
New Pledge Education Program FAQs

Below is a list of frequently asked questions about the new Pledge Education Program. If you have any additional questions, please refer to the [Pledge Program Handout](#) and the updated [Policies and Procedures Manual](#) (page 38) or contact Associate Director of Chapter Services Tyler Havens at havens@dsp.org or 513-523-1907 ext. 221.

Meetings and Events

How do chapters complete all of the requirements within four to five weeks?

With the integration of pledges into chapter activities, the pledges will learn more about planning events by observing and participating throughout the process with experienced brothers (see Program Sequence at the end of this document). Also, with the combination of online learning with facilitated discussion, pledges will learn and understand important Deltasig concepts easier and faster. Meeting time is optimized for learning while “unused” time is minimized, such as waiting for quizzes to be completed and scored.

The Pledge Education Program, as it has previously, starts with Pledging Ceremony and concludes with Initiation. The Pledging Ceremony, along with Big Brother Introductions and overview of the program, is considered part of the first Pledge Education Meeting. A chapter will be expected to complete the entirety of the program including all ceremonies, meetings, alternating modules/quizzes, the final comprehensive exam module, and Initiation in no less than four (4) weeks and no more than five (5) weeks, unless there is an institutional break (i.e. fall recess, Thanksgiving recess, or spring recess). In those cases, the chapter may utilize an additional week to complete the program, but no pledge education meetings may be held during that time.

Are brothers permitted to attend pledge education meetings?

Other than the first meeting which includes the Pledging Ceremony and Big Brother Introductions, brothers should not be in attendance at pledge education meetings. Pledge education meetings are designed to be facilitated by the VPPE, using the Pledge Education Guide which provides the VPPE all of the instructions for activities, prompts for discussion, and suggested scripts. Although there is no need for brothers at the pledge meetings, brothers will play a crucial role in assisting pledges in acclimating to the culture of the chapter and therefore should utilize chapter meetings and events to get to know the pledges and help coach them through the processes and procedures.

How will the six (6) hour limit on organized Fraternity activity be monitored?

VPPEs will be responsible for monitoring the organized Fraternity activity of pledges to ensure it does not exceed six (6) hours per week. Organized Fraternity activities include chapter meetings, pledge education meetings, chapter events and committee meetings. Unplanned social gatherings, casual/friendly interactions, such as lunch, dinner or hanging out between classes are not included in the limit.

Why aren't there pledge class officers in the new program?

The purpose of pledge class officers previously was to fulfill pledge class requirements, such as planning pledge events and completing local requirements. These local requirements have been removed to allow the program to focus on education versus planning. In addition, the shorter program is not conducive to electing quality officers. Also, improved chapter integration provides equal opportunity for all pledges to stand out to brothers and excel as a pledge of Delta Sigma Pi. There is also no longer the need for pledges to mimic a chapter meeting because pledges will see firsthand how a chapter meeting is conducted.

Are pledges required to serve on chapter committees?

No, although it is an option for chapters to take advantage of. Chapters that have strong committee structures will have the opportunity for pledges to participate and serve on a committee throughout the pledge education program, as long as it fits within the six-hour time restriction.

Can we have pledge only events, such as resume workshops, memento creation, or service events?

Any programming not included as part of an online module or in the VPPE guide can be transitioned to chapter programming. Many experiences chapters want to engage pledges in are also beneficial for brothers and provides more opportunity for brothers to engage with pledges. We suggest organizing those within a chapter meeting or another time when many pledges and brothers can attend. Early integration of pledges into the chapter experience is a key component to the new pledge education program. Being a part of regular chapter business meetings and events, pledges will acclimate to and become part of the chapter's culture and operations faster. Additionally, this provides more opportunity for pledges to connect and collaborate with brothers throughout the pledge education process.

Quizzes and Exams

Does the new program eliminate weekly quizzes and the final exam?

No. Online modules are intended to be assigned by the VPPE following a pledge education meeting to be completed individually by each pledge on their own. Pledges will view the 10-30 minute module (depending on topic/content) and will complete a quiz at the end of the module. It is expected pledges achieve a satisfactory score, as dictated by national policy, on each quiz. If they don't achieve a satisfactory score, pledges do have the opportunity to review the module and retake the quiz. They have as many attempts as needed to achieve that satisfactory score. The VPPE will have access to quiz details for each pledge. In the final week, pledges will take a comprehensive final exam comprised of the questions from the modules.

Can the chapter proctor the quizzes and/or exam?

Online modules/quizzes are intended to be taken outside of the pledge education meeting. However, chapters concerned about cheating do have the option for pledges to complete them in a proctored environment. Chapters interested in utilizing this option should consider reserving a computer classroom on campus to ensure all pledges have access to the technology needed to complete the comprehensive final examination.

We recommend having pledges complete modules and quizzes following a pledge education meeting rather than at the beginning so the start of the meeting is not delayed in the event a pledge does not achieve a satisfactory score on their first attempt. Chapters should also be cognizant of the access pledges may have to technology and plan accordingly.

Pledges achieving a satisfactory score on a quiz or exam may not be indicative of the contributions they will make as a brother. Quizzes and the final comprehensive exam are one of the tools available for chapters to evaluate if a pledge will be a positively contributing brother. How pledges engage in the discussion and activities in the pledge meeting will assist the VPPE in learning if a pledge can interpret and apply the information rather than simply memorizing and regurgitating it on a quiz. Brothers will have more of an opportunity to observe the engagement of pledges at chapter meetings and events.

Are all of the questions from the previous Crown & Delta included in the new program?

All of the questions in the current edition of *The Crown & Delta* will be represented, in some fashion, in the new program. Many are included in the quiz questions, represented in the traditional fill in the blank, matching, or multiple choice. If not included in the quizzes, they are included within discussions, activities, or reflection.

Are the online trainings and modules ADA accessible?

The training modules will include audio with closed captioning. Additionally, as is with the current pledge program, chapters are expected to work with students who may require additional accommodations.

With the quizzes being online, are they considered open book? Is it possible for pledges to cheat?

Chapters concerned about cheating may opt to facilitate completion of the online modules in a group setting where each pledge is still required to complete the module individually. This is not the recommended approach. Since the in-person facilitated meetings complement the online learning modules, pledges who do not take the learning seriously will stand out and the VPPE can address any concerns. The purpose of the quizzing is not for pledges to prove something to the chapter, but instead to confirm and solidify their own learning of the material.

Are pledges able to retake the quizzes?

Yes, and all scores will be made available to the VPPE.

Can the online quizzes be taken on mobile devices?

Yes. The online modules are mobile-friendly, but for the best experience, we recommend using a tablet or laptop.

Are the pledge exam questions changing with the implementation of the new program?

Yes. The questions on the pledge exam have evolved throughout our history. Although not all of the questions from the previous version will remain the same, all topics covered in the prior exam are integrated into the complete learning experience.

General/Miscellaneous

Is there still a pledge manual (*The Crown & Delta*)?

Yes, this remains an important resource to the pledges. Additional updates to the manual will be made in the coming months. These edits may include less appendices and more space for individual reflection.

How does the role of the VPPE change?

Instead of leading and guiding pledges through a pledge meeting, the VPPE will connect topics in the online modules by facilitating discussions and experiential learning. Through the new Pledge Education Guide, VPPEs will better be able to effectively implement the pledge education program. It contains a complete outline of pledge meetings, meeting agendas, teaching guide, activity descriptions and other relevant items needed for them to carry out a successful pledge education program.

Is the Initiation Fee structure changing?

No, the structure of the fees is not changing, but the local initiation fees that may be charged by the chapter has increased to a maximum of \$30 (previously \$10). This increase is to account additional participation by pledges in chapter activities and associated expenses.

Can we still do brother interviews?

No, formal interviews are no longer permitted. Brothers will have a multitude of opportunities to connect with pledges through your recruitment processes, interacting and supporting pledges as they attend chapter meetings and events, and through casual interactions such as having meals in small groups, study groups, appropriate social gatherings, and mingling before and after meetings and events. These casual opportunities serve as a similar intention to what brother interviews would have. The chapter may choose to incorporate more opportunities for networking within their events. Our Chapter Services Team (hub@dsp.org) can discuss options with you and your chapter.

How will we know the new pledge education program is successful?

We will continue to evaluate the success of the new pledge education program by reviewing pledge retention rates and member attrition rates. We will also conduct surveys of new initiates at the end of the upcoming fall and spring terms for further feedback.

Will the shortened pledge program affect availability of regalia trunks?

We do not expect regalia reservation issues, but will monitor and be prepared to adapt as needed.

Why force chapters to have a shorter program?

The Pledge Education Task Group, in developing the new program, set pledges integrating into chapter activities as the primary goal of the pledge education program. As such, they considered and discussed how much time is required to effectively achieve that goal. The rest of the program was developed based on that timeline.

Additionally, the shorter pledge education program allows for chapters to focus on the quality of the chapter. The program can be shorter because it focuses more on education instead of pledge professional development. The shorter program provides opportunities for longer recruitment periods

where brothers and candidates can better evaluate a good fit. It also gives the chapter more time after Initiation to hold effective officer transitions. Lastly, the five week program aligns with many evolving university policies.

How does recruitment change because of the new policy/program?

Policies surrounding recruitment practices have not changed. However some chapters may be best served by adjusting their recruiting strategies and/or practices to accommodate some of the early expectations of the new pledge education program. This may include adding additional time to a recruitment schedule. Consider staggering days, times, locations, and types of events where brothers can learn about potential pledges. Hosting a variety of social, professional, and service events will engage them early in understanding some of the regular operations of the chapter and what they could learn by being a member. Our Chapter Services Team is happy and eager to discuss recruitment strategies and schedules that will benefit specific chapters and campuses. Emails hub@dsp.org for assistance.

Program Rollout

Will volunteer leaders and chapter officers be able to view the new educational materials prior to fall recruitment?

As materials and systems are finalized, they will be shared. Much of this is anticipated to become available in late spring and throughout the summer.

Pledge Education Program Sequence

