

GRADUATE CHAPTER SUPPORT PLAN

PURPOSE

Graduate Chapter

One of the most common myths surrounding graduate chapters is confusing their function with the undergraduate experience most brothers are familiar with. It is not possible to identify a single purpose or function for a graduate chapter. We identify the following as purposes of a graduate chapter, listed in priority order:

1. To connect brothers that live in a geographic region, living out the motto of “Not for College Days Alone.”
2. To provide social and networking opportunities to brothers from various chapters.
3. To welcome recent graduates or graduates moving to a new city.
4. To provide support and guidance to nearby undergraduate chapter.
5. To give back to the local community.

Support Plan

The purpose of the graduate chapter support plan is to provide needed guidance and assistance as our graduate chapters try to engage more local brothers and grow their local network. This plan will outline expectations and suggestions from the International Headquarters and offer a structure for different outlets of support.

EXPECTATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Fraternity Expectations

1. The Fraternity requires graduate chapters to host or sponsor at least 2 events per year to be recognized as active.
2. The minimum membership requirement is 7 brothers residing at or in the vicinity of the area where the chapter is located.
3. The Fraternity expects graduate chapters to follow its **Risk Management Policy**.

Suggestions for Best Practices

1. The Fraternity recommends that graduate chapters host at least 4 events but aim for 6-10 every calendar year.
2. We recommend that graduate chapters host a variety of different events (not just happy hours) to find a balance between social, family and philanthropic events.
 - i. Note that each metropolitan area or region will have different opportunities to offer. For different ideas and planning, look at **suggested activities and events for grad chapters**.
3. It is best to identify graduate chapter leadership, at minimum a president. The Fraternity recommends having at least 3 graduates on the leadership team.
4. It is important to utilize various forms of communication.
 - i. We suggest using a mailing service, such as MailChimp, while also having a social media presence.
5. Headquarters staff suggests that our graduate chapters request data updates from staff every 6 months.
6. The Fraternity suggests that one voting delegate gets sent to the Ekklesia.

7. Graduate chapters should play integral role in providing guidance and resources for success of undergraduate chapters by working with the Section Chief to identify brothers who might be willing to serve in a volunteer position, such as Purple Legionnaire, on the Board of chapter Advisors or House Corporation.
8. Headquarter staff encourages the creation of a Graduate Chapter Scholarship a Graduate Chapter Scholarship Fund through the Phi Gamma Delta Educational Foundation for (a) local undergraduate chapter(s).
9. It is suggested to submit a graduate chapter roster on an annual basis to the Director of Graduate Engagement.

SUPPORT

International Headquarters (IHQ)

The **Director of Graduate Engagement** (DOGE) is your go-to resource on the IHQ staff. Assistance to graduate chapters will look different depending on their needs. Lists of brothers living within a geographic region can be provided upon request, the sending of mass communications (highlighted further below) and resources for best practices are some of the services that can/will be provided by the DOGE.

Leadership

Graduate chapters have the autonomy to select graduate chapter leaders (officers) in a manner which best fits the chapter's needs. These leaders will provide guidance to the graduate chapter, be in communication with the Director of Graduate Engagement and will be provided with a handbook for graduate brother leaders.

Communications

Communications with brothers in the local area should be an important focal point for graduate chapter leaders. An updated list of brothers in the area can be provided to graduate chapters by contacting the DOGE. While we suggest graduate chapters utilize a mailing service (ex: MailChimp), the Fraternity's **Graduate Communications Services** program can be utilized to send messages on your behalf.

****Information needs to be sent to the Director of Graduate Engagement at least two weeks in advance of event****

Startup Resources

New graduate chapters will be provided with some startup resources to help kickstart the process. These resources will include a list of graduate brothers living in their respective area, further access to resources and suggestions for best practices and the offering of webinars and town halls to connect with other graduate chapter leaders.

Section Chief

The Section Chief works primarily with undergraduate chapters but can be a useful resource to the graduate chapter. For example, he is likely to be familiar with some graduate brothers living in the area or may be able to help the graduate chapter identify graduating seniors from the local chapters. It is suggested that the Section Chief participate in nearby graduate chapters to build connections with graduate brothers in the area.

STAFF/GRADUATE CHAPTER LEADER COMMUNICATION

The Director of Graduate Engagement will send out quarterly updates from the Fraternity to all graduate chapter leaders. Headquarters will also facilitate virtual town halls and webinars every 6 months to foster communication among graduate chapter leaders.