

AN OVERVIEW OF

PHI ETA SIGMA

FOR CHAPTER ADVISORS



What is Phi Eta Sigma?

Phi Eta Sigma is a national honor society that encourages and rewards academic excellence among freshmen of all disciplines in institutions of higher learning, promotes campus and community service, and provides national leadership opportunities.



About Phi Eta Sigma

§ A scholastic honor society, that recognizes first-year students who excel academically among their peers

§ Collegiate students invited to become members based on scholastic achievement (minimum GPA of a 3.5 on a 4.0 scale) at the end of any full-time curricular period of freshman year

§ Membership is by chapter invitation only

§ Black and gold graduation regalia, including cords and medallions, are used to indicate membership in Phi Eta Sigma



Important Phi Eta Sigma Dates

§ March 1923: Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society is founded at the University of Illinois

§ Spring 1927: National officers were elected, Thomas Arkle Clark elected Grand President

§ November 1928: The first national convention was held at the University of Illinois

§ February 1931: Forum of Phi Eta Sigma volume I, number I was published

§ 1975: Phi Eta Sigma membership was opened to female students

§ 1992: The Phi Eta Sigma national office was transferred from Auburn University to Western Kentucky University

§ 2009: Membership reached one million members

§ 2019: the Phi Eta Sigma national office was transferred from Western Kentucky to Tuscaloosa, Alabama on the campus of the University of Alabama

§ 2023: marked 100 years of Phi Eta Sigma. The centennial celebration was kicked off at the 2022 National Convention in Birmingham, Alabama



Important Phi Eta Sigma Dates



March 1923:
Phi Eta Sigma
Honor Society is
founded at the
University of
Illinois

Spring 1927:
National officers
were elected,
Thomas Arkle
Clark elected
Grand President

November 1928:
The first national
convention was
held at the
University of
Illinois

February 1931:
Forum of Phi Eta
Sigma volume I,
number I was
published

1975:
Phi Eta Sigma
membership was
opened to
female students



1992:
The Phi Eta Sigma
national office was
transferred from
Auburn University to
Western Kentucky
University

2009:
Membership
reached one
million members

2019:
the Phi Eta Sigma national
office was transferred from
Western Kentucky to
Tuscaloosa, Alabama on the
campus of the University of
Alabama

2023:
marked 100 years of Phi Eta
Sigma. The centennial
celebration was kicked off at
the 2022 National Convention
in Birmingham, Alabama

Your future in
Phi Eta Sigma!



Phi Eta Sigma Fun Facts

- § Phi Eta Sigma was founded March 1923
- § University of Illinois was the founding chapter
- § The Phi Eta Sigma motto is Knowledge is Power
- § The official pin is a key scroll with the Greek letters Φ Η Σ
- § The official colors are black and gold
- § Number of chartered collegiate chapters to date is 380
- § The mascot is KIP



Executive Committee

- § Elected by voting delegates of national convention
- § Officers serve 4-year terms, advisor members serve 4-year terms, student and alumni members serve 2-year terms
- § Attend committee meeting and national convention
- § Discuss & vote on Society business, approve budget, approve new charters Assist with planning & conducting convention
- § Stay in touch with national office
- § No financial obligations
- § Made up of National President, National President Emeritus, National Vice President, National Historian, Executive Director, three advisor members, three student members, and two alumni members



Scholarship Committee

§ Reviews scholarship applications and selects recipients

§ Governed by Phi Eta Sigma Constitution & Laws

§ Appointed by the National President



National Office

§ Located in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on the campus of the University of Alabama

§ National Headquarters staff includes the Executive Director, Assistant Director, Coordinator, Bookkeeper, and graduate and undergraduate student workers



National Office Staff



Dr. Mary Lee Caldwell
Executive Director



Dalis Lampkins
Assistant Director
of Operations



Mason Cassady
Operations
Coordinator



Jo Hebson
Bookkeeper



National Office Graduate Student Workers



Lauren Esman



Trinity Hunter



Alex Salter



National Office Graduate Student Workers



Bess Fountain



Edward Fountain



Julienne Pharrams



National President, Tim Lemper



Indiana University - Bloomington



National Leadership : 2023-24 Executive Committee

§ National Vice President: Jennifer Miller, McKendree University

§ National Historian: Mary Jo Custer, Syracuse University

§ Advisor Committee Member: Tony Kemp, Mercer University

§ Advisor Committee Member: Alvin Johnson, Prairie View A&M University

§ Advisor Committee Member: Lisa Ruch, IUP

§ Student Committee Member: Emaan Mughal, NYIT

§ Student Committee Member: Lindsey Jorgensen, Brigham Young University

§ Student Committee Member: Nicole Kaufeldt, The University of Alabama

§ Alumni Committee Member: Jennifer Vuia-Riser, Texas A&M University

§ Alumni Committee Member: Nicole Zellers, IUP



Active Chapter Practices

- § Have at least one advisor.
- § Enlist registrar's office to provide eligible members in accordance with established criteria.
- § Invite eligible members and notify parents.
- § Decide on deadline for registration and collect national fees for membership.
- § Submit membership names and chapter fees to the national office.
- § Hold induction ceremony.
- § Elect new chapter officers. Outgoing officers & advisors should orient new officers.
- § Hold regular and frequent meetings.
- § Establish a participation policy.
- § Submit an annual report, including a financial report, to the national office.
- § Send a student delegate to national convention.
- § Develop programs related to the ideals of scholarship and service.
- § Develop programs related to the national philanthropy of Literacy Promotion.



Advisor Annual To Do List

§ Submit Annual Report to National Office

§ Set chapter goals

§ Become familiar with all chapter bylaws and policies

§ Stay in contact with the national office

§ Read the monthly advisor newsletters and follow Phi Eta Sigma on social media platforms

§ Train future leadership

§ Recruit & Induct New Members





HONOR SOCIETY[®]

Online Enrollment System

Benefits:

- § Send electronic invitations to eligible students (templates available).
- § Accept credit card payments for membership fees.
- § Send email communications to all members.
- § Build a digital member database.
- § Update chapter contact information.
- § Maintain chapter officer information to build an officer database.

Contact the national office to find out more and enroll in My Honor Society!



What Can Phi Eta Sigma Do For Members?

- § Distinct honor with a Lifetime Membership
- § Recognition: membership certificate, jewelry, honor cords
- § Connections, networking, sharing ideas
- § Philanthropy & service
- § Scholarships
- § Participation on national level
- § Leadership development
- § Opportunity for national leadership role



*Phi Eta Sigma recognizes academic excellence ,
so make new inductees feel honored.*

- § Make induction ceremony a special event
- § Invite family members of inductees
- § Invite faculty & university officials - consider recognizing some of these individuals with an honorary membership
- § Have a keynote speaker who can encourage, motivate, inspire
- § Arrange for a reception or banquet
- § Order materials from Phi Eta Sigma national in a timely manner so that certificates, keys or tie tacs, and other induction items can be distributed at the ceremony
- § Arrange the ceremony venue and rehearse the program



Phi Eta Sigma Founders Fund Scholarships for 2023-2024



- \$10,000 Thomas Arkle Clark Graduate Scholar-Leader of the Year Award – 1
- \$10,000 Foy-Sagabiel Undergraduate Scholar-Leader of the Year Award – 1
- \$10,000 Centennial Scholarship – 1
- \$7,000 Graduate Scholarships – 6
- \$5,000 Undergraduate Scholarships – 37
- \$1,000-\$4,000 Elevation Scholarships – 21



National Philanthropy Focus: Literacy Promotion



Announced in January of 2020, the Phi Eta Sigma Executive Committee voted to adopt the promotion of literacy as our national philanthropic mission. Literacy is not only the ability to read and write, but it also represents a competence or knowledge in a specific area. As the largest and oldest honor society recognizing first-year college students, Phi Eta Sigma is positioned to make a significant contribution to literacy efforts as our philanthropic mission. Through work at the chapter, regional, and national levels, we will be extending our motto of “knowledge is power” in meaningful ways.





2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION LOCATION:
ANAHEIM, CA



Constitution & Scholarship Committee

§ The governance of the honor society is the focus of this committee.

§ The Committee is comprised of only one member per chapter if interested in serving in this noteworthy effort.

§ Members will consider the Society's governing document, the Constitution and Laws.

§ Amendments to the document may be proposed for presentation to the full convention.

§ The Committee will also examine the current scholarship program and consider opportunities for enhancing or expanding the monetary rewards available to outstanding Phi Eta Sigma student leaders.

§ Participants on this committee come away with a strong sense of accomplishment and motivation for the remainder of the academic year.



Nominations Committee

§ This committee functions with a maximum of seven (7) student members; however, no student from a chapter with a candidate for position will be allowed to serve on the committee. Open positions rotate based on the year.

§ Members of the Nominations Committee should be persons of high integrity, character, and dedication.

§ Committee members interview candidates for open positions, select the best candidates for each position, and present a slate of candidates to the convention at the final business session for election.



Publications

- § The annual Forum Magazine
- § Digital advisor newsletters – First working Monday of each Month
- § Induction Ceremony Booklet
- § Information brochure
- § Constitution & Laws
- § Website: www.phietasigma.org



