

CONSTITUTION OF THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
CHAPTER OF THE GAMMA BETA PHI SOCIETY

ARTICLE I
Name and Affiliation

The name of this organization shall be the Louisiana State University chapter of The Gamma Beta Phi Society.

This chapter is an integral part of the national organization of The Gamma Beta Phi Society and shall adhere to the policies laid down in the National Constitution. Its Coat of Arms, Motto, Watchwords, Colors, and Emblem, shall be those of the national organization.

ARTICLE II
Nature and Purposes

The chapter shall be a non-secret, non-profit, scholastic honor, educational-service organization for students at Louisiana State University.

Membership therein shall not be excluded by, nor shall it exclude from, membership in any other social, academic, or fraternal organization. Membership therein shall not be denied on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, marital status, veteran's status or sexual preference.

The purpose of The Gamma Beta Phi Society is exclusively educational within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It shall not engage in activities not permitted a 501(c)(3) organization or an organization contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of that Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United State Internal Revenue Law). No part of its net earnings shall inure to the benefit of its members, officers, or other private persons, except that it may pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and make distributions in furtherance of its purpose. No substantial part of the organization's activities shall involve political propaganda or campaigns, or the attempt to influence legislation.

The objectives of the organization are to recognize and encourage excellence in education; to promote the development of leadership ability and character in its members' and to foster, disseminate, and improve education through appropriate service projects. Each chapter of the Society shall implement these objectives by procedures consonant with the local situation and in cooperation with the faculty and administration of the institution.

ARTICLE III
Qualifications for Membership

Students invited into membership in this chapter shall be presently enrolled at Louisiana State University, and all active, voting members must be students. Any non-student "associate members" must be LSU faculty or staff. Students invited into membership must be committed to excellence in education, to good character and to service.

Any student, full or part-time, who has completed fifteen semester hours of college work, excluding any pass-fail work or hours earned due to placement tests such as CLEP or CEEB, is eligible for membership provided he or she is enrolled in a program leading to the associates, bachelors, or graduate degree and also meets the other requirements for membership.

Any student whose cumulative grade point average ranks within the top twenty per cent of his or her class meets the scholastic requirement for membership.

Graduate students are eligible for membership provided they have completed fifteen hours of graduate work and rank among the top twenty per cent of graduate students and meet any other criteria required of undergraduate members. An undergraduate member who graduates in good standing may continue his or her active membership throughout graduate school.

Students who were members in good standing in Gamma Beta Phi chapters at other institutions and who transfer to this institution are automatically members of this chapter upon their request. Such transfer members will be subject to the retention standards of this chapter...just as any other member.

Each inductee must pay the one-time membership fee set by the National Senate. He or she must also pay the local dues set by the membership. (Other local assessments may not be made upon the membership, but voluntary contributions can be requested.)

Each inductee must take the membership pledge.

Any student who rejects membership when first invited will not be invited again, except upon appeal to and approval of the chapter Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV Retention Standards

To remain a member of this chapter, local dues must be paid each year by the deadline set by the chapter Executive Committee.

A member must retain a scholastic ranking within his or her class of no less than the top thirty per cent. If a member should drop below that, he or she will be allowed one semester of probation. If after that term the member still does not meet the scholastic retention standard, he or she is dropped from membership until the scholastic standard is met.

In accord with the nature, purpose and objectives of The Gamma Beta Phi Society, members are expected to participate in the meetings, projects and other activities of the chapter. An appropriate standard of activity shall be determined by the membership and set in place by March 30, 1984.

A member dropped from membership may appeal the decision to the State President, and then, if desired, to the Executive Secretary. The name of any member dropped from membership shall be sent to the Executive Secretary immediately, along with the reason for the action. A student dropped from membership may later be reinstated by action of the chapter Executive Committee, if the committee is satisfied that the student now meets the standards of membership. A member so reinstated will not again pay the national membership fee, but notification of the reinstatement shall be sent at once to the Executive Secretary.

ARTICLE VII Committees

The standing committees of this chapter shall be: Executive Committee, Publicity Committee, Project Committee, Social Committee, the Invitation Committee.

The Executive Committee shall be composed of all officers and chairmen of the standing committees. The chairman of the Executive Committee shall be the chapter president. The chapter Advisors will be invited to all meetings of the committee and their counsel sought. The duties of the committee are: to see that the standards of membership are maintained, to handle all disciplinary matters, to plan the general policies and activities of the chapter for presentation to and approval of the membership, to oversee the other committees and the work of all officers.

The Publicity Committee shall be appointed by the president. The chairman shall be the chapter reporter. The chapter historian shall be vice-chairman of the committee. The duties of the publicity committee shall be: to make sure that the name, nature, purposes, and contributions of Gamma Beta Phi are recognized throughout the campus and community by full and proper use of all available media; to provide for the publicizing of the names and pictures of all new members; to provide Headquarters with pictures and accounts of the chapter's activities for publication in The GAMBET; to prepare a chapter scrapbook each year under the direction of the chapter historian.

The Project Committee shall be appointed by the president. Its chairman shall be the chapter vice-president. The duty of this committee will be to plan and lead the service projects of the chapter.

The Social Committee shall be appointed by the president. Its chairman shall be appointed by the president, also. It will be the duty of this committee to plan and lead all social functions of the chapter, including induction ceremonies.

The Invitation Committee and its chairman shall be appointed by the president. The duty of this committee is to see that all eligible students are invited into membership in a proper and timely fashion. The membership secretary shall be a member of this committee.

In addition to these standing committees, the president may appoint special committees to attend to and/or report upon any specific matter involving the chapter.

ARTICLE VIII Meetings

Regular meetings of this chapter of The Gamma Beta Phi Society shall be held each month during the regular schoolyear. The time and place of the meetings will be decided upon by the Executive committee. Every effort will be made to keep the time and place of meeting consistent and to give adequate notice to the members. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee. All members will be sent notification of the special meeting and its purpose for being called. Only the business for which the meeting is called will be transacted.

ARTICLE V
Induction of Members

Induction of new members shall take place during the fall semester of each year.

The induction ceremony shall be a dignified occasion. There shall be no hazing of an inductee---either that which would result in physical discomfort or that which would cause mental embarrassment.

ARTICLE VI
Officers

To be eligible to be elected to, appointed to, or to hold an office or a standing committee chairmanship, a student must be enrolled as a full-time student and must not be on university disciplinary or scholastic probation.

The elected officers of this chapter of The Gamma Beta Phi Society shall be: a president, a vice-president, a membership secretary, a recording secretary, a treasurer, a reporter, and a historian.

The duties of the president shall be: to preside at the meetings; to appoint committees; to guide the activities and administer the policies laid down in the national constitution and in the chapter constitution; to be the official representative of this chapter when necessary or desirable; to file with Headquarters the year-end Chapter Report.

The duties of the vice-president shall be: to preside at meetings when the president is absent; to assume the duties of the presidency should the president be unable to serve; to assist in administering the affairs of the chapter.

The duties of the membership secretary shall be: to keep records of membership; to carry on the general correspondence of the chapter; to keep National Headquarters informed about all changes in membership and the reasons therefore; to order and properly disburse material from Headquarters; to insure that the membership is aware of the time and place for each meeting.

The duty of the recording secretary will be to prepare and keep an on-going record of minutes of the meetings of the chapter.

The duties of the treasurer shall be: to collect, safeguard, and disburse the funds of the chapter; to keep accurate and complete records of all financial transactions; to complete the year-end Financial Report for inclusion with the Chapter Report; to order and disburse items for members such as shirts, jewelry, etc.; to pass on to the Advisors all financial records.

The duties of the historian shall be: to prepare a scrapbook of the chapter's activities for the year.

The officers of this chapter shall be elected at a regular meeting during the spring semester. The Executive Committee will determine the date of the election and announce it to the membership at least one regular meeting in advance of the meeting at which election will occur. The Executive Committee will determine the method of nomination and ballot-casting. The new officers shall assume their positions at the end of the last meeting of the schoolyear.

ARTICLE IX
Quorum and Parliamentary Authority

A quorum of this chapter shall be constituted by twenty-five per cent of the membership. No action may be taken which is binding upon the membership unless a quorum is present.

The parliamentary authority shall be the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE X
Attendance at State and National Meetings

This chapter of the Gamma Beta Phi Society will make every effort to send the appropriate student and Advisor delegates to all State and National meetings and will endeavor to send other members as well.

ARTICLE XI
Advisors

This chapter shall have an Advisor, who shall be an LSU faculty or professional staff member. The chapter may also have one or two Associate Advisors meeting the same criterion. All chapter advisors shall be approved by the chapter membership. Advisors are expected to take an active part in the leadership and activities of the chapter in accordance with the guidelines in the Manual of The Gamma Beta Phi Society.

ARTICLE XII
Amending and Transmitting the Constitution

The Constitution of this chapter may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the members at any meeting at which a quorum is present, providing such proposed amendment in written form has been placed before the membership at a previous regular meeting. Such amendments may not be in conflict with national standards or policies.

Both the Executive Secretary and the appropriate institutional administrator or committee shall be sent immediately a copy of this Constitution and of any subsequent amendments or alterations. Each new member shall receive a copy of this Constitution.

ARTICLE XIII
Dissolution

In the event of dissolution the residual assets of this chapter will be turned over to another organization which is itself exempt from Federal Income Tax as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provisions of any prior or future Internal Revenue Code, or to the Federal, State, or local government for exclusively educational purposes.

