to assign a chapter name whose letters correspond with the name of the institution such as "Rho Upsilon" might correspond with Randall University. Whenever possible, we will grant the request.

If you wish to do so, you might choose an appropriate phrase to symbolize your chapter's Greek name. For example, the Greek name "Sigma Alpha" might correspond to the phrase "Scholarship First." Such a choice is entirely at your discretion. Many chapters incorporate their Greek names and the chosen corresponding phrases into their induction ceremony and as a logo on correspondence and programs. Whenever possible, we encourage you to do so in order to personalize your chapter and make the ceremony more meaningful to your inductees. We remind you, however, that you may add such information to the designated ritual of the formal induction ceremony but may not leave out any part of the ceremony as shown in the Society's Constitution.



Responsibilities of the ASL Chapter Councilor

The individual who acts as the sponsor for the ASL chapter on each campus is known as the Chapter Councilor. This person is usually the continuing education dean or a designated deputy of the college or university. However, this person may actually be any faculty or administrative individual. Students may not serve as Chapter Councilors unless they are also staff, faculty, or administration with the support of the sponsoring department/college.

Chapters may function in one of two ways: strictly as an honorary with no meetings or formal officers, or with a compliment of officers who act as the chapter's executive committee and hold meetings as designated by chapter requirements. Either scenario is acceptable. The Chapter Councilor/organizing committee will choose the option which best suits the student population at their campus. The duties of the Chapter Councilor are essentially the same in either case but the time requirements may vary slightly.

Basic Responsibilities Required of the Chapter Councilor and Any Designated Deputy:

Prior to receiving a charter:

- Secure and maintain senior management support for the chapter
- Choose and/or serve on the committee drafting the chapter's constitution and by-laws
- Select a secondary contact or designated deputy to serve with the Chapter Councilor
- Submit application materials for charter to the ASL Home Office
- Request the payment of the application/first year's dues fees to the ASL Home Office

After a charter has been granted:

- Review the list of eligible candidates
- Select the top 20% and initiate letters of invitation to membership
- Sign official certificates of membership
- Oversee the induction ceremony details
- Officiate at the chapter's induction ceremony after you have been inducted into the Society in person or via telephone by another Chapter Councilor or officer of the Society.
- Exceptions to the chapter's usual rules for the induction of individual student members should be made by the Chapter Councilor on a case by case basis using the best information available at the time of the request. Pregnancy, family illness, a death in the family, travel, and other situations may require that a student be inducted either by telephone or by letter.
- Online chapters generally induct their student members by letter. Please see the sample forms in this packet for induction in this manner.
- Send a spreadsheet listing of the new inductees with their mailing addresses to the Home Office following each induction ceremony. Follow the format outlined on the ASL website on the forms page. Whenever possible, please submit the names & addresses by e-mail attachment.
- Send a group picture of the new inductees and a hard copy of the induction program to the Home Office after each ceremony
- Maintain a perpetual list of student names and addresses from each induction in the chapter's own

records

Miscellaneous Duties:

- Approve annual payment of dues to the Society within 60 days of billing by the home office.
- Submit an annual chapter status report form when prompted by the home office each fall including complete information regarding a secondary faculty, administrative, or staff contact for the chapter
- Respond promptly to all electronic communications received from the ASL Office.
- Submit any Change of Chapter Information Form when changes to the Chapter or Institution's basic information affect the chapter or the Home Office's ability to contact the chapter representatives.
- Review materials received from the home office and distribute according to needs including scholarship application materials and other forms of interest to chapter leaders and members.
- Attend the ASL annual conference (whenever possible)
- Review accuracy of chapter's historical records
- Perform annual review of chapter financial reports

If the chapter is being operated strictly as an honorary, all duties surrounding the selection of candidates, planning of the induction ceremony, and ordering of supplies will be the direct responsibility of the Chapter Councilor and/or his/her designated deputy.

When a member chapter has officers and regular meetings, the executive committee of the chapter is able to share many of the responsibilities which would fall under the Chapter Councilor's role such as drafting the letters of invitation to membership, planning the induction ceremony, and placing orders for supplies.

The Society annually grants a number of scholarships to adult students attending the Society's member institutions. Scholarship materials are distributed each spring (usually in January) to all member institutions. The forms are also posted on our website for access by students or sponsors.

With regard to scholarships, it is the responsibility of the Chapter Councilor/deputy to:

- Notify adult students through posters, letters, e-mail, or other means that scholarships are available to them through application to their local chapter.
- Review any student applications for accuracy and completion of materials.
- Choose the final one or two applications from that chapter which will be submitted to the National Office for consideration.
- Complete and sign the cover sheet to verify the final submissions. (Unless special circumstances exist, this signature must be that of the Chapter Councilor and not his/her deputy.)

Chapter specifics vary widely according to the student populace at each institution. Chapters have considerable autonomy in the daily operations of their group. The primary designation by the Society is that no chapter's operations should violate any requirements set forth in the Society's Constitution or the chapter's own constitution.



Fundraiser Ideas

Activities other chapters have done:

Raffles: some examples:

- 50-50 raffles
- Prizes solicited from various businesses
- Grocery certificate lottery
- A day of yard work by chapter members

Art Auctions

Participating in a college-wide fundraisers for campus organizations

Food sales

- Peanuts
- Candy
- Sandwiches
- Baked goods
- Bagels and coffee for adults coming to classes directly from work

Used book sales

Clothing sales (see the ASL website at www.alphasigmalambda.org for a complete line of clothing with the ASL logo)

“No Hassle” Fundraisers: simply ask your students for contributions to support programs or scholarships (*thanks to Lamda Nu – Lebanon Valley College PA for the title*)

Chapter dues

Tupperware, basket, candle parties, etc: Hosts contribute their incentive money to ASL.

Wine tastings

What Other Chapters Do

New Student Orientations: ask your members to serve as

- Tour guides
- Greeters
- Mentors, calling new students once or twice a semester

Social events, for current members and alumni:

- Dinners, with perhaps a guest speaker
- Picnics for students and their families
- Group attendance at a campus sports event or theater production
- Lunchtime get togethers, sometimes inviting a faculty member
- Bus trips
- Days at a zoo or other family-friendly outings
- Tailgating at sports events
- Dinner theater outings
- Networking receptions for current students and alumni

Send out birthday cards to members

Publish a directory of adult students

Offer an emergency loan program for students

Volunteer with on-campus organizations:

- Clothing drives, including donating interview apparel for needy students
- Food drives
- Homecoming parades
- Phonathon operators

Volunteer with off campus organizations

- Food banks
- Shelters
- Big Brother/Big Sisters
- Overseas charities
- Sponsoring a needy family at the holidays
- American Cancer Society fundraising walks/runs
- Habitat for Humanity

Hold a graduate school information night

Publish a chapter newsletter

Publish a cookbook featuring quick recipes by and for adult students

If you want to develop volunteers, it's best to begin with asking members for a small and specific commitment.



Banner Care Instructions

Dry Clean Only

Do Not Launder

Do Not Iron

Steam From Reverse
Side Only

Archival Services

The Alpha Sigma Lambda Home Office is pleased to offer each chapter the opportunity to preserve copies of its important historical documents in the National Office's permanent files. Benefits to this service include:

- No misplaced records due to changes in officers or chapter sponsor
- No lost records due to natural disaster in your area
- Records could be copied and mailed or faxed to the chapter when needed.
- New Chapter Councilors/Officers can draw upon past records for procedures, membership information, and to develop new processes, by-laws, or constitutional amendments.

The types of records needed for your permanent files include:

1. A copy of your chapter's current constitution and any by-laws/amendments.
2. Copies of each induction ceremony brochure or sheet following the ceremony
3. A list of your charter members as shown on the chapter's wall charter
4. A list of all inductees with their current home address for each ceremony including professional/staff inductees. A letter of welcome will be sent to each inductee from the National Office.
5. Newspaper articles or newsletters issued by or about your chapter
6. Photographs of chapter activities, inductions, or honored members
7. Any special awards or scholarships offered by your chapter and the basic details of how winners apply, are selected, and/or criteria for selection
8. Information about special award recipients, chapter scholarship winners, or any recognition your chapter has bestowed
9. Any other materials that should be preserved such as information about special activities or service programs including how these programs are administered.

The Home Office's ability to assist a National Councilor, student officer, or former member will depend upon the consistency and quality of the materials submitted by each chapter. Please label all photographs with chapter name and names of person's shown in the photo (left to right, top to bottom). If you e-mail photographs as an attachment to the office, please carefully label the attachment as well.

We encourage all chapters will take advantage of this service. We have received numerous requests for just the types of information listed. In some cases, we have been able to supply the requested information. In many cases, the home office was never sent this information resulting in great disappointment to the chapter or individual chapter member.

Please, send copies of your chapter's important documents, information, and membership lists for future generations. Send copies of the items listed to the following address:

Alpha Sigma Lambda National Office
School of Continuing Education
Eastern Illinois University
600 Lincoln Avenue, 1153 Blair Hall
Charleston, IL 61920
Ph:(217) 581-7106
e-mail: alsiglam@eiu.edu
www.alphasigmalambda.org



Induction Ideas

Invite current members to attend and ask them to:

- Usher
- Hand out programs
- Participate in the induction ceremony

Recognize the contributions of members of the campus community:

- Adjunct of the year awards
- Faculty member of the year awards
- Adult student of the year, honoring someone who exemplifies ASL's emphasis on scholarship and leadership

Ask senior administrators to participate in the induction ceremony.

Invite ASL alumni and students' favorite faculty and staff members to attend.

Follow the induction with some kind of a social event:

- Reception
- Brunch
- Dinner
- Ice cream social

Charge induction dues to cover costs.

Have each inductee stand and speak briefly about their other responsibilities during their studies.

Organize Certificates of Appreciation for inductees to award to supportive friends, families, coworker, and bosses.

Hold the induction early in the semester (e.g. February or October) to allow for a small service or social project before graduation.

If you're a new chapter, ask a nearby chapter to help you plan your first induction.

Induct honorary members:

- Faculty
- Staff
- Supportive employers

Issue a press release to campus and community newspapers about the induction.

Hold a "Second Chance" induction in September for students who couldn't attend the more elaborate spring induction. *(Thanks to Theta Lambda - Bemidji State University, MN, for the title.)*

ALPHA SIGMA LAMBDA RITUAL

Chairperson

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of Alpha Sigma Lambda, I welcome you as candidates for membership and congratulate you on your academic achievement.

Before you are given an opportunity to take the Pledge of Membership, it is but fitting that the qualities expected of you as participants in our society, also its aims and ideals, be explained to you.

Mr/Ms

_____ will
you please outline for the candidates the significance of our motto as indicated by the three Greek letters, Alpha Sigma Lambda.

Mr/Ms

The Greek letters Alpha, Sigma, and Lambda, which form the name of our Society, have a special meaning to us. Alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet; therefore, it stands for "first." The letter Sigma corresponds to the letter "S", and is symbolic of scholarship. Lambda corresponds to the letter "L", and denotes leadership. Thus, Alpha Sigma Lambda forms the

framework of our motto, which is “First in Scholarship and Leadership.”

Scholarship may be defined as advanced study in some special field. But this definition does not give consideration to the qualities of the scholar. True scholars humbly realize that learning is a continuing process and are keenly aware of their own inadequacies. They are never convinced of the finality of their findings and are dedicated to the task of seeking truth, no matter where it lies.

PAUSE

Leadership is the activity of influencing people to cooperate in achieving some common goal or objective. It is the quality which urges people to pull together as one, yet allows them to contribute—when retaining—their uniqueness as individuals. Alpha Sigma Lambda desires of its members a continuing effort to cultivate the important qualities of leadership—a sense of purpose, enthusiasm, energy, integrity, decisiveness, and technical mastery.

Chairperson

Thank you, Mr/Ms

As candidates for membership you now understand the Scholarship and Leadership for which Alpha Sigma Lambda stands.

Mr/Ms

will you please explain the significance of the Open Book, the Lighted Roman Lamp, and the Burning Torch, which are displayed on our key?

Mr/Ms

In the upper right quadrant of our key is an Open Book which symbolizes the Love of Knowledge. Love of Knowledge is different from knowledge itself. Knowledge alone is narrow and limited, while the Love of Knowledge is broad, seeking everywhere for the relationships which give meaning to time, place, culture and history. It is our belief that men and women who aspire to the broad spirit of learning, this Love of Knowledge, will seek to catch the fullness of life even in the midst of their busy, utilitarian pursuit of special knowledge.

In the lower left corner of the key is a Lighted Roman Lamp. For centuries, this has been the symbol of Wisdom. Wisdom is based on Knowledge, but it is more than Knowledge. It is characterized by the open mind and by readiness to decide, as truth may point the way, without prejudice or passion.

Extending vertically through the center of the key is a Burning Torch, the symbol of Life. It is displayed on our badge because we believe that the Love of Knowledge and the pursuit of Wisdom are the cornerstone on which Life itself should be constructed.

We have before us the challenge to be mindful of the ideals toward which we strive: to gain not only Knowledge, but also the Love of Knowledge; to prepare us to be not only specialists, but also accomplished human beings; to appreciate the relationships which our vocations bear to life as a whole; to keep open minds, to give our best thoughts to the whole of life; and, to discipline our spirits to a better understanding of the world in which we live.

Chairperson

Thank you, Mr/Ms

Ladies and Gentlemen:

You have heard the aims and ideals of our Society and the qualifications expected of you.

Mr/Ms

Will you please administer the Pledge of Membership to the members-elect?

Mr/Ms

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please rise and repeat after me----
I promise to uphold the ideals
and further the aims
of Alpha Sigma Lambda,
believing that by so doing
I shall increase my value to my college
and to my community.

(NOTE: The person administering the Pledge of Membership then welcomes the new members as follows:)

I welcome you to membership in Alpha Sigma Lambda. On this ceremonial occasion, let us resolve that its significance shall not be of the day or the hour; that it shall be connected not with experiences, but with sincerities; that as we go forth from this hall, we will strive more earnestly than ever before to make the love of learning and the pursuit of wisdom the companion and guide of life. We ask that you treasure this association, remembering what it signifies. In return, Alpha Sigma Lambda extends to you, all the privileges and honors of membership. On behalf of the present members, I extend to you sincere congratulations.

As I call your names, will you please step forward and receive your certificate?

(NOTE: When all students have received certificates, a standing ovation is called for.)