



**Pasadena City College
BY-LAWS OF THE ALPHA GAMMA SIGMA HONOR SOCIETY
Alpha Chapter**

ARTICLE I: NAME AND MISSION

Section I Name

The Pasadena chapter is known as the Alpha chapter of Alpha Gamma Sigma, Inc., the California Community College Honor Society (hereafter referred to as AGS).

Section II Mission

The purpose of the chapter is to

- develop leadership, character, and judgment among the students of Pasadena City College;
- foster, maintain, and recognize scholarship;
- promote service to the college and the community; and
- develop programs offering cultural, social, and enrichment experiences.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section I Applying

Any PCC student who has completed 12 units and maintains a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and is currently enrolled in 9 units is eligible to join Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society.

Section II Member in Good Standing

- A. A student who has paid current membership dues;
- B. A student who is not under any organizational disciplinary action;
- C. A student who is not under any college disciplinary action;
- D. A student who remains enrolled in the required minimum units for satisfactory academic progress of an Honor Society member;
- E. A student who has fulfilled all Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS) Membership obligations for both the current and past semesters, as defined in Article II of the Bylaws of Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS), Incorporated.

Section III Two Classes of Member Status

- A. Active Members must complete 20 (twenty) hours of service time during the concurrent Fall or Spring semester. 6 (six) of these twenty hours must be dedicated specifically to fundraising for or contributing to Alpha Gamma Sigma, known as AGS hours. Active members may apply for Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS) scholarships, run and vote for office.
- B. Inactive Members must complete 9 (nine) hours of service during the concurrent Fall or Spring semester. 2 (two) hours must be AGS hours. Inactive Members may not apply for Alpha Gamma Sigma scholarships nor vote or run for leadership.
- C. Membership status is non-transferable after payment of dues.
- D. Members may choose to change their status from Active to Inactive only up until the application deadline.

Section IV Four Types of Membership

Temporary Membership

- A. Students entering their first semester of community college who either are lifetime members of the California Scholarship Federation (CSF) or have graduated a U.S. high school with a GPA of at least 3.5 are invited to become Temporary members during their first semester in a community college.
- B. First-semester students in Fall who are recipients of the PCC Honors-at-Entrance scholarship are eligible to join as Temporary members for the remainder of the semester.
- C. Temporary members have, upon payment of dues, all the privileges of membership except for holding elective office.

Initial Membership

- A. Students are eligible to become Initial members after completing at least 12 semester units of college courses and with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0, in all college coursework going back up to 2 years.

Continuing Membership

- A. Initial members who were in AGS for at least one semester may apply for Continuing membership if they have and maintain a 3.0 GPA, in all college coursework going back up to 2 years, and are enrolled in at least 9 units.
- B. Continuing members with 30 semester units may wear the silver ΑΓΣ pin.
- C. Continuing members will receive one semester's grace period if the member's GPA falls below 3.0. One grace period is accumulated for every earned semester of continuing membership. A continuing member cannot have two grace periods consecutively.
- D. A grace period does not grant the member a transcript notation. The grace period gives the member a chance to preserve his or her status as a continuing member, which would count towards applying for permanent membership.

Permanent Membership

- A. Permanent Membership is granted to Continuing Members. Students are eligible to petition by application for Permanent Membership during the semester in which they
 1. Complete 60 semester units in degree-appropriate college courses, of which at least 54 units are for a grade (not as CR/No Credit);
 2. Have completed at least 30 of these units at the Community College level;
 3. Are currently registered as a Continuing Member; and
 4. Meet one of the following criteria:
 - A student in the 2nd semester of AGS membership completes the semester with a cumulative 3.50 GPA or higher in all recognized college courses; or
 - A student in the 3rd semester of AGS membership or more completes the semester with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 in all recognized college courses.
- B. Permanent membership applications must be filed by the established due date, commonly at minimum one week beyond the final day to apply for chapter membership in the semester.
- C. Permanent members are entitled to receive the Alpha Gamma Sigma Permanent Certificate. They may also wear the gold ΑΓΣ pin and the distinguished gold stole.
- D. For Permanent members all future membership dues are waived. Permanent members are not automatically entitled to a transcript notation every semester.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Section I Transcript Notation

- A. Only applicants meeting all membership requirements may receive a transcript notation of AGS participation.
- B. Students upon graduating or finishing PCC who have a transcript notation of AGS membership are entitled to receive the Alpha Gamma Sigma Gold Seal for their diploma or other document of their choosing.

Section II Meetings

- A. All members must attend at least 6 (six) General or Planning meetings during a semester.
- B. Members are expected to arrive within the first 15 minutes and must stay till the last 10 minutes of the meeting hour to count towards meeting attendance.
- C. Each member is responsible to provide proof of attendance. No proof of attendance will be issued after the first 15 minutes of a meeting, except by variance of the president.
- D. Members who have regular class or job conflicts with the scheduled meeting may request to be exempted from Rule C. of this section by submitting a copy of their class schedule taken from the Pasadena City College Website or an official copy of their work schedule verified by their supervisor with a contact number.

Section III Grade Point Average Eligibility

- A. The GPA after final grades are submitted in a semester is the final factor in judging fulfillment of membership requirements.
- B. In determining GPA eligibility, units must be counted beginning with those most recently completed and going back chronologically. If any units from a semester are used to establish eligibility, all units in graded courses on that and all intervening transcripts must enter into the calculation of the GPA.
- C. Any course completed two years or more prior to application, whether at a community college or other institution, shall not be used to prohibit any person from achieving membership, provided these units not be used to meet the minimum number of required units.

Section IV Other Requirements

- A. Member unofficial transcripts and dues must be submitted together. Applications must be received no later than the established due date. All membership dues are non-refundable. Dues for a Fall or Spring semester shall not change during the application window for that term.
- B. All members are required to reapply for membership each semester. Permanent members must reapply in order to be eligible for scholarship consideration or if serving on the executive board.
- C. All members must remain enrolled in 9 or more units. Exceptions to enroll in fewer units are for members graduating or in their final semester, for appointed officers on the executive board, for members experiencing limited course offerings by the college, or for members facing similar challenges, as granted by variance of the president.
- D. Service time benefiting the community and promoting the chapter is valid toward achieving membership when only done during the concurrent Fall or Spring semester. The member commits to completing the prescribed service time requirements of his member status – Active / Inactive – by the established due date.

ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE BOARD**Section I Officers**

- A. All board members must have at least one semester of experience in AGS. Board members while in office must be a current member, Active status.
- B. Appointed offices are the following. These positions stipulate pre-requisite knowledge:
 - President
 - Treasurer
 - Publicity Art Director
 - Technology Coordinator
 - Assistant Technology Coordinator
 - Newsletter Editor
- C. Elected offices are positions not needing pre-requisite knowledge and include the following:
 - Internal Vice President
 - External Vice President
 - Recording Secretary
 - Corresponding Secretary

- Inter-Club Council Representative
- Fundraising Coordinator
- Market Coordinator
- Activities Coordinator

D. The president may nominate appointments to fill a vacant position, as the need arises.

E. If the presidency becomes vacant the order of succession shall be the following:

- External Vice President,
- Internal Vice President,
- Activities Coordinator
- Treasurer.

Section II Terms of Office

- A. Officer terms are yearlong, beginning with the fall 2009 board, and are to take office June 30, with the next election to take place at the end of the academic school year.
- B. The number of semesters a member may serve on the executive board is limited to 2 (two) terms. A semester counts as a term in office if starting in office before the ninth week of the semester.
- C. Missing thirty minutes of a Planning meeting or General meeting without prior arrangement is considered an absence. Board members of a semester may decide the rules of enforcement for officer absences.
- D. If an officer should fail to qualify for Alpha Gamma Sigma during the term in office, membership is not granted that semester for the officer.

ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section I

Officers will:

- A. Uphold the State AGS By-laws and the By-laws of the Alpha Chapter;
- B. Maintain a binder with relevant information pertaining to their position, which is turned over to the Advisor(s) at the end of the term in office.
- C. Maintain member privacy by preventing all persons except board members and advisors from having access to sensitive information, to include members' phone numbers, e-mail addresses, PCC ID number, and social security number.
 - 1. No sensitive data shall be submitted over or to the internet by board members unless the data is encrypted.

Section II

Specific Duties by Office

Chapter President

- A. Administer the Cabinet's duties and prepare meeting agendas;
- B. Be the communication liaison to PCC college institutions and neighboring AGS chapters;
- C. Coordinate Alpha Chapter attendance at the Fall Regional Conference and Spring State Convention;
- D. Work closely with the Advisor(s).

Internal Vice President

- A. Increase chapter awareness of beneficial PCC campus events and activities;
- B. Increase campus awareness of Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society, through Club Week and primary fundraising events on campus;
- C. Inspire and excite chapter spirit and advocate Spirit Day;
- D. Assume the duties of president in the absence of the latter.

External Vice President

- A. Solicit scholarship sponsors, monetary donations, and opportunity drawing prizes for AGS;
- B. Perform follow-up correspondence and other duties appropriate to external business relations;
- C. Assist the fundraising coordinator in fundraising events;
- D. Plan and organize TV tapings;
 - 1. Serve as advocate and liaison for AGS to Studio Audience agencies, planning and publicizing with the technology coordinator AGS participation in TV taping fundraisers;

2. Become familiar with and adhere to Student Affairs guidelines in coordinating TV tapings, both in season and during the off-season;
 3. Ensure AGS receives timely payment for audience participation;
- E. Assume the duties of the president in the absence of the president and internal vice president, and succeed to the office of president should that office become vacant.

Recording Secretary

- A. Process and review member applications and build a chapter roster.
- B. Keep record of members' service time and meeting attendance;
- C. Provide Advisors current service time sheets in a timely manner for scholarship evaluations;
- D. Prepare a list of all members qualifying for membership, pending semester final grades.

Corresponding Secretary

- A. Document all chapter flyers and newspaper clippings, collect and assemble video at all semester events and photographs of members;
- B. At meetings:
 - o help ensure an Advisor is present;
 - o make member applications available;
 - o record accurate minutes, and have these minutes publicly available in a timely manner;
- C. Write letters and correspondence on behalf of the chapter;
- D. Maintain/update any changes in chapter By-laws;
- E. The Recording Secretary will assist the Recording Secretary with processing and keeping record of members' service time and meeting attendance.

Treasurer

- A. Prepare a cash box and receipt book in advance of campus fundraising events;
- B. Document chapter deposits accurately, and pay bills for AGS in a timely manner;
- C. Become familiar with non-profit organization IRS charitable giving guidelines, and issue receipt letters to monetary and scholarship donors;
- D. Report the amount that the Scholarship Advisory Committee has the discretion to award toward scholarships and to the chapter Endowment fund.

Inter-Club Council Representative

- A. Attend all Inter-Club Council meetings, or notify the president in a timely manner whenever unable to be at an ICC meeting;
- B. Become familiar with student club rules and current Student Affairs issues and report on them, to foster a well-informed and rule-abiding chapter;
- C. Assist the president with re-chartering the chapter each semester and with applying for SSF and ICC funding grants by the given deadlines;
- D. Serve as advocate and liaison for AGS to Student Affairs, following up as directed by the board on submitted Activity Request Forms, and reporting in a timely manner to the board on opportunities to serve at PCC student and campus events.

Fundraising Coordinator

- A. Plan and publicize fundraisers for Alpha Gamma Sigma;
- B. Work with the treasurer to prepare a cash box in advance of campus fundraising events, and keep track of AGS's fundraising money;
- C. Become familiar with and adhere to Student Affairs guidelines in coordinating fundraising events, on and off campus, both in season and during the off-season;
- D. Submit records of volunteer service time to the recording secretary, within the time limit as determined by the board.

Marketing Director

- A. Plan and publicize chapter participation at the PCC Flea Market;

- B. Assist the treasurer with same-day Flea Market deposits. The Marketing Director can never taking cash box proceeds home overnight. Also assist the treasurer with Flea Market deposit receipts from the bank.
- C. Become familiar with and adhere to Student Affairs guidelines for coordinating Flea Market participation, both in season and during the off-season;
- D. Become familiar with Flea Market service time and donation guidelines, and submit records of volunteer service time to the recording secretary, within the time limit as determined by the board.

Publicity Art Director

- A. Publicize chapter events and promote chapter awareness on campus, by means of banners, flyers, the Courier, weekly publications, classroom announcements, announcements at the Academic and Classified Senate meetings, the college electronic daily bulletin, the PCC web site, and the marquee board at Colorado & Hill through Public Relations;
- B. Chair a publicity committee and coordinate with the internal vice president during Club Week to solicit new members;
- C. Coordinate the AGS glass display case and return the issued key in a timely manner to the Advisor(s) at the end of the term;
- D. Oversee, with the advice of the Cabinet, all publicity and design aspects promoting the chapter, including, as necessary, T-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, embroidered items, jackets, officer name badges, banners, newspaper advertisements, and the Awards Ceremony program, as well as guest invitations.

Activities Coordinator

- A. Plan and publicize chapter social events and charitable service activities;
- B. Become familiar with and adhere to Student Affairs guidelines in coordinating events, on and off campus, both in season and during the off-season;
- C. Work with the publicity art director to plan all aspects of the semester's Awards Ceremony;
- D. Submit records of volunteer service time to the recording secretary, within the time limit as determined by the board.

Technology Coordinator

- A. Update and maintain the chapter web site, and keep AGS technologically current;
- B. Promote awareness of AGS activities and beneficial campus events;
- C. Implement the FERPA privacy act, upholding online security and member confidentiality;
- D. Maintain a chapter e-mail list and send e-mail about AGS events.
- E. Process online member applications.
- F. Maintain a backup of all AGS electronic files.
- G. Train the other board members in using any applications related to AGS business.
- H. Provide direction and training to the Assistant Technology Coordinator to ensure his or her readiness to handle all duties of the Technology Coordinator.
- I. Ensure that any new technology is functional, useful to all members, and that behavior of its participants reflects the values of AGS.

Newsletter Editor

- A. Publish and work with the technology coordinator to publicize a newsletter at least monthly, for distribution to members and PCC faculty, and for showing in the glass display case; also return the issued glass display case key to the Advisor(s) in a timely manner at the end of the term;
- B. Coordinate photography of AGS members and events and work with the corresponding secretary for article and scrapbook efforts;
- C. Work with the technology coordinator to announce the AGS chapter member of the month (any member not holding office);
- D. Credit service time for submitted photography and newsletter articles, and submit record of this service time to the recording secretary, within the time limit as determined by the board.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section I Planning Meetings

- A. Cabinet members and Advisor(s) meet once a week at an agreed upon time.
- B. Planning meetings are open-session meetings, except those times in the agenda when the Chair calls a closed session with only board and Advisor(s), for discussing issues of a more sensitive nature.
- C. No final decisions can be voted or reached without a quorum or attending Advisor.
- D. Members may be credited with meeting attendance for attending a Planning meeting.

Section II Quorum

A quorum of a majority of executive board members with at least one Advisor attending is needed to hold a Planning meeting. Without a quorum, an informal meeting can be held.

Section III Parliamentary Authority

Standard rules of parliamentary procedure will be the guideline in all instances in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS), Incorporated.

Section IV General Meetings

- A. General meetings commence following Club Week in the semester and are held on Thursdays, during the college hour.
- B. At least one Advisor must be present.

ARTICLE VII: ELECTIONS

Section I Election Code

- A. Officer elections for the succeeding term are held near the week of the service time submission deadline, and at least one week before the Awards Ceremony.
- B. All Active members are eligible to vote if present and voting at the meeting when elections are held.
- C. Elected offices with multiple candidates are voted by secret ballot, tallied by the President and the Advisor(s). Uncontested elected offices are voted on by the current Executive Board members.
- D. Elections are determined by a majority of Active member votes cast. In case of no candidate for an office or in case of a tie, offices are filled by appointment by the current board, or by nomination of the president, or by decision of the Faculty Advisor(s).

Section II Qualification for Office

- A. Any member in good standing on election day with less than 3 terms served on board may run for office.
- B. Candidates are invited to give a timed speech on election day and to answer questions, as time allows.
- C. A candidate for office may not use contact information gained through access to an AGS membership list for campaigning purposes.

ARTICLE VIII: REMOVAL

Section I Basis of Removal

An officer may be removed from office for improper conduct or neglect of duty.

Section II Valid Cause

- A. Willful or excessive violation of the Alpha Gamma Sigma, Alpha Chapter By-laws;
- B. Willful disregard of decisions made by the executive board;
- C. Failure or refusal to disclose necessary information on matters of chapter business;
- D. Unwarranted attacks on any officer or refusal to cooperate with an officer;
- E. Misrepresentation of the chapter or any of its officers;
- F. Contributing to the creation of a hostile environment within the chapter;
- G. Violation of PCC's Standards of Student Conduct, as defined in the PCC Catalog;
- H. Violation of PCC's Board Policies or Administrative regulations.

Section III Procedure

The intention of the following steps at all stages is to seek restoration of the officer to a position of responsibility.

- A. At the first indication of improper conduct giving rise to offense, the officer under question is to be approached directly.
- B. If the officer under question does not listen, the individual with charges is to seek reconciliation in the presence of one other and a chapter Advisor.
- C. If the matter has been established, and if the offending officer refuses to listen, the issue can be brought before the chapter membership upon a unanimous vote of the board, for the chapter to seek restoration of the officer.
- D. After this stage the board votes by anonymous ballot whether to remove the officer. A 3/5 vote will suffice. The officer on removal loses good standing to attain membership that term, but is not barred from membership in future. However future eligibility for leadership is disallowed.

Section IV Subjugation of Disciplinary Action

Proceedings for violation of Student Conduct at the Student Affairs level or higher supersede any actions taken by the Alpha Gamma Sigma chapter.

ARTICLE IX: DISCIPLINE**Section I Basis of Discipline**

AGS membership may be suspended or revoked for improper conduct.

Section II Valid Cause

- A. Willful or excessive violation of the Alpha Gamma Sigma, Alpha Chapter By-laws;
- B. Willful disregard of decisions made by the executive board or Advisor(s);
- C. Willful disregard of instructions given by the executive board or Advisor(s);
- D. Failure or refusal to disclose necessary information on matters of chapter business;
- E. Unwarranted attacks on any member or refusal to cooperate with a member or Advisor(s);
- F. Misrepresentation of the chapter or any of its officers;
- G. Contributing to the creation of a hostile environment within the chapter;
- H. Disruption of chapter activities;
- I. Violation of PCC's Standards of Student Conduct, as defined in the PCC Catalog;
- J. Violation of PCC's Board Policies or Administrative regulations.

Section III Procedure

The intention of the following steps at all stages is to seek restoration of the member to a position of accountability.

- A. At the first indication of improper conduct giving rise to offense, the member under question is to be approached directly.
- B. If the member under question does not listen, the individual with charges is to seek reconciliation in the presence of one officer and a chapter Advisor.
- C. If the matter has been established, and if the offending member refuses to listen, the issue can be brought before the chapter membership upon a unanimous vote of the board, for the chapter to seek restoration of the member.
- D. After this stage the board votes by anonymous ballot whether to revoke membership. A 3/5 vote will suffice. In the case of any officer subject to discipline, a vote on membership is a separate decision from a vote to remove from office. Membership termination is immediate and final, until such time that there ever is shown ample demonstration of restoration, for the member offense.

Section IV Subjugation of Disciplinary Action

Proceedings for violation of Student Conduct at the Student Affairs level or higher supersede any actions taken by the Alpha Gamma Sigma chapter.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

Section I Initiative

- A. An amendment to the By-laws may be proposed by written request of ten percent of Active members and must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the executive board prior to presentation to the general membership.
- B. Notice of proposed amendments must be given in executive board minutes or announced at a General meeting at least one week before the desired voting day at a General meeting, along with notice of the date and place of the General membership vote.

Section II Ratification

- A. The general membership vote on proposed amendments is by secret ballot and tallied by the Advisor(s).
- B. Amendments voted by the General membership are passed with a majority affirmative vote. Amendments go into effect upon approval.

ARTICLE XI: SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Section I Endowment Fund

Beginning in Fall 2006 with an initial gift of \$2,000, an AGS endowment fund exists, held in 15 trust by the Student Business Services (Student Bank), to which successive semesters of the chapter can contribute, as a suggestion, at minimum \$1 per member from the Scholarship Account.

- A. The amount contributed is a decision of the Scholarship Advisory Committee.
- B. Upon the principal attaining the minimum balance required to convert to a viable Endowment Fund, administered by the PCC Endowment Office, the intent is to have scholarship awards funded by the accumulated accrued interest, while contributions continue into the Endowment Fund principal.

Section II Scholarships

At the end of the Fall and Spring semesters, Alpha Gamma Sigma holds an Awards Ceremony.

- A. At this ceremony, scholarship awards are presented by the Advisors.
- B. Scholarship recipients and award amounts are determined by the Scholarship Advisory Committee comprised of the chapter Advisors, and selected among those scholarship applicants completing the eligibility requirements by the established due date.
- C. No applicant qualifies to receive more than one scholarship per semester up to a maximum of two scholarships in their lifetime.
- D. Cabinet Certificates, Awards of Recognition, introduction of the new board, and the Charge of Office are also given at this time.

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