



**DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED**  
*A Service Sorority Founded in 1913*

**MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS  
FOR COLLEGIATE CHAPTERS**

*Eligibility for Membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Constitution and Bylaws (2021 Edition)*

**ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. REQUIREMENTS FOR COLLEGIATE MEMBERSHIP INTAKE**

- A. Any woman of good character is eligible for collegiate membership in the Sorority provided that she:
1. must demonstrate involvement in public service activities;
  2. is matriculating at a college or university, approved by the National Scholarship and Standards Committee, in day, evening or extension classes as a student pursuing work leading to an initial baccalaureate degree or its equivalent;
  3. has completed at least 24 semester hours or 36 quarter hours at a college or university recognized by the US Department of Education, the Council of Higher Education or the equivalent international accreditation agency and is currently enrolled as a part-time or full-time student as defined by the college or university;
  4. has submitted a completed Application for Membership packet which includes an official transcript showing a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale or 1.75 on a 3.0 scale, which transcript must be mailed directly to the chapter from the appropriate college or university;  
**Note:** Due to technological updates to the membership intake program, transcripts are required to be submitted via the online application tool.
  5. has been approved for membership by majority vote of the members of the chapter through which she is to be initiated. The chapter vote is final. Absent a violation of the Sorority's Membership Intake Program, a chapter vote shall be upheld;
  6. has been approved for membership by the regional director of which the initiating chapter is a part;
  7. has never been a member of, nor has been expelled from, any society holding membership in the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc., the Panhellenic Conference, Inc., the National Multicultural Greek Council, Inc., or Interfraternity Council;
  8. meets all financial requirements of the Grand Chapter and the initiating chapter; and
  9. meets all requirements for membership as outlined in the Administrative Procedures for Membership Intake and procedural manuals approved by the Board of Directors.
- B. Any woman who has received or completed the requirements for a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent is ineligible for membership in a collegiate chapter, even if she remains at that institution to pursue another baccalaureate degree or its equivalent.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE CRITERIA**

From its founding in 1913, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated's criteria for membership have included documented and credible involvement of each individual as a volunteer in public service. Therefore, those seeking membership in the Sorority must demonstrate involvement in a public service activity.

*As approved by Grand Chapter at the 47<sup>th</sup> National Convention, public service is not limited to the service area of the chapter.*

## **DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED SEEKS WOMEN WHO DEMONSTRATE ACTIVE PUBLIC SERVICE INVOLVEMENT AS OPPOSED TO SELF-SERVING INVOLVEMENT.**

### **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated's Public Service Criteria**

In Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, public service is that which provides solace, support and/or care for the needy. Public service activities are activities performed above and beyond those that are job-related or those that are done in the interest of the applicant's family or self.

### **The official Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated definition of Public Service is:**

Service provided to a community (not necessarily in the applicant chapter's current service delivery area) validated by an official representative of the entity receiving the service, an official responsible for management of the service mission (third party verification of service is acceptable), or the organization's campus advisor.

Public Service is **UNPAID** voluntarism that is **NOT** mandated or required by an organization in which the candidate is a member (e.g., The Links, Junior League, or Jack & Jill), or for completion of a college requirement for graduation (as determined in the university/college requirements).

### **Eligible Public Service Examples**

- Feeding the homeless, mentorship, organizing clothing drive, serving at a food pantry, organizing drives (e.g. clothing, blood drives, mobilizing voters), volunteering at senior centers).
- Applicants who are volunteering their time to provide tutoring services which **ARE NOT** required as a condition of their employment and/or college/university credit, **WOULD BE** considered eligible public service credit under these guidelines.
- Applicants who are members of community/national organizations (e.g., NAACP, Urban League), in which community service participation is **NOT REQUIRED** as part of their membership, **WOULD BE** considered eligible for public service credit under these guidelines.
- Applicants who are volunteering at an animal shelter assisting with the adoption of pets, caring for rescue animals, and assisting with the care and nurture of animals in a shelter **WOULD BE** considered eligible public service credit under these guidelines.
- Applicants who serve/hold non-profit board membership by way of election or appointment, without fiscal compensation, inclusive of community service benefiting/supporting the community (e.g., feeding the homeless, kids lock-in, food bank volunteerism, etc.) would be considered eligible public service. The

letter must share the applicant's time on board, services provided to the community and their individual contribution, along with the frequency of service.

- Applicants involved in school organizations that benefit all children (e.g., PTA, troop leader). Note: If the applicant's child is part of the group, the public service letter must verify that the service benefits all children.

### **NOT Eligible Public Service Examples**

- Applicants who are volunteering at any city/state/national official political campaign office or any political campaign duties **WOULD NOT** be considered eligible for public service credit under these guidelines.
- Applicants who are college/university graduate assistants and **ARE REQUIRED** to complete a specified amount of community service hours for graduate credit or completion of a degree, **WOULD NOT** be considered eligible for public service credit under these guidelines.
- Applicants who are officers in a collegiate, community, or national organization and **REQUIRED** to complete a minimum number of public service hours as a condition of being an officer, **ARE NOT** eligible for public service credit under these guidelines.
- **Volunteerism in Delta-sponsored activities/programs is invalid for a letter of recommendation when applying for membership in Delta Sigma Theta.**

### **Self-Serving Involvement:**

Self-serving Involvement does **NOT** meet the public service criteria. Self-serving involvement examples includes:

- Church activities common/internal to all churches, examples such as Sunday school teacher and singing in the choir, serving as an officer of the church, or completing administrative duties (**NOTE:** However, involvement in church activities that goes beyond the congregation to the community-at-large, (e.g., outreach) such as participation in food banks, clothing collection/distribution, or disaster relief are considered public service)
- Member of an investment club
- Member of a bowling team
- Parental involvement with one's own child's or family member's activities (e.g., PTA, coach of your child's/family member's team, troop leader of your child's or family member's troop)
- Activities associated with a condition of employment
- Activities directly related to course requirements (high school, college/university, etc.)
- Volunteer activities for local, state, and national candidate's election campaigns

### **Collegiate Applicants**

- ✓ An individual must complete a minimum of twenty-five (25) hours of public service to the same entity for a period of three (3) months within the last 9 months prior to the date of the RUSH. Note: The letter must state the month and the number of hours of service provided each month and in what year (This is only an example for collegiate applicants: For a **September 2023 RUSH**; Jan 1-31, 2023: 15 hours; April 4-22, 2023: 6 hours; July 1-12, 2023: 10 hours) OR Jan 2023: 15 hours; April 2023: 6 hours; July 2023:10 hours). **Note:** An applicant may demonstrate additional public service in either hours or months.

**Non-Profit/Not-for-Profit/Foundation established by an applicant**

If applicant has established a non-profit, not-for-profit or a foundation, the following criteria **MUST** be met in order for it to be considered eligible for Public Service:

- the organization must have been established **two (2)** years or more (prior to the date of the RUSH);  
**AND**
- the applicant can **NOT** receive any form of payment, reimbursement, stipend, and/or in-kind services for her service and/or time.
  - The Letter of recommendation to confirm public service **MUST**:
    - Include the Applicant's Name
    - Include the name of the organization
    - Name, position, date (typed or pen and ink and in Month Day Year format), signature (pen and ink - not digital) and contact information of the person writing the letter. The contact information must include the email address and/or telephone number of the person writing the letter.
    - Must come from a partner organization that has benefited from the services of the applicant's organization or from an elected public official (examples include, but are not all-inclusive of, Alderman, Mayor, City Council member, School Board official, Governor) in the area where the service is being provided; **AND**
    - Be on the partner organization's or the elected official's letterhead; **AND**
    - Include details of the impact of the partnership with the applicant's organization or the impact to the community, if the letter is from an elected official. The letter should also highlight the impact of the applicant's direct involvement.

**ACADEMIC CRITERIA**

It is the responsibility of those seeking membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated to ensure the credit hours and cumulative grade point averages appear on the official transcript provided by the school of current enrollment or the degree-granting institution in order for the application to be considered. Transcripts should reflect a grade point average based on/converted to a 3.0 or 4.0 scale. Only the information provided on the current transcript is used.

A completed Application for Membership must be completed and an official transcript received showing a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale or 1.75 on a 3.0 scale. Applicants must upload an official transcript in the application tool before or by the application deadline. If the college/university does not provide electronic transcripts, the chapter president must be notified immediately, and instructions will be provided. The official transcript must be received by the application deadline.

If the applicant is enrolled in a dual-enrollment program, program verification must be provided by either the dual-enrollment program office or the current college/university's Office of the Bursar. Additionally, transcripts from both colleges/universities must be uploaded with the issue date after the Rush date.

**Collegiate applicants** must have completed at least 24 semester hours or 36 quarter hours at a college or university recognized by the US Department of Education, the Council of Higher Education or the equivalent international accreditation agency and is currently enrolled as a part-time or full-time student as defined by the college or university.

**Calculating total credit hours and/or cumulative grade point averages is the responsibility of the registrar of the college/university providing the transcript. Chapters will NOT calculate grade point averages.**

### **MATRICULATION CRITERIA**

Collegiate applicants must be continuously enrolled as a student throughout the entire Membership Intake Process. Termination of enrollment at any point in the process will be grounds for rating the individual immediately ineligible for membership consideration.

### **MILITARY ACTIVE DUTY CRITERIA**

**Active Duty is defined as:**

Full-time service in the Armed Forces or National Guard unit with regular duties and pay.

### **BACKGROUND SCREENING**

**ALL** applicants are required to successfully pass the background screening prior to being extended an invitation for an interview. The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Membership Intake Background Screening shall be conducted by a company selected and approved by National Headquarters. Applicants are restricted to applying to one (1) chapter within ninety (90) calendar days of the previous chapter's application deadline date. Applicants are responsible for completing and submitting all applicable state forms related to the background screening application process.

### **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**

N/A for Collegiate Chapters