



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

**MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS  
 FOR ALUMNAE CHAPTERS**

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

**ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR ALUMNAE MEMBERSHIP INTAKE**

Any woman of good character is eligible for alumnae membership in the Sorority provided that she:

1. must demonstrate involvement in public service activities;
2. lives in a primary residence which must be in the chapter service area as identified by the chapter charter or source documentation provided from National Headquarters or regional director or not be in the service area of any other chapter, and the residence is within the same region, and 50 miles of the chapter's service area.
3. holds a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent or higher from an accredited college, university or professional school that is recognized by the US Department of Education, the Council of Higher Education, or the equivalent international accreditation agency.
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.

The grade point average requirement is not applicable where the applicant demonstrates that:

- a) it has been 10 years or more since she has received her baccalaureate degree or its equivalent;  
 or
  - b) she has received a professional designation equivalent to master's degree or above; or
  - c) she has received a post-graduate degree or a professional designation equivalent (International Chapters only).
5. has never been, nor has been expelled from, any society holding membership in the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc., the Panhellenic Conference, Inc., or the National Multicultural Greek Council, Inc., or Interfraternity Council;
  6. 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;
  7. has been approved for membership by the regional director of which the initiating chapter is a part;
  8. meets all financial requirements of the Grand Chapter and the initiating chapter; and

9. meets all the requirements as outlined in the Sorority's Membership Intake Program and in the procedural manuals approved by the Board of Directors.

## **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 include:

- 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

### **Alumnae Applicants**

- ✓ An individual must complete a minimum of one hundred and twenty hours (120) hours of public service to the same entity within 24 months (2 years) prior to the date of the RUSH. (This is only an example for alumnae 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 January 2022: 15 hours; March 2022: 52 hours; May 2022: 40 hours; June 2022: 40 hours; January 2023: 10 hours; February 2023: 8 hours; July 2023: 25 hours). An applicant may demonstrate additional public service in either hours or months.

**Military Applicants Only (if applicable)**

Public Service Letters of Recommendation for current military personnel, spouses of military personnel, Department of Defense (DoD) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) civilians, spouses of Department of Defense (DoD) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) civilians, and those who have become veterans within the last two years.

**Public Service criteria (Military applicants only):**

A military applicant who does not meet the standard public service criteria (120 hours of public service to the same entity within 24 months (2 years) prior to the date of the RUSH) and has had a permanent change of station (PCS) or temporary change of station (TCS) must provide documentation to validate her public service as listed below.

**Letters of Recommendation Public Service Requirement:****Option One:**

- If the military applicant does not meet the standard public service criteria due to a permanent change of station (PCS) or temporary change of station (TCS), the applicant **MUST** provide public service letters of recommendation (e.g. multiple letters) from public service entities, written on official letterhead, verifying the applicant's public service based on the applicant's activity of a minimum of eighty five (85) hours performed within two (2) years (prior to the date of the RUSH); AND
- **Must provide:**
  - A copy of her Military Orders or official assignment letter within the past two (2) years. If the service member has transferred multiple times within two (2) years prior to the date of the RUSH, she must submit all orders for each move and public service letters from each area.

**Option Two:**

- If the military applicant does not meet the standard public service requirement and has become a veteran within the last two (2) years and served in a designated combat zone, within the last two (2) years prior to the date of the RUSH (for four (4) months or longer) she may provide her deployment orders in lieu of providing verification of public service; AND
- **Must provide:**
  - A copy of her Military Orders or official assignment letter within the past two (2) years.

**Requirements for Letters of Recommendation (Military applicants only):**

Name of the applicant, name of the organization, name and contact information (email and/or phone) of the individual writing the letter, signature of public service representative in pen and ink and dated (pen and ink or typed). The date must include the month, day and year and the letter must be dated **AFTER** the official RUSH date.

**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 organization
    - Name, position, date (typed or pen and ink)-The date must include the month, date and year and the letter must be dated **AFTER** the official RUSH date-, signature (pen and ink - not digital) and contact information (email and/or phone) 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. Transcripts must be submitted electronically. The transcript must be uploaded in the application tool before the deadline date. For collegiate and alumnae chapters, 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.

The grade point average requirement is not applicable where the applicant demonstrates that:

- a) it has been 10 years or more since she has received her baccalaureate degree; or its equivalent; or
- b) she has received a professional designation equivalent to master's degree or above; or
- c) she has received a post-graduate degree or a professional designation equivalent (International Chapters only)

**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

N/A for Alumnae Chapters

## 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 CRITERIA (Alumnae Chapters Only)

**Alumnae applicants MUST reside in the service area of the chapter\*. Proof of the applicant's primary residence is required and must be submitted with the application. Applicants must provide a Driver's License or State Issued Identification Card. A post office box or business address is NOT acceptable evidence as proof of residency.** An applicant's residence shall be verified to determine the eligibility of the applicant. The Sorority defines residence as the place where a person has her true, fixed, permanent/primary home and principal living establishment and to which, whenever she is away, she has intention of returning. Residence established solely for the purpose of seeking membership in the Sorority cannot be considered as fulfilling the definition. Falsifying residency information will render the applicant ineligible for membership in the Sorority.

**All forms utilized as proof of primary residency must match the name and address provided on the application.**

All documents including the Driver's License or State Issue ID must show the name and address of the applicant and must match the address listed on the application to meet the residency requirement for eligibility. Proof of PRIMARY residency is required from Alumnae applicants and the applicant must reside in the service area of the chapter or within 50 miles of the chapter's service area if the applicant does not live in any chapter's service area. The applicant must live in the same region as the chapter. A post office box or business address is not acceptable.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure ALL requirements of the acceptable form of residency verification is included. For example, if the required date is not provided/included on the document, the applicant MAY NOT utilize that as a form of residency verification.

**Valid proof of Primary Residency (Alumnae applicants only):** Applicant must provide two (2) qualifying proofs of PRIMARY residency. Applicants must provide a Driver's License or State Issued Identification Card and may choose one (1) additional proof of residency.

**o Required:**

- Driver's License or State-Issued Identification Card (Must include the address. The issue date must be at least **120 days prior to the date of the RUSH.**) **Note:** The following scenario may be acceptable with verification/proof and approval (*If the applicant's driver's license was renewed in the same state within 120 days of the RUSH*)

**o Other proof of residency options:**

- Deed, Mortgage Statement
- Current/Active Homeowners/Condominium/Renters Insurance Policy
- Automobile registration/auto tax bill
- Property tax statement
- 1098 T- Tuition Form (Recent undergraduates only within 2 years to be verified via the transcript)
- Utility bill\* (gas, electric, sewer)
- Cable bill\*
- Home phone bill\*
- Cellular phone bill\* (recent undergraduates within one year). Chapter must review transcript.

\*For bill type options: Applicant may select only 1 (one) bill type from the applicable list. Applicant must provide one bill per month (e.g., September, October, November for the same company) for each of the last three months prior to the date of the RUSH.

**o (Residency) Military Applicants Only**

(Pertains to all military branches and Department of Defense (DoD) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS)): Current military personnel, spouses of military personnel, Department of Defense (DoD) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) civilians, spouses of Department of Defense (DoD) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) civilians, and those who have become veterans within the last two years may present one (1) of the following:

- o Military orders or official assignment letter; must include the duty location
  - Spouses of military personnel or Department of Defense (DoD) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) civilians must be listed as a dependent on the orders/assignment letter.
- o Letter from the commanding officer, senior civilian (GS-14 equivalent or higher), or post housing officer on official letterhead, verifying the individual's association with the military community, and the location of the current duty station (pen and ink signature only; digital signatures will not be accepted).
  - Note: For the online application, the military applicant must upload the same document in both residency fields.
  - \* If granted an interview, MUST present Military ID and or applicable IDs for admittance

**NOTE #1: Your PRIMARY residency will be verified based upon the name and address listed on the proof of PRIMARY residency acceptable forms and the application.**

\* **International Chapters only:** Consistent with chapter's service area, on file with National Headquarters, and operating agreement

\*\* If granted an interview, **MUST** present Military ID for admittance. **Note:** Military applicants providing military orders are not required to provide a valid driver's license for residency.