

Statements of Position

New Member Activities

New Member Terminology

Alpha Chi Omega Fraternity supports and advocates the use of the words “new member” when referring to members who have completed a recruitment process and accepted a bid rather than the use of the word “pledge.” In addition, chapters may not name new member classes, or refer to new members in terms that may be considered undignified or place anyone in tiered status (e.g., “babies,” “angels”).

Hazing

Alpha Chi Omega does not condone unkind, undignified or humiliating activities. Members of Alpha Chi Omega must not conduct hazing activities. Alpha Chi Omega chapters must include in their bylaws a statement prohibiting hazing and/or demeaning activities. Alpha Chi Omega considers hazing to be a form of domestic violence.

Facilities

Collegiate Chapter Housing

Alpha Chi Omega National Fraternity has assigned to the Alpha Chi Omega National Housing Corporation the responsibility for collegiate chapter facilities. The national Fraternity expects the National Housing Corporation to provide support and assistance to house corporations and property management groups so that the collegiate chapters have appropriate, competitive and safe facilities on their respective campuses.

Members

Individual Member Accountability

Alpha Chi Omega believes actions have consequences and that every effort must be made to hold individual members accountable for their actions that cloud the integrity and image of the national Fraternity. The national Fraternity is committed to providing education and assistance to all volunteer personnel so that accountability is consistently applied.

National Fraternity

Auxiliary Groups

Alpha Chi Omega does not condone auxiliary groups of men’s fraternities such as “little sisters” and advises all Alpha Chi Omegas to refrain from membership or participation in such “little sister” organizations. Alpha Chi Omega prohibits the creation and support of “big brother” groups by its collegiate chapters. The national Fraternity is committed to protecting the right of Alpha Chi Omega chapters to be single-gender organizations.

Fraternity Rights

Alpha Chi Omega is a private women's organization that is committed to protecting its rights as such.

The national Fraternity reserves the right to determine its own member recruitment and selection processes and procedures, how and when candidates will be assimilated into the organization, when and how member education will be handled, and its position on all other internal issues.

Freedom of Association

Alpha Chi Omega was founded in 1885 as a women's organization. Alpha Chi Omega supports the right of women to freely associate. The essence of freedom of association is the right to select those with whom to associate and the right to have that selection be single-gender. Alpha Chi Omega is committed to protecting the right of Alpha Chi Omega chapters to be single-gender organizations.

Lifelong Learning

Alpha Chi Omega believes in the attainment of high scholarship and the pursuit of intellectual interest. Alpha Chi Omega advocates that its members continue to develop to their fullest potential as educated women throughout their lives.

National Panhellenic Conference

Alpha Chi Omega is a member of National Panhellenic Conference (NPC). NPC was incorporated to promote the common interests of women's fraternities and to improve the conditions of women's fraternities, fraternity members, colleges and universities. NPC has as members 26 autonomous women's fraternities. As it is a conference and not a convention, National Panhellenic Conference cannot legislate for the members. The legislative powers of NPC are limited to the enactment of laws for its own government.

National Panhellenic Conference does formulate policies on matters of interest to the member groups. Alpha Chi Omega, as an autonomous entity, may take positions contrary to those formulated by NPC. However, NPC may make recommendations to the members for adherence by all members. For such a recommendation to become binding, all members of NPC must vote in favor of the recommendation and the presidents of all member organizations must ratify the recommendation.

The national Fraternity honors existing NPC Unanimous Agreements and Housing Agreements. Collegiate and alumnae chapters are expected to recognize, respect and maintain the policies of local college Panhellenics and the NPC.

Risk Management Education

Alpha Chi Omega is committed to educating members regarding risk management.

University Recognition

Alpha Chi Omega believes that the fraternity experience is inseparably linked in interest and association with the university community and strives to be officially recognized by the host institution. If

circumstances would arise that the university's demands would be seen as intrusive upon the national Fraternity, Alpha Chi Omega would take responsibility to determine its existence at the respective institution.

Philanthropy

Philanthropy

Alpha Chi Omega believes in the strong role of philanthropy in supporting and enriching the educational, charitable and philanthropic programs of the national Fraternity. The Alpha Chi Omega Foundation was established to attract and assist its members in providing financial support with a variety of opportunities to strengthen Alpha Chi Omega.

The MacDowell Colony

Alpha Chi Omega is proud of its long association with The MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, New Hampshire. Adopted as the national Fraternity's first national philanthropy in 1911, The MacDowell Colony continues to receive annual financial support from the Alpha Chi Omega Foundation on behalf of all members. Financial support is directed to maintenance of Star Studio and the Faye Barnaby Kent Fellowships for artists in residence.

Easter Seals, Inc.

Alpha Chi Omega has provided financial assistance to Easter Seals, Inc. for many years and is proud of its long-standing association with this very worthy cause. The national Fraternity continues to recognize Easter Seals, Inc. as an Alpha Chi Omega national philanthropy. Financial support to Easter Seals, Inc. is provided through an annual grant from the Alpha Chi Omega Foundation.

Domestic Violence

Together, we work to fight against unhealthy relationships and build healthy relationships. Members serve individuals and families impacted by domestic violence through fundraising and sharing gifts of time and talent with shelters and other service-providing organizations. Alpha Chi Omega also works to educate its own members, giving them tools to build their own healthy relationships, and to raise awareness of domestic violence by educating others on its impact and work being done to end it.

Recruitment

Nondiscrimination

Alpha Chi Omega does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, sexual orientation or religion. Membership in Alpha Chi Omega is based solely on five membership standards. The National Membership Standards are: 1] academic interest; 2] character; 3] financial responsibility; 4] leadership ability; 5] personal development.

Formal Recruitment

Alpha Chi Omega Fraternity supports the concept of an early fall time period to conduct formal recruitment, and that all women, including freshmen, be eligible to participate if local college Panhellenic and/or university requirements are met by the individual.

Recruitment Styles

Alpha Chi Omega Fraternity supports the concept of year-round continuous recruitment to be conducted by collegiate chapters who are not at college Panhellenic quota and/or total. Even those chapters at the maximum allowable size should cultivate prospective members throughout the year.

The National Panhellenic Conference supports four recruitment styles:

1. Continuous recruitment
2. Minimally structured recruitment
3. Partially structured recruitment
4. Fully structured recruitment

Deferred Recruitment

Alpha Chi Omega Fraternity supports the movement of formal recruitment from second semester/quarter to first semester/quarter of the freshman, year thereby giving the opportunity to join a Greek organization earlier in the academic year rather than later.

Risk Management

Fraternal Programming and Information Group (FIPG)

Alpha Chi Omega has joined many other national fraternities and sororities in a collaborative effort to address and reduce risk to individual members, chapters and national organizations and to strengthen enforcement through a unified effort. Alpha Chi Omega belongs to FIPG and as such follows the risk management policies of FIPG.

Alcohol and Drugs

Alpha Chi Omega expects members to abide by all federal, state, local and college/university regulations with regard to the use of alcoholic beverages and possession and/or use of any and all illegal drugs. Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs may not be stored, served or consumed on any property designated for regular use by Alpha Chi Omega chapters and establishments.

Human Dignity

Alpha Chi Omega supports the statement on human dignity and sexual harassment endorsed by the National Panhellenic Conference member groups “that college women should have a positive influence in the direction and achievements of the university community and that activities should promote self-worth, human dignity and a positive fraternity/sorority image.”

The dignity of the individual is a basic element of a civilized society. Individual self-worth is a necessary factor in establishing healthy relationships. All activities, including acts of hazing, based in a negative manner on gender, race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or sexual orientation and competitive games that are destructive, demeaning or abusive promote a negative image of the fraternity and sorority community.

Participation in such activities that are demeaning to the individual do not promote a sense of self-worth or a positive fraternity/sorority image, and do not reflect the high standards, core values and ideals maintained by Alpha Chi Omega.

Therefore, Alpha Chi Omega does not endorse or support activities that are demeaning in nature, do not respect the dignity of the individual, cause disharmony among NPC groups or whose purpose is counterproductive. Further, Alpha Chi Omega advocates education on the Fraternity and chapter level to promote positive self-esteem.

Anti-Bullying

Alpha Chi Omega prohibits acts of harassment or bullying. Harassment or bullying is any gesture or written, verbal, graphic or physical act (including electronically transmitted acts – i.e. internet, cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA) or wireless hand-held device) that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by an actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression; or a mental, physical or sensory disability or impairment, or by any other distinguishing characteristic. Alpha Chi Omega members should promote a safe and welcoming environment to its members.

Volunteers

Volunteer Governance

Alpha Chi Omega believes that the strength and future of the national Fraternity rests in the voluntary leadership of its members. The National Council, which serves as the organization's board of directors and elected officials, has the ultimate responsibility for Alpha Chi Omega. Through the involvement of staff and operational volunteers, the strategies, goals and objectives of the organization are implemented.