

THETA DELTA CHI

1847



“A friendship founded upon mutual esteem
and dependence”

INTRODUCTORY LETTER

Dear Students,

Starting a new Charge of Theta Delta Chi will require not only grit and perseverance, but also hope. Hope as I define it, is having a vision, the agency to act, and a having plan with multiple pathways. The task of establishing a group, although very challenging, will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. As you embark on your journey over the next few months you will improve upon your character, growing intellectually, morally, and socially. Furthermore, at the end of the process, you will understand the immense rewards and benefits of the fraternal bonds of Brotherhood. Are you ready to begin your hero's journey?

To be successful in your endeavors, you will need to select individuals with the highest of character. To be lasting, we must limit the number of participants, so not everyone should be invited to join. Only people who are there for the right reasons, should enter the ranks of Theta Delta Chi. Individuals who desire belongingness paired with a desire to be the best versions of themselves.

One of our mottos, *Spectemur Agendo*, which means “Let us be judged by our acts” is the way you can select the right members. You need not look far for the right people. They are involved in other organizations, they are the ones who are engaged in their classes, they are the people who sign up for community service or attend philanthropic events. They are improving themselves in the aforementioned categories: intellectually, morally, and socially.

While building your coalition, you will need to develop your vision—your target. Humans are teleological beings. We desire purpose and meaning, by obtaining our life's goals. This guide is designed to help you achieve the goal of brotherhood by helping you to understand the process and actions needed to become Theta Delts. From learning the basics of the history to our policies and member obligations, you will start to formulate your pathways to becoming a Charge.

First, you will need to work towards being recognized as an expansion group of Theta Delta Chi. This involves compiling a roster of membership, a letter of intent and other preliminary organizational documents. Once your letter of intent and other basic aspects of your infrastructure are completed, you will be invited to petition to become the newest addition of Theta Delta Chi as you build towards full recognition. Once a petition is accepted, your group is then viewed as an expansion group of Theta Delta Chi International Fraternity and allowed to use our name and wear our letters.

After this process, Chartering as a full and active Charge should not be far away if the progress of your group is satisfactory and the members are willing to make their commitment to pay for their initiation fees. The minimum requirements for Chartering can also be found later in this booklet.

Being a Theta Delt is more than being at the best institutions, it is more a matter of character than anything else.

We are a small, intimate, diverse brotherhood focused on scholarship, leadership, and a responsible social life. If that's you, we would love to engage in a mutual and unreserved

friendship. Paired with the resources that we have put together, we will work in partnership with you, and we will both be successful. So, back to **HOPE**. Do you have a clear vision for your future and are you ready to lead a movement? Do you have the confidence and agency to act? Will you plan, fail, try again until you are successful?

If the answer is yes, then I have the hope that you will be a Theta Delt! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact any of the staff at our Central Fraternity Office.

In the Fraternal Spirit,

Brian Bertges
Executive Director
bbertges@tdx.org

WHY ESTABLISH A NEW CHARGE (CHAPTER) OF THETA DELTA CHI?

The question of why you would want to start a new Charge (Chapter) of Theta Delta Chi on your campus is one that will be asked of you frequently during this process. This process will take time and a great deal of energy, organization and perseverance but can be highly rewarding.

Among the reasons given by many in your position are:

- The Current Greek community does not offer the type of experience you and your friends are looking for. You desire to walk a different path than what exists.
- You might know someone or even have a family member who is an alumni member of Theta Delta Chi and after talking with them have become convinced that membership in Theta Delta Chi will offer you the type of personal develop you would like from your collegiate experience.
- After researching about Theta Delta Chi and speaking with members of this fraternity and others, you have determined that Theta Delta Chi will offer you the kind of values-based and values-added collegiate experience you want for yourself and to share with others.
- You and your friends have determined that it is important to have more out of your collegiate experience than just completing a degree. Rather, you would like to become a more well-rounded individual through the development of your “intellectual, moral and social being.”

WHY CHOOSE THETA DELTA CHI?

- **Undergraduate Support:** You are not alone in the process to become chartered at your university. The CFO is with you every step along the way. Once established, the CFO will

continue to add support and resources where necessary. The extensive database at the international level can be accessed by any active Charge within Theta Delta Chi.

- **Ownership of Successes and Responsibility:** Once your Charge is off and running, the members of your Charge will be the ones to create your own responsible organization. The CFO will obviously be there to add support where needed in your journey, but the overall operations of the charge is determined by its members. This experience is designed to help you be the man you aspire to be, and the best way to make this transition is to be treated as such.
- **Training and Educational Programs:** Beginning a Charge of Theta Delta Chi will let you build an organization from the ground up. This will allow you to be a values-added member of your community. Theta Delta Chi offers educational programming and trainings in various areas of campus life that will help you achieve this vision.
- **Participation in the Governance:** Each recognized Theta Delta Chi Charge has the ability to send 2 delegates to the annual Convention. These delegates will have the opportunity to vote and make changes to the Constitution of Theta Delta Chi and assist in forming the future of the organization.

MUTUAL EXPECTATIONS: *A friendship founded on mutual esteem and dependence*

What you can expect from us

- Timely and complete support during the expansion process and after chartering
- Transparent and open communication
- Access to scholarships and grants
- Undergraduate plans/programs:
- New Member Education plan/planning guidelines
- Event Risk Management plan/guides
- Individual Academic Success plan/Academic Improvement plan
- Standards Documents/Guidelines
- Recharge and Charge Workshop opportunities
- Bros United Startup Manual
- Educational Programming

What we can expect from you

- Participation in the Preamble Institute
- Participation at our Annual Convention
- Open and transparent communication
- Compliance with our Policies and positions
- Planning and scheduling on-site workshops with the CFO
- Minimum GPA expectation of 2.5 or above per member
- Charge GPA of 2.7 or above
- International dues and fees (see appendix C)

MORE ABOUT THETA DELTA CHI

Mission of Theta Delta Chi

Theta Delta Chi is a small, intimate, diverse brotherhood focused on scholarship, leadership and a responsible social life.

Core values and beliefs

Theta Delta Chi believes in the improvement of the intellectual, moral and social development of all of its members. This Fraternity is founded on the principals of mutual esteem and dependence and the continuous growth of its membership.

Background of Theta Delta Chi

In a plainly furnished backroom of Union College (in the building known as West College, a simple stone structure occupying the center of a square fronting Union Street, Schenectady, just south of the Central Railroad bridge over the Erie Canal) a party of six men met one May evening, and having quietly among themselves discussed friendship as a power, formed our fraternity, the ties of which now extend throughout all countries and climates.

The six men, all members of the class of 1849 at Union College, were Abel Beach, Theodore B. Brown, Andrew H. Green, William Hyslop, William G. Aiken, and Samuel F. Wile.

It's an exciting time to be a Theta Delt. With an abundance of resources including officer manuals and a model new member education program as well as academic scholarships, Theta Delta Chi stands by her commitment to provide the best service possible to her Charges.

While everyone recognizes Theta Delta Chi's most famous Brother, Robert Frost, Omicron Deuteron (Dartmouth) 1896, Theta Delt's have been outstanding in many fields besides poetry. They range from sports heroes like James Lofton, Eta Deuteron (Stanford) 1978; Pro Football Hall of Fame Wide Receiver, to men in public life like Michael Powell, Epsilon (William and Mary) 1984, Chairman of the FCC; Michael Burns, Epsilon Triton (Arizona State) 1980, Vice-Chairman of Lionsgate films; to business entrepreneurs such as Thomas First and Thomas Smart, both Zeta (Brown) 1989, cofounders of Nantucket Nectars. Theta Delt's are everywhere, and in the driver's seat!

Personal development opportunities with Theta Delta Chi

Theta Delta Chi has much to offer her undergraduates. Since 2007, Theta Delta Chi has hosted the annual Preamble Institute (Pi). Pi is a Fraternity leadership academy designed to examine the values of the organization and focus on leadership development. This all-expense paid event has been a great success and will continue to be for many years.

In addition to the Preamble Institute, Theta Delta Chi is one of very few who fraternal organizations with 2 undergraduate seats on its governing body, the Grand Lodge. This is an excellent development opportunity for undergraduates to assist in moving the Fraternity forward and to gain valuable leadership develop at an international level.

During our annual Convention, development opportunities are provided for all participants. These programs are called Minerva Sessions. Minerva Sessions allow participants to gain valuable knowledge about philanthropy, team building, risk management issues, leadership concepts and issues surrounding health and wellness for all of our Charges.

Theta Delta Chi also has developed two signature programs, ReCharge and ChargeUp that are planned collaboratively between Charge Leadership and the Central Fraternity office and are conducted at the Charge to allow all members to participate. The ReCharge workshop is primarily focused on the values of the Fraternity and actualizing them at the Charge level, while the ChargeUp workshops are more directed to analyzing the perceptions surrounding the Charge and setting goals to improve those perceptions. A more complete list of all programs and services available can be found in Appendix A.

Organizational Structure of Theta Delta Chi

- **Grand Lodge**
The Fraternity's current governing structure is led by the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge consists of five alumni elected for two-year terms, the President, the Graduate Secretary and Graduate Treasurer, and two Executive Members, along with two undergraduate Members at Large. This body is primarily concerned with the Fraternity's undergraduate experience.
- **Educational Foundation**
The Theta Delta Chi Educational Foundation manages the endowment assets and furthers learning by funding scholarships and making grants and awards for deserving students. The Foundation is managed by a board of 17 Alumni Directors. The Foundation owns the Central Fraternity Office and leases space and services to the Grand Lodge.
- **Founders' Corporation**
The Founders' Corporation is the third entity making up the Fraternity's corporate structure. It holds the assets of the Grand Lodge, and can extend debt financing for Charge mortgages.
- **Central Fraternity Office (CFO)**
The Central Fraternity Office conducts the business of the Grand Lodge and the Educational Foundation on a day-to-day basis. The members of the CFO are the paid staff of the Fraternity and are comprised of the Executive Director (ED), Systems Administrator, Director of Development (DOD), Director of Charge Operations (DOCO), Charge Consultant and an Educational Consultant, all of whom are employees of both the Educational Foundation and the Grand Lodge.

The CFO is the group that most undergraduate and alumni members have contact with on a regular basis.

Statement of Positions

- Statement of Position on Academic Standards
- Statement of Position on Alcohol and Drugs
- Statement of Position on Hazing and Pledge Period
- Statement of Position on Inclusive Membership and Participation
- Statement of Position on Open Expansion and Recruitment
- Statement of Position on Sexual Assault and Violence
- Statement of Position on Sexual Harassment
- Statement of Position on Women's Auxiliary Groups
- [Educational Programming Requirements](#)

PROCESS FOR AFFILIATING WITH THETA DELTA CHI

The process for affiliating with Theta Delta Chi is very straight-forward. While it can be a great deal of work, the Central Fraternity Office (CFO) staff will help and guide you along each step in the process. Once you have decided you would like to start a Charge (Chapter) of Theta Delta Chi you need to:

1. Contact Theta Delta Chi to express your interest via email at glstaff@tdx.org or calling directly 800-999-1847 x 0
2. Consult your college or university to determine if there is an expansion process and discuss your interest with the Greek office on your campus
3. Work with the Central Fraternity Office (CFO) staff to complete the checklist for successfully becoming an Expansion Group. This can take less than a semester.
4. Work with the Central Fraternity Office (CFO) staff to move from Expansion Group to Chartered Fraternity. This will probably take an academic year; however, this can be accomplished in a shorter time.

Checklist for becoming an Expansion Group

- Research the process for establishing a new fraternity on your campus
- At least 15 members
- All members have a minimum 2.5 GPA or meet minimum GPA requirement as identified by the host institution whichever is higher
- Submit a letter of interest to the Grand Lodge of Theta Delta Chi glstaff@tdx.org :
 - Describing in your own words, why you are interested in forming a new fraternity on your campus
 - List of members in your interest group that includes name, hometown, Contact information (email and phone number), grade point average, year in school,

academic major and areas of interest, Veteran status if any. A form will be provided upon request.

- Elect the following officers:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Treasurer
 - Corresponding/Recording Secretary
 - Recruitment Chair
 - Philanthropy/Service Chair
- Identify an appropriate location for all meetings
- Hold at least three general meetings of all potential Expansion Group members
- Hold at least two officer meetings

Checklist for becoming a Charge of Theta Delta Chi

- At least 20 active members
- All members will register on MyTDX.org
- All members will have a minimum 2.5 GPA or meet minimum GPA requirement as identified by the host institution whichever is higher
- Work with CFO staff to draft and adopt a set of Bylaws (support and sample will be provided)
- Work with CFO staff to draft and adopt a mission statement (support will be provided)
- Establish a Charge bank account and show that the Charge is financially stable (support and guidance for the treasurer will be provided)
- Organize and participate in at least one philanthropic project annually such as the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation, tutoring at a local school, establish a Bros UniteD program
- Work with CFO staff to draft and adopt a Brotherhood standards agreement (Support, guidelines and samples will be provided)
- Initial and sign the Confirmation of Review and Compliance with the Position statements of Theta Delta Chi (Appendix B)
- Identify a faculty and/or alumni advisor/board
- Identify a centralized meeting location (either in private or University facilities)
- Become recognized as a voting member of the campus' Interfraternity Council or Inter-Greek Council where possible
- Work with CFO staff to draft and implement a New Member Education program (support, guidelines and samples will be provided)
- Work with CFO staff to draft and implement a Risk Management Plan (support and samples will be provided)
- Submit a \$100/man deposit of the total initiation fee for every person on your roster.
- Participate in the annual Theta Delta Chi Convention and the Preamble Institute. Expenses for the first Convention for one person will be covered by the Grand Lodge. Scholarships and grants to participate at the Preamble Institute are available.

Optional:

- Members join another student organization outside of the Fraternity. While this is not a requirement, it will help with your recruitment process. (E.g., student government, intramural sports, philanthropic organization etc.)
- Work with CFO staff to develop a recruitment plan (support and samples will be provided)

Appendix A Programs and Service offered by Theta Delta Chi

Programs:

- **Preamble Institute:** The Preamble Institute, Pi, is the premier values-based leadership institute of Theta Delta Chi. In 2020, Theta Delta Chi conducted its 14th annual Pi. This all expenses paid, program is targeted at aspiring leaders from every Charge and is conducted at varying locations around the country over the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend. While every Charge is required to send one delegate many Charges often send a second, funded by local alumni, the Charge, or scholarships as available. The outcomes for Pi are to:
 - Define, analyze and live the values of Theta Delta Chi
 - Explore and practice the skills for effective leadership
 - Create a personal network for success
 - Explore and discuss the meaning and importance of our Ritual
 - Explain how Theta Delta Chi is more than a single Charge
 - Develop a vision for change utilizing our shared fraternal values

- **Minerva Sessions:** Minerva Sessions are educational seminars held during our annual Convention. Each Charge selects two delegates for Convention and those delegates participate in these educational and experiential programs. The sessions might consist of participating in a ropes course as a form of team building, presentations on Risk Management, Constitution and By-laws, Crisis Management, or “Your Digital Footprint” and social media. The Grand Lodge selects and plans these sessions.

- **ReCharge Workshop:** The ReCharge Workshop offers Charge members the opportunity to do a “deep dive” into the values and Ritual of Theta Delta Chi. The Preamble is discussed and analyzed with a focus on what the values mean and look like in practice. The Ritual is analyzed with a focus on the meaning of the symbols and oaths present in our Ritual. This workshop is offered directly at the Charge location and is scheduled and conducted by Grand Lodge Staff. This workshop is customized to fit the local needs of the Charge. The goal is that every Charge has a ReCharge workshop every other year.

- **ChargeUp Workshop:** From time to time, Charges request Grand Lodge Staff to assist in goal setting and general assistance in Charge related matters. The ChargeUp Workshop is an opportunity for Charges to customize workshops to more closely fit their needs and growth issues. The Charge will explore how perceptions shape reality and then self-examine how the Charge is viewed and set goals to change and improve those perceptions.

- **Recruitment Workshop:** Recruitment is constant and should run 365 days a year. We use a five-point strategy to help Charges create their own recruitment plan. This workshop is conducted by Grand Lodge Staff at no cost to the Charge.

Services:

- **Record of Visitation (ROV):** The ROV (Record of Visitation), is conducted annually at each Charge. The ROV consists of
 - A rubric which is scored by Grand Lodge Staff and Charge Leadership
 - A summary of a 360-degree assessment conducted by the Charge President, Alumni contact and University Greek Advisor before the arrival of the staff member
 - A narrative summary of the staff members conversation with the Charge, alumni and Greek Advisor
 - Charge identification of their strengths and areas for growth
 - Three SMART goals for improvement

This visit is scheduled over a three to four-day time period.

- **Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism (Flutie Foundation):** Grand Lodge Staff assists Charges in coordinating fundraising and awareness events for the Flutie Foundation. Staff also serve as a liaison between the Flutie Foundation and Charges. The activities that the Charges participate in are partially self-funded and partially funded through Educational Foundation Grants.
- **BrosUniteD:** BrosUniteD is an award-winning service project unique to Theta Delta Chi. Individual Charges plan and execute an 8-week mentorship program for adolescent men on the Autism spectrum. They work with the local Autism community to organize appropriate activities and help the Charge locate participants. Charges that host this program can apply to the Educational Foundation for financial support.
- **Grants:** The Educational Foundation provides grants to Charges in accordance with their 501(c)(3) status. Grant applications are considered on a monthly basis and can range from providing improved internet connections within a Charge house to partially funding study areas and materials to help fund charitable and philanthropic projects at the Charge level.
- **Scholarships:** The Educational Foundation, annually, funds a variety of scholarships to both undergraduates and alumni alike. You need not be a member of Theta Delta Chi to be awarded a scholarship. There are three areas within which scholarship applications are evaluated; scholarship, need and service to the Fraternity. These Scholarships range between \$1000 and \$4000.
- **Alumni Association Organizations:** Grand Lodge Staff assists local area alumni in establishing Alumni Associations. They provide Charge brother contact information, assistance in writing Bylaws and help in setting goals and timelines for establishing these Associations along with helping them become Chartered Alumni Associations within the International Organization. Alumni Associations also serve as professional networking groups for both alumni and undergraduate members.
- **Improvement and Reform Plans:** From time-to-time Charges experience difficulties for a variety of reasons. Rather than moving to suspension of their Charter or Expelling the Charge from the Organization, Improvement Plans and Reform Plans are often put into

place. These plans are customized according to the issues identified and involve the Charge and the host institution's Greek Office in their development. Grand Lodge Staff facilitate the development of these plans and then works on site, when necessary, to assist with the implementation. The Grand Lodge Staff also monitors the implementation of these plans and reports back to the host institutions and the Grand Lodge as they progress.

- **Document Guidelines and Sample Documents:** Grand Lodge Staff has undertaken the task of the development of guidelines and sample documents for Charges. These include:
 - New Member Education Plan Guidelines and Samples
 - Brotherhood Standards Agreement Guidelines and Samples
 - Officer Transition Manual Guidelines and Samples
 - Recruitment Plan Guidelines
 - Risk Management Plan Guidelines and Samples
 - Grant Application Guidelines

These guidelines have been developed with the cooperation of various Charges, undergraduates, alumni and our insurance broker. They also reflect best practices and current research in the various areas.

- **Monthly Newsletters:** Grand Lodge Staff write and disseminate a monthly newsletter to all undergraduates. These newsletters often highlight Alumni and undergraduates of distinction which can serve as role models for our members, news of interest to undergraduates about grants and scholarships, along with information about traditions, stories and factoids about Theta Delta Chi.
- ***Shield Magazine:*** The *Shield Magazine*, the first national fraternal magazine, is published annually and lists Educational Foundation Donors while providing a conduit from the CFO to all members of the organization about current happenings within the Fraternity. This publication also provides information about upcoming events, in particular the annual Convention. The CFO publishes this magazine both in paper and in an online format on the Fraternity's website.
- **MyTDX.org powered by GreekTrack:** In a cooperative venture between the Grand Lodge and the Educational Foundation, a new membership management system has been launched in the Spring of 2020. This system allows individual Charges to more efficiently communicate with all Charge members, alumni and undergraduate, maintain documents for continuity and longevity of the Charge, self-manage its membership rosters and better manage its finances. At the same time, alumni are be able to manage their membership profile, connect more easily with other Charge Brothers, communicate with their Charge, be more knowledgeable about alumni activities and donate to the Educational Foundation more easily.

Appendix B
Confirmation of Review and Compliance
with the Position statements of
Theta Delta Chi

This form is to be completed by the Expansion Group President, by initialing agreement, where indicated, and then signed by all members and submitted to the Central Fraternity Office.

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| Initial by President | |
| | Statement of Position on Academic Standards: All members are to have and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 and the Charge is to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.7 or a GPA that is above the campus all-men’s average. All other statements, not specifically listed here, but within the position statement on Academic Standards will be adhered to. |
| | Statement of Position on Alcohol and Drugs: The possession, use and consumption of all alcohol is to be in compliance with all laws of the state, county, city and university. No alcohol is to be purchased with Charge or Expansion Group funds. There are to be no open parties. The possession, sale or use of any illegal drugs or controlled substances is prohibited. All recruitment (“rush”) activities are to be “dry” (no alcohol present). No alcohol shall be present at any pledge/new member program or activity. All other statements, not specifically listed here, but within the position statement on Alcohol and Drugs will be adhered to. |
| | Statement of position on Hazing: All members will not condone or allow any act of hazing by any pledge / new members, brothers, or alumni of Theta Delta Chi. All New Member Education programming will be directed at the understanding of fraternity membership and the “improvement of the intellectual, moral and social being.” All new member programs are to be completed within 12 weeks or less, with initiation happening no later than the 12 th week, or less, of the program. All other statements, not specifically listed here, but within the position statement on Hazing will be adhered to. |
| | Statement of Inclusive Membership and Participation: All members agree to a diverse and equitable experience for all persons seeking membership. The Charge or Expansion Group will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, age, physical or emotional disability, or sexual orientation. All other statements, not specifically listed here, but within the position statement of Inclusive membership and participation will be adhered to. |
| | Statement of Position on Open Expansion and Recruitment: All members of the Expansion Group or Charge will move from a rush model to a recruitment model based on unrestricted, year-round seeking of prospective members who share the values of Theta Delta Chi including scholarship, leadership and service. All other statements, not specifically listed here, but within the position statement on Open Expansion and Recruitment will be adhered to. |
| | Statement of Position on Sexual Assault and Violence: All members will participate in required programming that will address the issue of sexual assault and violence. |

Appendix C
Financial Obligations

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| Initiation Fee (one time only) | \$399 |
| Service Fee (twice a year per initiated brother) | \$75 (\$150 annually) |
| Insurance Fee* (annual per member) | \$385 (per housed member) \$310 (per unhoused member) |
| Programming Fee (annually per Charge) | \$1000 |

*2025-2026 Policy Year Rates, subject to change without notice.

The [Membership Costs](#) document on MyTDX provides a more comprehensive overview of membership and group billing costs.