

Rho Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon



“Fraternities and sororities must provide open access and engagement opportunities to all students at Lafayette (non-discriminatory in selection of members),” the Rho Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon submits the following membership standards.

Message from the Founders

“We builded better than we knew, when we founded the brotherhood to which good fellowship has ever been a passport not less requisite than learning, where glees have been written as often as essays, and where the candidate most favored was **he who combined in the most equal proportions the gentleman, the scholar, and the jolly good-fellow.**” As recalled by One of the Founders," Edward Griffin Bartlett, Phi 1846

These words from our founders over 160 years ago still guide Delta Kappa Epsilon today. The message from the Founders of Delta Kappa Epsilon has been an important indicator in the recruitment of undergraduate members. The most relevant section of the passage is the qualifications of: “he who combined in the most equal proportions the gentleman, the scholar, and the jolly good-fellow.” This generally speaks to the type of person we seek in potential new members. The qualification of a gentleman should exemplify traits of respect, honesty, and acceptance of alternative perspectives. In addition, we pride our fraternity on men who strive for academic achievement and participate in scholarly endeavors. And lastly we look for the men who, at their core, represent a jolly good-fellow; one who is relatable, conversational, and above all seeking reciprocated relationships in similar men. However, the most important part of these qualifications is the emphasis on equal proportions. We look for well-rounded individuals who will contribute to our notion of brotherhood while pushing the boundaries of these three criteria by excelling beyond.

The Objects of Delta Kappa Epsilon

"The cultivation of general literature and social culture, the advancement and encouragement of intellectual excellence, the promotion of honorable friendship and useful citizenship, the development of a spirit of tolerance and respect for the rights and views of others, the maintenance of gentlemanly dignity, self-respect, and morality in all circumstances, and the union of stout hearts and kindred interests to secure, to merit its due reward."

Each member of Delta Kappa Epsilon is expected to uphold the Objects of Delta of Kappa Epsilon throughout his entire life. The Objects of Delta Kappa Epsilon are the founding principles and values that DKE Brothers seek to embody, advance and perpetuate. This single sentence describes the six ideals for which our fraternity is based. By actively personifying this creed, a DKE Brother consistently establishes himself as a well-rounded, intellectual and tolerant gentleman. These are the basic elements that unite thousands of DKE Brothers. By following and advancing the Objects of Delta Kappa Epsilon, a DKE Brother finds a clear path towards perpetual honor and dignity.

Prospective members of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity should familiarize themselves with the Objects, as they symbolize the lifelong commitment every DKE Brother makes.

Qualifications for membership

Article V, Section II of the DKE Constitution states: The qualifications for membership of an eligible student shall be:

- good standing in the work of the curriculum;
- excellence in scholarship being a worthy recommendation;
- high moral character;
- general affability and consideration for the rights and views of others;
- courteous deportment;
- a gentlemanly and self-respecting spirit;
- an active and energetic character;
- an appreciation of the objects and principles of DELTA KAPPA EPSILON, coupled with a capability and desire to be loyal thereto.

Non-Discrimination:

Article V, Section II of the DKE Constitution states: “No Chapter shall consider the race, creed, color, or national origin of an eligible student in pledging and initiating into membership in DELTA KAPPA EPSILON.”

The Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity is seeking young men who are passionate about their studies and strive for academic excellence. DKE brothers are expected to be respectful, moral, and courteous. They are expected to be gentleman and promote honor and dignity in all their endeavors. Furthermore, DKE brothers should possess formidable social skills and an enthusiastic, energetic character. Delta Kappa Epsilon in no way considers the race, creed, color, or national origin of an eligible student in their criteria for membership.

Open Motto

Friends from the Heart, Forever

Delta Kappa Epsilon’s open motto is “Friends from the Heart, Forever.” The culture of DKE is one that stresses the importance of brotherhood and in doing so breeds unity. Members of the fraternity know that when they joined DKE they became a part of something that does not simply end with graduation, but rather transcends the college experience, as lasting bonds are developed and honorable friendships are created. Friendships found here do not just fade with time; they stay with a man his entire life and help shape what he will become.

DKE Brothers Communicating the Values of the Fraternity

It is no coincidence that five presidents of the United States have been Dekes-more than any other fraternity-that our flag was flown on the first expedition to the North Pole and again on a manned landing to the moon. The individual qualities that DKE seeks have certainly withstood the test of time and served us all in good stead. It is that unique blend of leadership, brotherhood and tradition that fuels this fraternity. Adapted from a quotation of President Gerald Ford, Omicron/Michigan '35

"Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered by failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat"- Brother Theodore Roosevelt, Alpha/Harvard '80

BROTHERS IN D K E

John Claire Minot, Theta 1896

Upon a southern battle-field the twilight shadows fall;
The clash and roar are ended, and the evening bugles call.
The wearied hosts are resting where the ground is stained with red,
And o'er the plain between them lie the wounded and the dead.
And out upon the sodden field, where the armies fought all day,
There came a group of soldiers who wore the rebel gray.
But peaceful was their mission upon the darkened plain:
They came to save their wounded and lay at rest the slain.
And tenderly their hands performed the work they had to do,
And one among them paused beside a wounded boy in blue,
A Northern lad, with curly hair and eyes of softest brown,
Whose coat of blue was red with blood that trickled slowly down.
A bullet hole was in his breast, and there alone he lay
At night upon the battle-field, and moaned his life away.
The rebel paused beside him, and in the lantern's light
He saw upon the soldier's breast a fair familiar sight.
It was the pin of *D K E*, the diamond, stars and scroll,
The emblem of a brotherhood that bound them soul to soul.
He raised his hand and quickly tore his coat of gray apart,
And showed the wounded soldier a Deke pin o'er his heart.
Then close beside the Yankee dropped the rebel to his knee,
And their hands were clasped together in the grip of *D K E*.
"I'm from Theta," said the Yankee, and he tried to raise his head;
"I'm from Psi, in Alabama," were the words the rebel said.
"Brothers from the heart forever" – nothing more was left to say,
Though one was clad in Northern blue and one in Southern gray.
But the Northern lad was dying; his voice was faint at best
As he murmured out his messages to "mother and the rest."
And as the rebel soothed him, with his head upon his knee,
He heard him whisper "Bowdoin," and "Dear old *D K E*."
And he bandaged up the bosom that was torn by rebel shot;
And bathed the brow with water where the fever fires were hot;
And kissed him for his mother, and breathed a gentle prayer
As the angel's wings were fluttering above them in the air.
And to a lonely country home, far in the heart of Maine,
A letter soon was carried from that Southern battle plain.

It told about the conflict, and how he bravely fell
Who was the son and brother in that home beloved so well;
It told the simple story of the night when he had died –
All written by the rebel Deke whom God sent to his side.
And when it all was written, the writer sent within
A little lock of curly hair and a battered diamond pin.
And thirty years have passed away, but these simple relics are
Of all a mother treasures dear, the dearest still by far.
A simple tale and simply told, but true; and I thought it might
Well thrill the hearts of loyal Dekes, so I tell it here to-night.
The Northern soldier's name is found on Bowdoin's honor-roll;
And the names of both are blazoned fair on Delta Kappa's scroll.
God bless our noble brotherhood; its past is sweet to hear,
And its grandeur and its glory grow with each succeeding year;
And the story of its heroes shall an inspiration be
To us who proudly wear to-day the pin of *D K E*.

Delta Kappa Epsilon International is a member of the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC). The NIC published the following position statements germane to the Board of Trustees' first objective.

Statement of Position Supporting the Constitutional Rights of Students

Free speech, free thought and the right of open association are American ideals to be nurtured and cultivated, especially in the college environment. The North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) values the rights provided in the First Amendment of the Constitution and encourages college and university students to freely associate and to responsibly and properly exercise their freedom of speech.

Among many principles North-American Interfraternity Conference member fraternities share, the right to determine both membership and the practices and procedures by which membership is conferred is central. Guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution and reaffirmed in exemptions from Title IX by the Education Amendments of 1972 as it applies to fraternal organizations, the right to determine and offer membership is an essential component in the heritage and tradition of the fraternal movement, grounded in the history of American freedom of association and speech.

The NIC has a strong record of supporting legislative efforts to protect the rights of freedom of association and freedom of speech at all college and university campuses. The Conference acknowledges that colleges and universities have the right to establish fair and reasonable rules and regulations applicable to all student organizations seeking to receive and maintain recognition. The Conference asserts, however, that colleges and universities do not have the right to infringe on an organization's right to recruit members, or on a student's right to associate with an organization, if selected by the organization, on such terms and conditions as the student and the organization exclusively may agree. The Conference continually affirms its support for the right of students to assemble into fraternal and other organizations, and to associate with each other in those organizations, free of restriction in their decision.

Statement of Position Regarding Single-Gender Membership

Fraternities and sororities have the right under the United States Constitution and civil rights laws to exist as single-gender organizations and to maintain that status, especially under the First and Fourteenth Amendments. Further, Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972 provides that sexual discrimination shall not apply to membership practices of a social fraternity or social sorority that is exempt from taxation under section 501 of the IRS Code of 1954, the active membership of which consists primarily of students in attendance at an institution of higher education.

Beyond this, the North-American Interfraternity Conference affirms that men's and women's fraternities offer excellent opportunities for men and women to share a fraternal experience, and it supports the National Panhellenic Conference in its Resolution on Single-Sex Fraternities. The NIC believes single-gender organizations develop the character of an individual by

- Providing students with campus communities that provide an intimate, family-like structure;

- Providing a focus on scholarship, personal development, trust, mutual assistance and friendships;
- Offering full membership to men and women in their respective single-gender organizations;
- Opening membership with no discriminatory clauses related to race, creed or national origin;
- Allowing the chapter and candidate an opportunity for mutual agreement on membership; and
- Allowing the members of these private organizations to identify their friends without restraint.

The Conference believes strongly in single-gender membership and the acceptance of entirely male or female members, and it asserts the rights of every member fraternity to confine membership to men and to exist as single-gender organizations.