

# 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 Officers of the Society.

4. **National 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, Executive Secretary, and two members-at-large. Officers must be members of active chapters when elected.

b. The national officers shall be elected by a vote of the majority of the representatives of active chapters present at the annual Delta Omega meeting. Elections will be held every two years for the offices of President-Elect and member(s)-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 at-large members will serve a two-year term and are eligible for two additional terms for a total of six years. No officer will serve on the executive committee more than twelve consecutive years. The officers shall assume their duties as of January 1, following the annual meeting.

d. If any elected 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.

e. The Executive Secretary is appointed by the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health and is a non-voting officer.

5. **National Council**

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

6. **Membership**

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

a. **Regular members:**

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

b. **Honorary members:**

who shall be inducted by either the National Officers or 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.

7. **Annual Meeting**

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

8. **Emblem**

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

9. **By-Laws**

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

10. **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, 2011, 2015.

# ΔΩ Delta Omega Society

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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**

New chapters shall be limited to educational institutions giving undergraduate or 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 by the Executive Committee of Delta Omega. The National Council will be informed via email when a new application has been received and given two weeks (10 business days) to discuss any concerns regarding the application. A majority vote of the Executive Committee shall be required for the issuance of the charter.

### 2. **Inactive Chapters**

- a. A chapter will be placed on inactive status when induction dues are not submitted in two consecutive years, a chapter violates provisions in these by-laws and/or constitution, or the educational institution at which the chapter is housed loses CEPH accreditation. A majority vote of members of the executive committee 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 for new chapters in section 1. Members previously inducted will remain regular members of the society.

### 3. **Induction process and members**

- a. Each chapter shall have a selection committee which shall select new members with due regard to their scholarly attainments and the honorary character of the Society. As provided for below, members who have been previously elected as students, faculty or alumni shall hereafter have the status of regular members.

#### b. **Student members**

- 1 Each chapter may induct no more than twenty percent (20%) of eligible graduate candidates and 10% of eligible undergraduate candidates in a given calendar year. The selection committee will give particular attention to academic excellence and shall take into consideration commitment to the public health profession.

2. In order to be eligible for regular membership in the Society, a student shall:

- (i) intend, so far as can be ascertained, to follow a career in public health  
AND
- (ii) have completed one full year of academic courses or be in the last grading period leading to a masters or doctoral degree in public health offered by a CEPH-accredited school or program of public health;  
OR
- (iii) be enrolled in the last year of a CEPH-accredited baccalaureate degree program.

**c. Faculty members.**

Each year chapter may induct up to the greater of 2 faculty or the equivalent of 3% of faculty FTE (sum of FTEs in CEPH Tables E1 (primary instructional) and E2 (other instructional)) most recently reported to CEPH (self-study or annual report).

Even though the limits are based on faculty numbers reported to CEPH, chapters may consider induction of all categories of faculty associated with the unit of accreditation, including adjunct and part-time.

Each chapter shall establish selection criteria consistent with its institutional criteria for the recognition and promotion of its faculty.

**d. Alumni members.**

Each chapter may induct graduates of the school or program of public health whose work in the practice of public health would serve as a model for future graduates

Chapters may induct graduate alumni members in an amount not to exceed half of the number of graduate student inductees.

Chapters may induct undergraduate alumni members in an amount not to exceed half the number of undergraduate student inductees each year.

**e Transfer of membership.**

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

**f. Voting rights.**

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

**g. Revocation of membership.**

Membership in the society may be revoked at any time for just cause and after documented due process. For members of active chapters, revocation of membership shall be determined at a meeting by the chapter. The selection committee responsible for inducting members shall also be responsible for revoking membership and should follow a similar process whenever possible. For members of inactive chapters or national honorary members, the national council shall also be responsible for revoking membership and should follow a similar process whenever possible.

h. **Honorary members.**

1. Who shall be elected by unanimous vote of the national officers. 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.
2. Who shall be elected by an active 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.
3. Honorary members may not transfer their membership.

4. **Chapter Administration and Responsibilities**

Chapters must have a process for election of and a periodic rotation of chapter officers. Each chapter shall designate a delegate to vote on Delta Omega business at the National Council.

5. **Dues**

For each new member inducted, the chapter secretary shall transmit dues to the National Office. Induction dues rate shall be reviewed periodically by the Executive Committee and increased as needed based on the prevailing financial status of the organization and budgetary projections. Chapters have the option to collect additional induction dues and other fees.

6. **Voting**

- a. A quorum at any meeting of the National Council shall consist of the presence at such meeting of a majority of Delta Omega chapters. If a greater quorum is required by law or otherwise, a quorum shall consist of the presence of whatever proportions of the chapters are necessary to ensure compliance.
- b. Any general resolution or election of officers presented to the National Council must be approved by a majority of those chapters voting at an Annual or special meeting, with the exception of a resolution to amend or repeal these bylaws.
- c. Any vote required for any action by the Delta Omega Council or any authorized Committee may be taken by any electronic means. This shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, electronic mail (e-mail), texting, or such similar technology. Any required notice shall state the latest time and date by which a vote by electronic means shall be valid. Any action taken and voted upon by such electronic means shall have the same force and effect as if a regular meeting had taken place.

7. **Amendments**

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

8. **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.

***Amendment-October 31, 2011***

Section 1.a amended by the National Council in Washington, DC to change the approval process for new chapters from requiring a majority vote of the National Council to a majority vote of the Executive Committee (with input from the National Council).

***Amendment-October 31, 2011***

Section 3.h.2 amended by the National Council in Washington, DC to require a majority vote instead of a unanimous vote for chapter-selected honorary members.

***Amendment-November 2, 2015***

Section 4.a amended by the National Council in Chicago, IL to allow up to two members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee.

***Amendment – October 16, 2020***

Section 3 amended by the National Council on a virtual meeting to update induction criteria, to allow for the revocation of membership and multiple edits for clarity and consistency.

(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; amended October 31, 2011 in Washington, DC; amended November 2, 2015 in Chicago, IL; amended October 16, 2020)