

THE Chrome and BLUE of ALPHA CHI SIGMA



March 2025

From the Grand Collegiate Alchemist

You may have noticed that this newsletter hasn't made it to your inbox in a while. I've seen countless memes pointing out that January 2025 seems to have been the longest, craziest month on record and I can not disagree with them. For me, January included the Supreme Council meeting at UNLV (with side trips to see both the Hoover Dam and the Grand Canyon), a snowstorm in Florida (resulting in a week's cancellation of school), numerous doctor's visits and tests, a new semester where I'm teaching a new course on top of five different combinations of old courses and modalities, and more Zoom meetings and tutoring sessions than I ever thought possible. I could not have made it through all of the craziness without the support of my brothers and the way they remind me that the bonds we have built will last forever. I hope your 2025 so far has been less chaotic than mine. Even if it hasn't, know that whatever challenges you're facing, you have brothers who would drop everything to make sure you make it through.

Yours in the Double Bond,
Matt

A Message *from the GMC*



From the Grand Master of Ceremonies

There has been some confusion recently on when chapters need to fill out an approval form for products they are making that use the Alpha Chi Sigma name and/or letters. To resolve that conclusion going forward, **all** uses of the fraternity's name or symbols on merchandise must be approved in advance by the Grand Master of Ceremonies. The approval form ([found here](#)) is necessary to ensure the proper use of our trademarks and to help maintain our legal rights to protect them. The GMC does their best to respond to these quickly and often is able to help ensure that you have access to high-quality source images for your designs.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is that members and chapters need to ensure that our letters are being used properly on social media. We are Alpha Chi Sigma, not Alpha Chi Epsilon. There are at least two organizations that use the letters AXE and those are their letters, not ours. Under NO circumstances should we ever refer to the fraternity using the letters AXE. In my role, since I refer to all sorts of chapters, I've simply downloaded a Greek keyboard to my phone which makes it easy for me to use the proper characters. If I'm not on my phone, all I have to do is find the Σ character in the character map - or literally anywhere on the internet and I can copy and paste it where needed. I know some brothers who use autocorrect to make it easier for them to get it right. If you absolutely can't get the actual character for the capital sigma to work, you should refer to the fraternity as AXS or AXSigma.



Currently seeking nominees for the

ALPHA CHI SIGMA

2025 Scholar Award

Nomination packets must be submitted by March 28, 2025
Electronic submissions should be emailed to: National@alphachisigma.org



Alpha Chi Sigma Scholar Award

In July 1913, Alpha Chi Sigma initiated a scholarship recognition program "To emphasize the belief that to encourage scholarship is one way to strive for the advancement of chemistry." Today, the award consists of a \$2,500 prize, a gold scholarship key, and an inscribed certificate. The recipient is invited to attend the next Biennial Conclave as a guest to receive their award and a biography of the

recipient is featured in the awards issue of *The Hexagon*. This award is administered by the Alpha Chi Sigma Educational Foundation.

A nominee for the Alpha Chi Sigma Scholar Award must have been a member of Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity for one year and be enrolled in an institution of higher learning at the time of nomination. Undergraduate nominees must have completed their junior year at the time of nomination. Graduate nominees may be nominated based upon both their undergraduate and graduate records upon the completion of their first year of graduate study. Graduate students also may be nominated, based upon their graduate records alone, after admission to candidacy for the terminal degree in the field of graduate study.

Any member of Alpha Chi Sigma may submit a nomination and members are welcome to nominate themselves. All nominations must include:

- A biographical sketch
- Two letters of recommendation by faculty of the institution at which the student is enrolled
- Transcripts of all academic work (one unofficial transcript from each institution attended)
- Supporting information that the nominee may wish to supply, such as abstracts of presentations at meetings or reprints or preprints of scientific publications
- A high-resolution photograph (needs to be a separate attachment)
- Address, telephone number and e-mail address of the candidate, including summer address if different.

One electronic copy of the nomination material should be submitted to the Alpha Chi Sigma Scholar Award Committee at national@alphachisigma.org.

All nominations must be submitted by March 28, 2025.



Terminology

Just as in our professional lives, fraternal life requires a particularly precise use of language. When discussing the steps of becoming a member of the fraternity, we need to be sure that we all use the correct terms when discussing this process within our chapters and with others. If there are questions about these terms or others that you'd like more information about, please reach out to your district counselor.

Rush (or Recruitment): This is the process prior to pledging, when you hold interest events with potential pledges.

Bid: A nomination for membership, often called a bid, is extended to qualified candidates who seek to become a member of Alpha Chi Sigma. This nomination must be approved according to the steps outlined in our [Constitution and Bylaws](#).

Pledge Induction: This is the ritual ceremony where an individual becomes a pledge of Alpha Chi Sigma. (Many chapters have *incorrectly* called this ceremony "pinning", but that term is used by many fraternal organizations for a ceremony with no equivalent in our order.)

Pledge: A person who has received and accepted an offer from the chapter, and has been through the induction ceremony but not yet experienced initiation. A pledge can participate in any non-ritual chapter activity. The time spent as a pledge is an opportunity for the brothers to teach them about the fraternity and their chapter.

Initiation: This is the ritual event through which a pledge becomes a full member of Alpha Chi Sigma. This ceremony, which must be performed exactly as prescribed in the written ritual provided to each chapter, binds all members from all chapters together as a shared experience.



Volunteer Opportunities

The Grand Master of Ceremonies is looking to fill two separate ritual-related committees.

Ritual Committee: Under the direction of the Committee Chair and the GMC, this committee will be the primary ritual related committee for the fraternity. One task that this committee will be assigned is generating articles for a variety of different fraternity publications (Chrome & Blue, Ritualistic Newsletter, and the Sourcebook). This committee is looking for collegiate and professional members. Please apply by emailing Volunteers@alphachisigma.org.

Ritual Mentoring: Under the direction of the GMC, this committee is being created to house a pool of experts that the GMC can use to provide additional assistance to collegiate chapters. This assistance will primarily take the form of emails and phone or zoom calls. We are looking for collegiate and professional members for each part of the ritual. *Volunteers for this committee will have to be interviewed prior to appointment.* To apply, please email volunteers@alphachisigma.org and include which part or parts you would like to be certified on as an expert (please use only part numbers). For collegiate members and recent graduates, you must have portrayed the part in at least two different semesters, so in your email, please tell us which semesters you portrayed that part. For professional members, please list the experience you have portraying the part, approximate number of times you've participated in an initiation visit, and the approximate date you last read through the ritual.

From the **PROFESSIONAL** *Branch*



From Grand Professional Alchemist Faith Yarberry

The Professional Representatives and I would like to speak with each Collegiate Chapter this biennium. We hope that by helping collegiate brothers to learn about the Professional Branch, we can help more brothers make Alpha Chi Sigma a part of their lives well beyond their time in college. We also want to point out some upcoming opportunities for online professional activities that may be of interest to both undergraduate and graduate students. While we'd certainly love to join every chapter at an in-person chapter meeting, we're also happy to join your meeting via Zoom. Please sign up for a time to meet, using [this calendar link](#). We look forward to seeing you soon!



ACS
Chemistry for Life®

ACS Meeting

Spring 2025 ACS National Meeting in San Diego

Alpha Chi Sigma and the American Chemical Society have similar values that have a long, shared history. Both organizations aspire to advance chemistry and aid its practitioners, but the brotherhood of Alpha Chi Sigma - our object "[t]o bind its members with a tie of true and lasting friendship" - provides an extra life-long bond between our members.

Each year the American Chemical Society hosts two national meetings. Alpha Chi Sigma members in attendance can easily get lost in the sea of chemists at these meetings making the cultivation of friendships outside of their own chapter a difficult task. We want to help members network and converse about chemistry and Alpha Chi Sigma at the Spring 2025 meeting in San Diego, CA. We are providing two opportunities to interact.

The first opportunity is to highlight your affiliation with Alpha Chi Sigma by obtaining a Fraternity Coat of Arms card that can be placed next to your poster. This will occur by email or from obtaining a card from PR Faith Yarberry during the Undergraduate Poster Session or at Sci-Mix. The second opportunity is that all individuals who complete the form will receive an email with a list of fellow members that are presenting, along with the time, location, and title of the presentation. If you will be presenting at the Spring 2025 ACS Meeting, we encourage you to fill out the [form found here](#) by March 10, 2025.

We look forward to wonderful conversations and chemistry in San Diego!

Notes from the N.O.



National Office Reminders

- When you hold officer elections, be sure to send in your Officer Election report! The form can be found on the [website](#).
- Pledge reporting and paperwork – Make sure you are following the Dates for getting your paperwork and fees in! For more information, visit our [website](#).



ALPHA CHI SIGMA by the Numbers

Alpha Chi Sigma by the Numbers

As of this writing the Fraternity has initiated **80,603** members since its founding in 1902.

The breakdown of our Active Chapters and Groups are as follows:

54 Active Collegiate Chapters **1** Active Collegiate Group **1** Active Interest Group **6** Active Professional Chapters **15** Active Professional Groups

The Chrome and Blue is a newsletter published during the academic year primarily for collegiate chapter officers and District Counselors. It also provides information useful to the rest of the Grand Chapter and to any interested Brothers. It serves to communicate news, reminders and updates in a timely manner.

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Alpha Chi Sigma National Office 6296 Rucker Road, Suite B
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