

# ΔΩ Delta Omega Society

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## CONSTITUTION

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1. **Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Delta Omega Society.

2. **Purpose**

The purpose of the Society shall be to encourage and recognize excellence in practice, research, education and academic achievement in the field of public health.

3. **Chapters**

- a. Chapters of the Society already organized shall be as designated in Appendix A.
- b. New chapters may be organized when approved by the National Council of the Society.

4. **Officers**

- a. The national officers of the Society shall consist of an Immediate-Past President, a President, a President-elect, who shall also function as the Treasurer, and a member-at-large.
- b. The national officers shall be elected by a vote of the majority of the Society members present at the annual Delta Omega meeting. Elections will be held every two years for the offices of President-Elect and member-at-large. The President-Elect will serve two years in that position, and then assume a two-year term as President, followed by another two-year term as Immediate Past President of the Society. The officers shall assume their duties as of January 1, following the annual meeting.
- c. The President shall appoint a nominating committee, at least four months prior to the annual meeting of the second year of his/her term, consisting of a chairperson and at least two other members, which shall submit nominations for officers, as appropriate.
- d. If any officer in the National Society is unable to complete his or her term, the remaining officers shall appoint a replacement that will serve until the next election by the Society.

5. **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee of Delta Omega has four elected officers: President, President-elect, Immediate-Past President, and member-at-large, which each serve two year terms in their respective positions. The Executive Committee also includes an Executive Secretary. The function of the Executive Committee is to advise the President on policy and other issues.

6. **National Council**

- a. The National Council of the Society shall consist of the national officers, together with representatives from the chapters.

7. **Membership**

There shall be two classes of members of the Society, as follows:

a. **Active members:**

who shall be elected by each chapter from among members of the faculty, alumni, and qualified resident students.

b. **Honorary members:**

who shall be elected by *either* the National Council or Delta Omega chapters. This membership shall be limited, and conferred only upon persons possessing exceptional qualifications, who have attained meritorious distinction in the field of public health. Persons may be nominated for honorary membership by any chapter, or by any member of the National Council.

8. **Annual Meeting**

There shall be held annually a meeting of the Society at which time officers shall be elected biannually and society business conducted.

9. **Emblem**

The emblem of the Society shall be a gold key with circular center, with the Greek letters Delta Omega engraved on the obverse.

10. **By-Laws**

The National Council may adopt by-laws for the further regulation of the Society.

11. **Amendments**

This constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the National Council at the annual meeting.

Approved by the Chapters and Adopted by the National Council at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 18, 1939. Amended 1951, 1963, 1964, 1981, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2004, 2007.

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## BY-LAWS

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In accordance with the constitution of Delta Omega, the National Council of the Society hereby promulgates the following By-Laws. No chapter shall adopt by-laws or regulations inconsistent with these By-Laws or with the constitution of the Society.

### 1. **New Chapters**

- a. New chapters shall be limited to educational institutions giving graduate instruction in public health and accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). An application for such a charter shall consist of one letter from the program director or dean requesting the establishment of a chapter and two letters of support from faculty of the applicant school or program. The necessary documents shall be acted upon *either* at the regular meeting of the National Council or during the year via an electronic vote of the National Council. A majority vote of the National Council shall be required for the issuance of the charter, following which the chapter will be organized and installed by the National Council.

### 2. **Inactive Chapters**

- a. A chapter will be placed on probationary status when dues and/or chapter reports are not submitted in two consecutive years or a chapter violates provisions in these by-laws and/or constitution. The executive committee will work with those chapters placed on probationary status to reactivate them. If a chapter has been on probationary status for *three* years the status of that chapter will be brought to the national council to vote on inactive status. *A two-thirds vote of chapter representatives on the National Council shall be required to effect a change in the status of a chapter.*
- b. *When a chapter has been placed on inactive status, it shall not be allowed to elect new members nor shall it have representation on the National Council. Once a chapter has been placed on inactive status, the chapter must reapply to become active again. The chapter must follow the guidelines mentioned for new chapters in 1a.*

### 3. **Members**

- a. Active members of the Society may be elected at the annual meeting of the chapters. They shall be chosen with due regard to their scholarly attainments and the honorary character of the Society.
- b. ***Student members***
  1. In order to be eligible for active membership in the Society, a student shall:
    - (i) possess a bachelor's degree, or a degree equivalent to or higher than the bachelor's degree;
    - (ii) have completed one full year of academic courses or be in the last grading period leading to an advanced degree in public health; and
    - (iii) shall intend, so far as can be ascertained, to follow a career in public health.
  2. Not more than ten percent (10%) of the graduating students can be elected to membership in a given calendar year. Those elected shall be from the upper twenty-five percent in class

standing and who have demonstrated real or potential qualities of leadership in public health in addition to academic excellence. The total student group from which the selections are made shall include only persons who are candidates for or who have received an advanced degree in public health during that current or previous academic year. The student group from which elections are made shall not include those people who are already members of Delta Omega.

3. The term "advanced degree in public health" as used in these by-laws refers to any masters or doctoral degree offered by a school of public health with a Delta Omega chapter.

d. **Faculty members.** Eligible faculty members shall be full-time faculty; adjunct faculty may not be appointed as faculty members. Members of the faculty shall be selected by a nominating committee of at least three members appointed by the chapter president. This selection committee will give particular attention to outstanding public health performance in scholarship, teaching, research, and the quality of publications through a careful review of the curricula vitarum. The total number of faculty members elected in any one year may be five (or 3% of the full-time faculty, whichever is less).

e. **Alumni members.** Each institution shall have the privilege each year of electing to membership a maximum of ten graduates of the local school of public health whose work in the practice of public health would serve as a model for future graduates of the school. Members who have been previously elected as students, faculty or alumni shall hereafter have the status of active members.

f. Any active member of Delta Omega may choose to become active in a chapter other than the one to which he or she was initially inducted, and may transfer membership. Transfer arrangements should be made among individuals and the chapters involved. The national office should be notified of the change for record-keeping purposes.

g. Active members of each chapter shall be entitled to vote upon the affairs of the chapter.

h. **Honorary members.**

1. Who shall be elected by unanimous vote of executive committee. This membership shall be limited to two members a year, and conferred only upon persons possessing exceptional qualifications, who have attained meritorious national or international distinction in the field of public health. Persons may be nominated for honorary membership by any chapter, or by any member of the National Council.

2. Who shall be unanimously elected by each chapter. This membership shall be limited to three the first year a chapter is active and limited to one every year thereafter and conferred only upon persons possessing exceptional qualifications, who have attained meritorious distinction in the field of public health.

#### 4. **Chapter Administration and Responsibilities**

a. Chapter officers, including a President, President-elect, and Immediate-Past President, shall be elected by a ballot by the active members of each chapter present and voting during an annual meeting. In the event that the President ceases to hold office for any reason, the President-elect shall succeed to the office of the President. Vacancies occurring in other office shall be filled by election for the unexpired term. If chapter officers are not members of Delta Omega, they should be inducted as members of Delta Omega within one year of their appointment.

b. Each chapter shall elect a delegate to the National Council, but may designate an alternate to serve at any given annual meeting of the Society.

c. As soon as possible after a chapter elects its new members, the secretary of each chapter shall transmit to the Executive Secretary at the National Office (a) the names of those elected and the advanced degree in public health each will probably receive or have received at the end of the current or previous academic year; and (b) a statement of the total number of students each of whom will probably receive or have received an advanced degree in public health during the current academic year at this institution. A copy of this information from each chapter shall be sent to each member of the National Council by Delta Omega Executive Secretary before the next annual meeting.

5. **Dues**

Initiation and other fees for active members may be fixed by each chapter. For each new member elected the chapter secretary shall transmit to the National Office that sum of forty dollars (\$40.00), part of which shall be used to pay for the required certificate of membership for the newly elected member.

6. **Amendments**

These By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of the members of the National Council.

7. **Implementation**

Implementation of these By-Laws and of the Constitution of the Society shall be guided by policies and procedures developed and updated, as necessary, by the officers of the Society.

***Amendment-October 24, 1993***

Section 4 amended by the National Council in San Francisco, CA, to raise the initiation fee to \$20.00.

***Amendment-November 18, 1996***

Section 1 amended by the National Council in New York City, charter application shall be accompanied by letters of support from three Delta Omega chapters. The necessary documents shall be acted upon at the regular meeting of the National Council.

***Amendment-November 8, 2004***

Section 4 amended by the National Council in Washington, D.C. to change the number of elected officers from four to three, eliminating the Secretary-Treasurer position and creating a Member-at-Large, who would be appointed on an annual basis by the President.

Section 5 amended by the National Council in Washington, D.C. to raise the initiation fee to \$40.00.

***Amendment-November 5, 2007***

Section 4 amended by the National Council in Washington, D.C. to change the position of member-at-large from a position appointed by the President, to an elected position to be voted on every two years by the National Council.

***Amendment-October 27, 2008***

Section 3.f amended by the National Council in San Diego, CA to reflect the current practice of the transfer of active membership between chapters.

(Adopted by the National Council at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 18, 1939; amended by the National Council at Baltimore, MD, March 21, 1942; amended by the National Council at St. Louis, MO, October 31, 1950; amended by the National Council at Cleveland, OH, November 13, 1957; amended by the National Council at St. Louis, MO, October 29, 1958; amendment, Section 2.f., 1964; amended May 24, 1967; amended, October 12, 1971; amended, June 1, 1972; amended, November 6, 1973, amended November 18, 1975; amended, November 13, 1979; amended, 1980; amended by the National Council at San Francisco, CA, October 24, 1993; amended November 18, 1996, amended by the National Council at Indianapolis, IN, November 10, 1997; amended November 16, 1998 by the National Council at Washington, DC; amended; amended November 8, 1999 in Chicago, IL; amended November 8, 2004 in Washington, DC; amended November 5, 2007 in Washington DC; amended October 27, 2008 in San Diego, CA)