



# Q & A on Initiations

*Please Review Prior To Each Chapter Initiation*



These guidelines should help the chapter have a professional and successful initiation. Should further questions arise, please call the Central Office or your Regional Vice President for clarification.

- 1) **Question:** *What activities can be allowed on the day or evening before initiation?*  
**Answer:** Pledges cannot be required to plan any function or attend any chapter function on the day or evening preceding initiation day including the final pledge exam. The final pledge exam should be at the last pledge meeting or at a minimum of 24 hours prior to the initiation.
- 2) **Question:** *What can be done on initiation day?*  
**Answer:** Only the activities specifically described in the Delta Sigma Pi Ritual Book. The only event prior to initiation should be registration or welcome time for guests in attendance. Events such as a pledge breakfast or lunch cannot be required or expected and attendance by pledges should be completely optional on an individual basis. Of course, celebrations and banquets after initiation are fine.
- 3) **Question:** *What time of day can initiation begin?*  
**Answer:** Any time after 8:00 A.M. Evening initiation should begin early enough to be completed prior to midnight. The total initiation time should not exceed 2-3 hours.
- 4) **Question:** *May pledges be asked to close their eyes, bow heads, face walls, etc.?*  
**Answer:** No. Pledges must see the High Tribunal face to face during all parts of initiation.
- 5) **Question:** *How much time should be allowed for Part I questioning?*  
**Answer:** This varies depending on the number of initiates. Estimate up to 15 minutes for a pledge class of 5, about 30 minutes for a pledge class of 15, or about 45 minutes for a pledge class of 20 or more. Never more than 1 hour.
- 6a) **Question:** *Who may ask questions during Part I?*  
**Answer:** Only designated members of the High Tribunal. No one in the audience may ask questions
- 6b) **Question:** *Who may ask questions in the waiting room between Parts I and II?*  
**Answer:** No one, absolute silence must prevail.
- 7) **Question:** *What type of questions may be asked during Part I?*  
**Answer:** Only those in the Ritual Book and Manual for Pledge Education. Other trivial questions are not allowed.

- 8) **Question:** *How much time can elapse between Part I and II?*  
**Answer:** Approximately 15 minutes between I and II as needed to prepare the room for Part II and assemble the attendees to that room. This time can also be used to collect the pledge pins in the waiting room.
- 9) **Question:** *How much lighting is required during Part I?*  
**Answer:** Lighting should be adequate enough for the pledges to see the High Tribunal and to ensure safety in entering and exiting the room. Candles or flashlights are not permitted during Part I. Lighting should also be reasonable enough for the High Tribunal to read and record the answers of the neophytes.
- 10) **Question:** *Does initiation have to be held on campus?*  
**Answer:** Yes! Initiation held off campus must justify a valid reason for not being on campus and receive Regional Vice President approval before the planning of an off campus initiation begins.
- 11) **Question:** *How long should the entire initiation process last?*  
**Answer:** Depending on the size of the pledge class, approximately two-three hours with a similar breakdown as follows:
- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Part I:       | 15-60 minutes depending on number of initiates. |
| Waiting Room: | 15 minutes                                      |
| Part II:      | 25-45 minutes depending on number of initiates. |
| TOTAL:        | 2 hours estimated average.                      |