

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE RHO OMICRON COLLEGE CHAPTER OF GAMMA SIGMA EPSILON CHEMISTRY HONOR SOCIETY

Article 1. Name

This organization shall be known as the **Rho Omicron** chapter of Gamma Sigma Epsilon, National Chemistry Honor Society.

Article 2. Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to recognize outstanding students demonstrating exceptional ability and interest in the field of chemistry. It also aims to promote professionalism and scholarship in chemistry and the general welfare of its members.

Article 3. Membership

- A. The following criteria shall be used as guideline requirements for membership:
 - a. Active members of the chapter shall be composed of students who are completing either the chemistry major (which includes the Chemistry B.S., the Biochemistry B.S., the Forensic and Toxicology Chemistry B.S., the Chem Bio B.S., and the Chemistry BSEd) or the chemistry minor.
 - b. In order to be eligible for membership:
 - i. Chemistry majors must have completed at least six semesters which could include organic chemistry, physical chemistry, analytical chemistry, biochemistry, etc. and their concurrent labs. The courses taken must add up to a total of 35 credit hours. The minimum over-all grade point average (GPA) required for membership is a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. The minimum GPA of the chemistry courses is 3.1 on a 4.0 scale.
 - ii. Chemistry minors must have completed at least four semesters of chemistry courses which include general chemistry, organic chemistry, and their concurrent labs. The courses taken must add up to 19 credit hours. The minimum over-all GPA required for membership is a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. The minimum GPA required of the chemistry courses is a 3.1 on a 4.0 scale.
 - iii. Transfer students shall be eligible for membership after one semester at West Chester University in which they have taken one chemistry course providing they also meet the requirements for membership set in Article 3, Section A.1 and A.2, whichever is applicable.
 - c. A graduating senior whose academic record in chemistry is satisfactory for the preceding year, but whose overall scholastic average is slightly below that required for membership, may be elected to membership by special recommendation of the Chemistry Faculty and a majority vote of the chapter members.

- d. Outstanding alumni and faculty may be elected to membership as “Honorary Members”.
 - e. A chemistry faculty member may recommend candidates for membership.
- B. Election of Members:
 - a. Candidates nominated for membership shall be chosen once a year.
 - b. Candidates shall receive a written invitation to become a member of the local chapter and must declare their intentions to accept or decline this invitation in writing.
 - c. Prior to selection of new members, the Recorder shall present a list of all candidates who have been nominated and who meet the requirements of Article 3, Sections A.1 or A.2, whichever is applicable to the candidate.
 - d. A candidate must receive a plurality vote by the Elected Officers of the chapter.
- C. Continuation of Membership:
 - a. Continued membership is contingent upon favorable academic performance. To maintain an active status, a member must maintain a 3.0 GPA over-all and in chemistry.
 - b. A member must also attend one meeting per semester. An inactive member will regain active status upon attending two consecutive meetings.
 - c. Members who are found guilty of conduct unworthy of the high standards of the Society by majority action of the local chapter members may be recommended to the National Executive Council for expulsion.

Article 4. Officers

- A. The officers of the society and their duties shall be the following:
 - a. The **Grand Alchemist** (President) shall preside at all meetings, shall appoint all committees, and act as an ex-officio member of those meetings.
 - b. The **Alchemist’s Apprentice** (Vice President) shall preside over meetings in the absence of the Grand Alchemist, and shall plan programs in conjunction with the Faculty Advisor and other officers.
 - c. The **Keeper of the Formulas** (Secretary) shall keep all records and papers pertinent to the chapter including minutes of meetings, roll of members, list of eligible perspective members, all correspondences, and an annual historical account of the chapter’s activities.
 - d. The **Keeper of the Solvents** (Treasurer) shall be responsible for the funds and finances of the chapter.
- B. Election of the officers shall be by secret ballot at the last meeting of the academic year.
- C. If the office of Grand Alchemist should become vacant, the duties of that office shall be assumed by the Alchemist’s Apprentice. Special elections shall be held to fill all other unexpired terms of officers, which become vacant for any reason. The Keeper of the Formulas shall advise all members of the intended special election at least one week in advance of the date set for election.

Article 5. Meetings

- A. Meetings shall be held at the call of the officers, members, or Faculty Advisors whenever necessary for the purpose of conducting business, for election of new members, or for special programs, but not less than once per semester.

Article 6. Finances

Each new member, at the time pledging, shall pay the initiation fee required by the National Society. Other special assessments may be made by a majority vote of the chapter members.

Article 7. Amendments

- A. Amendments to these Bylaws must be presented at a regular meeting of the chapter and shall be voted on at the next regular meeting. Amendments must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the active members of the chapter. It is the duty of the Keeper of the Formulas to see that all members are acquainted with the proposed amendments at least one week in advance of the scheduled voting date.
- B. This Constitution cannot conflict with the National Constitution and Bylaws of the Society.

Article 8. Jurisprudence

Rho Omicron shall be under the direction of the Executive Council of the Gamma Sigma Epsilon national chemistry honorary. Chapter members shall uphold high academic standards, rules, and regulations of West Chester University. It shall be the duty of each member to participate in the activities of the local chapter and to promote among non-members the high scholastic standards necessary for membership.