

Pi Sigma Alpha, National Political Science Honor Society
Alpha Upsilon Chapter of University of Michigan Ann Arbor
Constitution

Article I: Name

The name of the organization will be Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honor Society).

Article II: Affiliation with Other Groups

Our chapter is sponsored by the Department of Political Science and the National Pi Sigma Alpha organization. It is important that every potential member of the honor society understand that membership in Pi Sigma Alpha is national; there may be no such thing as membership in a chapter without national membership. Moreover, the name of the honor society is protected by trademark and may not be attached to any membership category other than those specified by the national organization.

Article III: Purpose, Vision, Mission, Aims, Functions

Section 1. Purpose and Mission

The purpose of the organization is to recognize excellence in academic achievement by undergraduate in the fields of political science, government, international and public affairs; to stimulate scholarship and interest in political science; to promote worthwhile curricular and extracurricular activities related to political science; to promote civil dialogue; and to engage in any other activities that further these purposes.

Section 2. Pi Sigma Alpha understands and is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities of abiding by the University of Michigan policies and procedures.

Article IV: Membership

Section 1. Eligibility

There are three categories of membership in Pi Sigma Alpha: student, faculty, and honorary. Students are eligible for membership if they meet the following requirements:

A. Undergraduate Students

- a. For undergraduates currently enrolled at University of Michigan-Ann Arbor:
 1. Completion of at least half the credits required for the baccalaureate degree;
 2. Completion of at least 4 courses for juniors, and 5 courses for seniors, and of work in political science including at least one upper-division course;
 3. With an average grade of 3.5 in all courses in political science;
 4. Maintenance of general scholarship sufficient to place the student in the top one-third of his or her class;
 5. Overall GPA of 3.5;
 6. Transfer students must have completed four courses in political science at the time of application.

B. Graduate Students

- a. Completion of at least nine (9) graduate credits in political science with no grade lower than a B.
- b. Current enrollment at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor

C. Faculty

Any member of the faculty in the department where this chapter is located may be initiated into Pi Sigma Alpha at the University of Michigan. Faculty members shall possess all the privileges and have all the responsibilities of student membership.

D. Honorary

Any person of outstanding achievement and ability in the field of Political Science may be elected to membership by a two-thirds vote of the voting members of the chapter, a voting quorum being present. No more than two persons may be elected to honorary membership each year. Honorary membership is contingent upon approval by the National Office of Pi Sigma Alpha. Honorary members possess all the privileges of membership.

Section 2: Induction and Application

- A. Any student who meets the foregoing requirements will be invited to membership in Pi Sigma Alpha at the University of Michigan. This chapter will not discriminate on any basis prohibited by law or the policies of University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. All prospective applicants must apply to the chapter advisor with a form detailing their academic qualifications. These students will then be extended an offer of membership, and join the chapter by their payment of membership dues.
- B. Upon joining the organization, all members agree not to undermine the purpose or mission of Pi Sigma Alpha.

Section 3. Duration of Membership

Membership in Pi Sigma Alpha is for life and may be transferred from one chapter to another. A member initiated into another chapter who transfers to University of Michigan-Ann Arbor shall be considered a full member of this chapter with all rights and responsibilities.

Section 4. Dues and Fees

The lifetime initiation fee is set by the National Office of Pi Sigma Alpha. This fee will be paid to the National Office for every member of the chapter. Pi Sigma Alpha at the University of Michigan may, by a two-thirds vote, establish separate chapter dues in a nominal amount to be used for chapter activities.

Section 5. Active Membership

In order to maintain active membership (and voting status), inductees must attend the induction ceremony (fall semester), professor-student dinner (winter semester), and at least one other hosted event each year.

Article V: Officers

Pi Sigma Alpha will be governed by an executive board of three officers.

1. President: Be the main liaison between PSA and the Political Science Department, with duties including but not limited to overseeing the recruitment process; handling financial transactions through SOAS; communicating both within PSA and with other

student organizations; organizing scholarship opportunities for PSA; and acting as a representative of the chapter.

2. External Vice President: The VP external will be in charge of external affairs, including but not limited to planning PSA sponsored events on campus; communicating with other student organizations on campus; and handling all financial transactions for the event, if/when they are given signing privileges on the SOAS account.

3. Internal Vice President: The VP Internal will be in charge of internal affairs, including but not limited to planning the recruitment process; handling internal financial transactions including membership dues, if/when they are given signing privileges on the SOAS account.

Article VI: Advisor

Section 1. Role

The Chapter Advisor shall be a member of the Political Science Department. The Advisor shall act as the liaison between the chapter and the national Office of Pi Sigma Alpha, provide supervision, guidance and mentoring to the chapter, and retain ultimate responsibility for the chapter's finances and compliance with Pi Sigma Alpha standards. The Chapter Advisor shall confirm students' eligibility for membership in the honor society.

Section 2. Selection

The Chapter Advisor will be selected by the Political Science Department Administration at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. The advisor for the 2017-18 academic year is Nicole Rutherford, Academic Program Manager. The name of the Advisor shall be reported to the National office.

Article VII: Operations

Section 1. Selection of Leadership

Candidates interested in leading Pi Sigma Alpha must submit a written application to the current executive board who will make their selection based on stated interest and qualifications. This process begins and ends during the second half of the winter semester to allow for ample turnover time.

Section 2. Meetings and Activities

Pi Sigma Alpha will work to put on workshops and events relevant to our members educational and professional goals. This chapter may not engage in any activity which benefits or favors a particular political candidate or party, or which in any other way is or might be reasonably construed as an activity that is prohibited as to nonprofit organizations under the laws or tax codes of Michigan and/or the United States Governments.¹

Article VIII: Finances

Pi Sigma Alpha will finance its activities from new member dues and applying for funds from the Department of Political Science on a case-by-case basis. Finances will be held in the University of Michigan SOAS. Authorized signers on the account will be the chapter advisor, co-presidents, and any other member of the executive board and political science department the chapter advisor and presidents see fit.

Article IX: Removal

Section 1. Removal of Officers

In the case of misconduct or alleged misconduct by an Officer, the Chapter Advisor will initiate a process of removal. A joint meeting must be made between the Chapter Advisor and the officer in question, in which they may be asked to resign. Should the officer wish to appeal the decision, the Executive Board must hold a secret-ballot vote, in which 70% of the members participate. In order to maintain their position, the officer must receive a vote of confidence by 2/3s of the current members. If this is not met, the officer will be asked again to resign. If an officer position becomes vacant because of removal or for any other reason, the Chapter Advisor will appoint a member to fill the vacancy.

Section 2. Involuntary Removal of Members

In cases of serious misconduct by a member, this chapter, under the authority of the executive board and faculty advisor, may take disciplinary action within the parameters of procedural due process and the policies governing student organizations at University of Michigan—Ann Arbor and in compliance with Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and any other pertinent Federal or local laws. In no case may the chapter revoke membership in Pi Sigma Alpha national group. The chapter may refer a recommendation of revocation to the Executive Council of Pi Sigma Alpha which retains the sole power to revoke membership in accordance with Article II Section 8c of the Constitution of Pi Sigma Alpha.

Article X: Ratification

This constitution must be ratified by a simple majority of the membership to take effect and shall be reviewed every three years.

Article XI: Amendments and Resolutions

Section 1. Authority

This chapter shall have the power to amend these bylaws.

Section 2. Process

Bylaws may be amended by the current Executive Board and the chapter advisor before the beginning of each new school year (September).

Section 3. Alteration

The chapter shall report all amendments, alterations, or additions to these Bylaws to the National Office of Pi Sigma Alpha within one week of their adoption. If any provision of these Bylaws is deemed by the National Office to be inconsistent with the Pi Sigma Alpha Constitution, or in any way a violation of the policies of the honor society, the provision will be stricken from the Bylaws by the Chapter Advisor and acknowledged by signature of the chapter President.

Section 4. Resolution

If an issue cannot be resolved under this chapter's resolution mechanism it may be referred to the Pi Sigma Alpha Executive Council for resolution under the judicial processes specified in the Pi Sigma Alpha Constitution.

Article XII: Statement of Compliance

Pi Sigma Alpha is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status in its membership or activities unless permitted by university policy for gender specific organizations.

ⁱ Pi Sigma Alpha is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with strict limitations on its activities in the political sphere. Chapters must follow the same rules as the national organization with respect to these activities.