

ATA

INITIATION SERVICE

ADVANCE PREPARATION

NOVITIATES

The novitiates shall meet the requirements for initiation as provided in the By-Laws of the Fraternity, Article II, Section 3.

UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTER AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The procedure for initiation as outlined in the President's Handbook shall be followed.

The number of services planned must be based on the size of the group of novitiates; however, it is recommended that no more than ten be included in any one service.

The rehearsals shall include:

1. the songs to be sung by the Chapter;
2. the order of marching with members as novitiates, to be sure of spacing;
3. the complete service with the Executive Council Chairman in attendance.

PARTICIPANTS

1. Officers
 - a. President
 - b. First Vice President—Alpha
 - c. Second Vice President—Gamma
 - d. Corresponding Secretary—Delta
 - e. Recording Secretary—Insignia and Symbols
 - f. Chaplain—Armorial Bearings
 - g. Librarian—Herald
 - h. Treasurer—Co-Herald
 - i. Guard
2. Others
 - a. Pianist
 - b. Soloist

The President shall preside at the initiation service and shall be re-

responsible for all necessary arrangements as provided in the *Ritual, Constitution and Officer Handbooks*.

All officers shall memorize their parts. No notes may be used.

The Herald shall memorize the Order of Marching as well as her part in the service.

The Herald and Co-Herald shall carry lighted candles throughout the service.

EQUIPMENT

1. One oblong table, 30" high, approximately 42" × 24" (President's table)
2. Four tables, 30" high, 34" × 20"
3. Five white table covers
4. One white kneeling pillow, 13" × 18"
5. One Alpha Gamma Delta *Ritual*
6. One Alpha Gamma Delta Badge for use of Recording Secretary
7. One silver Rose Bowl
8. One Alpha Gamma Delta ~~Song Book~~ **RITUAL MUSIC**
9. ~~One copy of the Initiation Music~~
10. One framed Armorial Bearings, 8" × 10"
11. Candlesticks
 - a. Five identical silver candlesticks, approximately 3" to 5" high
 - b. One pair silver candlesticks 8" to 10" high
 - c. One pair silver candlesticks suitable for use on piano
 - d. Two candle-holders for Herald and Co-Herald
12. Eleven new 12" white tapers for *each* initiation service
13. Roses and asparagus fern
 - For Rose Bowl: Six to nine red roses, six to nine buff roses, asparagus fern
 - For Alpha Table: One red rose, plus one red rose for each novice
 - For Gamma Table: One buff rose, plus one buff rose for each novice
 - For Delta Table: One piece asparagus fern, plus one piece asparagus fern for each novice

14. Official Dress for Participating Officers

Nine white satin robes
Nine white cords
Official headbands
Four stoles

DRESS

1. Fraternity Members

Undergraduate members shall wear white formals; bare shoulders shall be covered by scarves.

Alumnæ members shall wear white whenever possible; otherwise they may wear pastels.

Jewelry may be worn.

2. Novitiates

ALL novitiates shall wear white formals; bare shoulders shall be covered by scarves. Appropriate evening slippers shall be worn.

No jewelry may be worn except engagement and/or wedding rings.

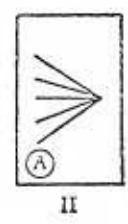
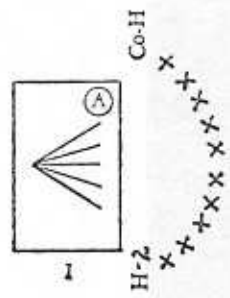
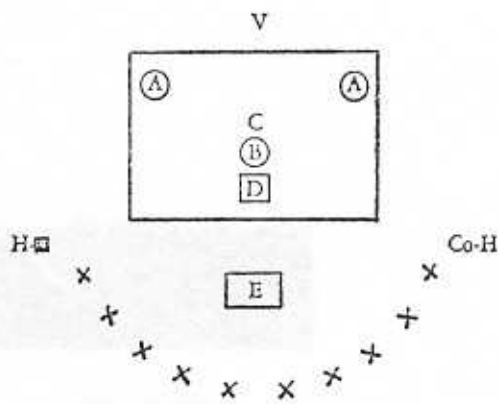
3. Participating Officers

Participating officers shall wear official robes, stoles, cords, headbands, Alpha Gamma Delta badges, and white or gold slippers.

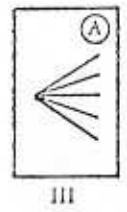
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ROOM ARRANGEMENT (*See Diagram*)

1. The Sister-Mothers and undergraduate members, dressed in white formals, sit in the front rows.
2. Only candlelight may be used during the service.
3. A chair shall be provided for the Chaplain at the end of the front row close to Table IV.
4. Whenever possible, the piano shall be at the rear of the initiation room.



H-1



Key

- A—Lighted Tapers
- B—Unlighted Taper
- C—Bowl of Roses
- D—Ritual
- E—Cushion

Tables

- I—Alpha
- II—Gamma
- III—Delta

- IV—Recording Sec'y-Chaplain
- V—President

Initiation Lines

- H-1—Position of Herald for entrance speech
- H-2—Position of Herald for "Lamp of Love" speech
- Co-H—Co-Herald
- XX—Novitiates

5. The roses and fern on Tables I, II and III shall be arranged so that their stems do not interlock and the blooms are toward the novitiates. They should be placed in a fan-shaped arrangement.

MUSIC - SEE RITUAL MUSIC FOR INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Background music by pianist until Herald enters.
2. *Initiation Song*, page 3, *Alpha Gamma Delta Song Book*.
Two verses to be memorized by Chapter.
3. *Our Flower Song* to be sung as solo.
Music on page 1, *Alpha Gamma Delta Song Book*.
Words in Ritual.
4. Official Initiation Music.
5. *Alpha Gamma Delta Hymn*, page 4, *Alpha Gamma Delta Song Book*.

PROCEDURE

1. Novitiates shall be arranged (in the ante-room) according to class, seniors first, and if from the same class, in order of age, the eldest first.
2. In accordance with the instructions in the President's Handbook, the First Vice President, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary shall arrange for the signing of the Constitution and the Initiation Slips. The Constitution shall be signed by the novitiates in the SAME order as that in which they will be initiated. The chapter numbers shall be carefully checked, and the number appearing in the *Ritual and Constitution* shall be the same as that appearing on the Initiation Slip.
3. The Chapter President shall be responsible for the signature pages. She shall see that each subsequent page is headed like the first one (page 92). She shall insert the date of the initiation service prior to the signatures of each initiation class and shall see that both sides of the pages are used, with only the date of the service separating consecutive initiation classes.
4. When the Herald leaves the room to bring in the novitiates, the pianist strikes a chord, the members rise and sing the *Initiation Song* and continue singing until the novitiates are arranged in a semi-circle in front of the President's table.

5. Marching is accompanied by Initiation Music.
6. Each officer steps to the right of her table and starting with the one next to the Herald hands a rose or fern to each novice in order. It should not be necessary for the novice to step out of the semi-circle. The officer picks up not more than five roses at one time, moves counter-clockwise and completes the circle by returning, left, to her position. Marching is resumed.
7. President requests novitiates to kneel, individually, for Pledge I.
8. When the first novice is given the Fraternity grip, she passes her flowers to the Herald, on her left. Each novice in turn passes hers to the left before the grip is given. When the last novice has received the grip, the flowers are returned.
9. When the Recording Secretary describes the Insignia and Symbols, the pianist plays the Call and Answer on the piano. The Answer is the same as the Call. The music is played twice, the second time very softly.
10. The Recording Secretary demonstrates the Knock on the wall or, if necessary, on the table.
11. While the President is administering Pledge II, the Chaplain and Recording Secretary quietly change places.
12. The Chaplain shall hold the Armorial Bearings so that all novitiates may see it during her explanation.
13. *Our Flower Song* shall be sung as a solo.
14. Not more than five novitiates place their hands on the Armorial Bearings at one time, and repeat Pledge III in unison. If there are more than five novitiates the pledge is given twice.
15. Following Pledge IV the President lifts a burning candle and lights the center candle.
16. Prior to the President's closing speech to the initiates, the members shall rise.
Following the President's closing speech, the members shall repeat the closing prayer in unison.
17. The first two verses of the *Alpha Gamma Delta Hymn* shall be sung by all members as the Sister-Mothers go forward to pin the badges on their Sister-Daughters. Pianist continues playing the *Hymn* until all have left the room.
18. After all badges have been pinned, each Sister-Mother takes the right arm of her Sister-Daughter. With the Herald leading, the line marches into the outer room, followed by the Co-Herald and participating officers. All members will follow

so that greetings may be exchanged in a room other than the initiation room.

19. Badges for novitiates are kept by the Sister-Mothers until the close of the service when they pin them on their Sister-Daughters. They are never displayed on the President's table.

ORDER OF MARCHING

1. All marching shall be counter-clockwise.
2. The initiation marching formations are always in circles.
3. Marching shall be slow and dignified.
4. Between each explanation, the Herald passes the President's table just once before stopping for the next explanation or pledge, except between the explanation of Gamma and Delta, when she shall pass the President's table twice.
5. The Herald always leads the line of march. The Co-Herald follows the line of march.
6. The Herald gives the knock and passwords to the Guard and is admitted to the initiation room. She marches to the center of the room and addresses the President.
7. The Herald leaves the room to bring in the novitiates.
8. The pianist strikes a chord, the members rise and sing the *Initiation Song* while the Herald re-enters without knocking and leads the novitiates into and around the initiation room, counter-clockwise, passing the President's table once.
9. Upon arriving at the table the second time, she leads the novitiates into a semi-circle in front of it. The President speaks.
10. The Herald then leads the novitiates as follows:
 - a. To First Vice President for explanation of Alpha.
 - b. To Second Vice President for explanation of Gamma.
 - c. To Corresponding Secretary for explanation of Delta.
 - d. To President. First pledge taken individually.
 - e. To Recording Secretary for explanation of symbols.
 - f. To President. Second pledge taken in unison.
 - g. To Chaplain for explanation of the Armorial Bearings. *Our Flower Song* sung as solo, then pledge taken.
 - h. To President. Epsilon Pi explained. Last pledge taken in unison.
 - i. President lights candle and gives accompanying explanation.
 - j. Members rise.

- k. President gives closing speech.
- l. Members repeat closing words.
- m. Hymn is sung by all with Sister-Mothers going forward to pin badges on their Sister-Daughters as the singing begins.
- n. When all badges have been pinned, each Sister-Mother takes the right arm of her Sister-Daughter, and, Herald leading, line marches into outer room.

INITIATION SERVICE

HERALD: *(Standing before the President's table, in the middle of the room)*

Most exalted and worthy President!

PRESIDENT:

Speak, Herald, and tell the purport of your entrance.

HERALD:

——— *(mentioning number)* novitiates await without, seeking permission of your gracious self to enter.

PRESIDENT:

Let them be admitted.

(Herald departs to bring in novitiates. Members rise and sing Initiation Song. Herald leads novitiates around the room. Members continue to sing until novitiates are in a semi-circle in front of the President's table. Members are seated.)

PRESIDENT:

You are now to become familiar with the sentiments of this Fraternity. The significance of its most cherished symbols will be made known to you.

(Marching is begun to the accompaniment of soft, slow music, with the first stop at Table I.)

HERALD: (*Holding lighted candle above her head*)

The lamp of love shall guide our feet through paths of truth and justice.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

You are now to hear the explanation of our first symbol, Alpha. Alpha stands for the Greek word, ; meaning . The Greek has two words meaning . One, , meaning the general which one has for all mankind. The other meaning the elective, particular which one has for her dearest and best friends, and is the of God. It is for this that our symbol stands. It is the purpose of each individual member of Alpha Gamma Delta to live up to the highest meaning of this word .

The precepts governing this ideal are found in First Corinthians 13. The following verses are our standard for the perfect of perfect womanhood.

"Love suffereth long and is kind. Love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself; is not puffed up; doth not behave itself unseemly; seeketh not its own; is not easily provoked; thinketh no evil; rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things; believeth all things; endureth all things. Love never faileth."

The best portions of a good woman's life are her little, nameless unremembered acts of kindness and of love. A woman who gives her life to her friends is manifesting a sacrificial love which is akin to the love of God.

(Roses are distributed. Marching is resumed, semi-circle is formed at Table II for explanation of Gamma.)

HERALD:

To gain God's greatest gift to man,
We strive to know the good, the true,
We count all else in life but poor and low,
If knowledge doth not into service grow.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT:

Our second symbol stands for the Greek word ,

meaning ———. ——— is God's gift to man. While in college it is our aim to make the most of our opportunities, and to study any branch of learning that broadens and strengthens womanhood. We are resolved to know only the pure and good and to shut our eyes and ears to that which does not build up and strengthen. We do not wish to be narrow and circumscribed, but we earnestly desire to extend the ——— we may acquire and so help not only our Fraternity sisters, but everyone with whom we may come in contact. Not only to have the ——— of earthly things, but to have the higher ——— of the One whom to know is Life Eternal. To know whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely and of good report is true ———.

(Roses are distributed. Marching is resumed, semi-circle is formed at Table III for explanation of Delta.)

HERALD:

But Mercy is above the sceptered sway.
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings.
It is an attribute to God himself,
And earthly power doth then show likest God
When Mercy seasons Justice.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Having heard the explanation of our first two symbols, Alpha and Gamma, you now await the explanation of Delta.

Delta stands for the Greek word ———, meaning ———. ——— as a moral habit is that tendency of the will and mode of conduct which refrains from disturbing the lives and interests of others. So far as possible it hinders any such harm on the part of others and implies the respect and protection of right. This is the positive, aggressive ———. In college and in the Fraternity we purpose to become identified with ——— tempered with mercy, so that it will be readily recognized in our every act. ——— will be intensified by ———, and ———. It is easier to be just where

we love, and surely we cannot be just without knowledge. Then through the medium of _____, _____ and _____ we will attain that perfect womanhood for which we are striving.

(Fern is distributed. Marching is resumed, semi-circle is formed at Table V.)

PRESIDENT:

You will now kneel, and in the presence of these members of Alpha Gamma Delta and with your right hand upon the honored Constitution, previously read for your instruction, by taking a sacred pledge of the Fraternity, which I shall repeat for you, solemnly promise your loyalty and devotion to Alpha Gamma Delta from this time forth.

(President instructs first novice to kneel and repeat, clause by clause, the first pledge of Alpha Gamma Delta.)

I, *(name of novice)*, in the presence of these members of Alpha Gamma Delta, and with my right hand upon the honored Constitution of the Fraternity, do solemnly promise never to disclose any of the significance of the cherished symbols of Alpha Gamma Delta. I will make _____, _____, _____, the ideals of my life. I will ever strive to be loving and just in all my relations with my sisters in Alpha Gamma Delta; I will ever strive to gain that knowledge which broadens womanhood and to foster unobtrusively a spirit of _____, _____ and _____ in all my associates in our Alma Mater.

(The entire first pledge having been taken by first novice, she rises, returns to her place in line, and each novice proceeds in like manner until all have repeated the pledge.)

(Marching is resumed, semi-circle is formed at Table IV for explanation of Insignia and Symbols.)

RECORDING SECRETARY:

The badge is the monogram pin of the letters with the member's ~~initials, chapter, and college~~ inscribed on the back, also the

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

[86]

Greek letters E II. (*Use badge for illustration.*)

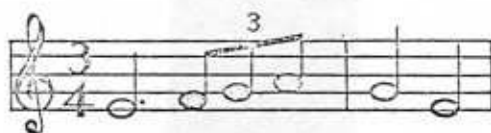
Colors: Red, Buff and Green.

Flowers: Red and Buff roses with the Green leaves, representing the Fraternity colors.

Sign and Countersign: They are the passwords which are necessary for entrance into the chapter rooms. ———, given by the person on the outside of the door. ———, by Guard on inside, then ——— by person on outside.

Grip. (*Given to each novitiate.*)

Call and answer. (*Played on piano.*)



Knock. The knock has the same rhythm and time as the call —one long knock, four short ones, and a long one, all beats except the last to be made on the lower part of the door with the knuckles, the last with a snap of the thumb and finger an arm's length higher on the door. (*Illustrate.*)

(*Marching is resumed, semi-circle is formed at Table V.*)

PRESIDENT: (*Administers second pledge, clause by clause, with novitiates repeating after her in unison.*)

I solemnly promise to attend all meetings whenever possible, to address each sister by her given name, to respond cheerfully whenever called upon in the name of the Fraternity, to pay all dues promptly, to guard well the secrecy of the chapter room, and never to repeat anything detrimental to the character of any sister. I promise never to write in connection with the Fraternity, either in Greek or in English, the words for which Alpha Gamma Delta stands, and most of all, I promise to give my loyal and hearty support to the Constitution of this Fraternity.

(*Marching is resumed, semi-circle is formed at Table IV.*)

CHAPLAIN:

The armorial bearings of this Fraternity are, in heraldic terms—"Gules; on a bend, or, between two billets, or, three annulets vert; crest, on a royal helmet a buff and crimson rose between epsilon pi, proper."

Gules is red, or is gold or buff, and vert is green. Red indicates love and bravery; buff or gold indicates generosity, elevation of mind, and represents all that is highest and best; green indicates hope and eternity.

The bend represents a scaling ladder and denotes striving after all that is purest and most noble. The three annulets indicate perfection. The annulet is the most perfect figure used in heraldry. The uppermost one on the bend indicates the ideal ——— in the outward and inward life; the second stands for the perfect ———, and the third for the highest ——— attainable. The circle is an emblem of well-rounded womanhood. The outer circle is the development of the outer, visible life of a woman. The inner circle denotes the perfect inner life which is the ideal of every Alpha Gamma Delta. The lozenge or billet denotes secrecy. It represents a letter closed and sealed for transmission and originally meant that the owner had obtained faith and credence and knowledge in words and deeds and was secret in his affairs.

The helmet used is that of royalty, for there is nothing more royal than a true, pure woman.

The crest is "a crimson and buff rose between E Π, proper," that is, in their natural colors.

The rose represents sincerity. A rose is no more perfect than its least perfect petal. Each chapter of our Fraternity may be called a rose and each member a petal. No chapter can be more noble than its least noble member. So upon each individual member rests the standards of _____, _____ and _____, the honor and purity of the entire Fraternity. A true, sincere Alpha Gamma Delta can never see a rose without instantly thinking of the honor that is hers and the responsibility she should uphold by being a member of that Fraternity which has as an emblem that flower.

SOLO: (*To music of Our Flower Song.*)

In every flower that blooms around
Some pleasing emblem we may trace,
Young love is in the myrtle found
And memory in the pansy's grace.
Peace in the olive branch we see,
Hope in the half-shut iris glows,
In the bright laurel victory,
And lovely woman in the rose.

CHAPLAIN:

Place your right hands on the Fraternity Armorial Bearings and repeat:

I promise to keep secret the explanation of the armorial bearings of Alpha Gamma Delta, and to endeavor to live up to the ideals for which they stand.

(Marching is resumed, semi-circle is formed at Table V.)

PRESIDENT:

The most sacred and most secret of our symbols are those found on the back of our pin. They are E II, which represents _____, meaning _____.

This is the motto which binds us together as a Fraternity. This motto is symbolized by the inner circle of the annulets of our armorial bearings. If we are true to Epsilon Pi, we will be true to

Alpha Gamma Delta. Loyalty to Epsilon Pi requires unselfishness and demands the highest friendship attainable.

"For what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer
Both for themselves and those who call them friend.
For so the whole round earth is every way
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God."

The secrecy of this most sacred motto must be guarded diligently. Never must these two words appear in writing, nor must they be passed by word of mouth to any person not a recognized member of Alpha Gamma Delta. This motto is significant. The obligations it thrusts upon us differ from the obligations of the symbols by which we are known publicly, in that it strengthens the bond between the individual members of the Fraternity only, while the other symbols extend our obligations to all mankind. We are a united body, bound by sacred and eternal vows to aid, comfort, and enlighten each other by whatever means we can employ. Hold fast to the vision of Alpha Gamma Delta, remembering that: "Where there is no vision the people perish." The extreme secrecy and importance of this motto necessitate an additional oath which you will repeat after me: (*In unison*)

I hereby most solemnly promise ever to guard diligently the secrecy of the most sacred motto of Alpha Gamma Delta. I promise never to write this motto in connection with the Fraternity, nor will I make it known by word of mouth to any person who has not been duly initiated, according to the regular form, into Alpha Gamma Delta. I also promise to live up to this motto to the best of my ability.

(After novitiates have taken this pledge, they remain standing before President's table, on which an unlighted candle has stood during ceremony. President lights candle from one already burning on her table.)

PRESIDENT:

This candle is lighted as a symbol of your life within the eternal circle of Alpha Gamma Delta. May you burn with an unwavering flame and so help to guide many into broader paths of _____, _____, and _____.

(Members rise.)

PRESIDENT:

Our hope for our Fraternity is that God may bless her, that earth may give her increase in faithful followers. May her chapters be as oases in the journey of life; may Heaven receive her votaries, and may Alpha Gamma Delta so mould our spirits that when we meet with all our sisters about the throne of God we may recognize each other without badge or sign.

MEMBERS: (*In unison*)

Grant, O, Lord, that we may believe in our hearts the words we have said and sung with our lips and steadfastly fulfill in our lives.

(*Entire Fraternity now sings, Father Let Thy Blessings Fall. As soon as singing begins, Sister-Mothers step forward and pin the badges on their Sister-Daughters. When all badges have been pinned, each Sister-Mother takes the right arm of her Sister-Daughter, and Herald leading, line marches into outer room.*)