

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

Q: What is meant by membership “lapsing”?

A: A *lapsing* membership is defined as a lack of consistent and timely progress through the Challenges of the Balanced Man Program. If a member does not complete a challenge in the required time due to negligence and non-performance, the appropriate Challenge Coordinator will submit a complaint to the Standards Committee with the recommendation to investigate the lapse. The sanctions will vary depending on the circumstances and could include expulsion.

Q: How are members removed from the chapter?

A: There are three primary reasons why men would be removed from the chapter:

- ❑ *Non-payment of money owed:* This may result in automatic expulsion. When the bill is 30 days past due, the man is suspended and forfeits all rights. When the bill is 60 days past due, the man is expelled.
- ❑ *Non-performance:* If a man chooses not to meet the expectation of any challenge in the given amount of time, his membership will automatically lapse and he will be referred to the Standards Board for review.
- ❑ *Behavior:* A chapter may wish to expel a man for other reasons. This must be done in accordance with the trial procedures outlined in the Grand Chapter Bylaws. The following violations of membership obligations subject a member to trial and punishment:
 - a. Offenses against statutory law, crimes, felonies, and misdemeanors.
 - b. Offenses against moral law, not punishable as crimes.
 - c. Offenses against the Charter or *Bylaws and Administrative Policies and Procedures* of the Fraternity.
 - d. Offenses against the bylaws of the chapter.
 - e. Offenses which involve violation of obligation.
 - f. Misrepresentation of eligibility for himself or another member to enter the next challenge.
 - g. Causing to be written or printed, or revealing in any manner whatsoever, any of the secret work of the Fraternity.

Q: How is a member expelled from the chapter?

A: The process for expulsion is covered in the trial procedures and is accessible through Headquarters found in the Bylaws and Administrative Policies and Procedures (Section B, 6-12) of the Fraternity, which can be found either on-line or by contacting Headquarters.

Q: Does each Challenge allow an appropriate amount of time to develop?

A: Yes. The program is designed so that individual members may proceed at their own pace. Mentors play important roles in helping their mentees design an action plan that will promote their personal development. Remember, the Journey of Brotherhood is a lifelong commitment.

Q: Can a man join as a junior or senior and still reach the Brother Mentor Challenge?

A: Yes. If a man is a junior or older, and he can demonstrate that he has met all of the requirements of the challenge, the minimum times may be waived for the Phi or Epsilon Challenges. The minimum time for the Sigma Challenge may not be waived. It should take at least four weeks for a man to become acquainted with all the men of the chapter.

Q: Why can older men move through the challenges more quickly?

A: Sigma Phi Epsilon and the Balanced Man Program are committed to the personal development of every member. After two years on a college campus, a man will already have undergone a certain amount of development outside of the chapter. In this case, it is possible that the imposed minimum time will be a detriment to a man's undergraduate experience, rather than an enhancement. This delay would be inefficient and counterproductive to the man's development.

The minimum times may be waived for those members who:

- Have less than two school years remaining before graduation.
- Are approved unanimously by the Standards Committee.

Q: How can members be held accountable to their obligations and for their goals?

A: If the members decide that a man should not progress to the next challenge, they make a written list of the expectations to be fulfilled. When the mentor and mentee have fulfilled these expectations, they will meet with the Chaplain and Challenge Coordinator. If any member of the group feels that the decision was not in the best interest of the man or the chapter, he can file a written appeal to the chapter's Standards Committee.

Q: When does a member become a brother?

A: A man becomes a brother when his relationship with the other men in the Fraternity is one of trust and respect. When men truly seek to become brothers and do not worry about the title, the chapter will provide a more positive experience.

The Bylaws of the Fraternity define a brother as a man who has learned the Ritual secrets of Sigma Phi Epsilon. For chapters participating in the Balanced Man Program, this occurs for members when they enter the Epsilon Challenge.

Being a true brother, however, is much more than a term to be used lightly. A man becomes a “brother” when he is trusted, admired, respected, and loved by his fellow men in the Fraternity and he feels the same for them.

Q: How do you know if someone is worthy of the secrets of the Fraternity?

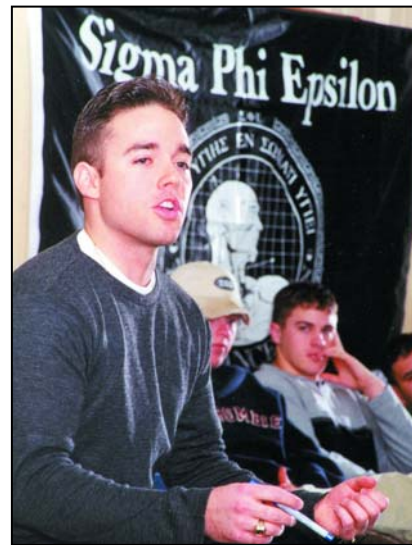
A: This is a function of the quality of men a chapter recruits. Once a man has been asked to become a part of the Fraternity, it is the Fraternity’s obligation to adequately prepare him to receive its secrets.

VOLUNTEERS

Q: Who, beyond chapter members, can get involved with the Balanced Man Program? How can undergraduates get others involved?

A: Many different types of people can be involved with a chapter:

- ❑ **Faculty:** Consult faculty regularly; sponsor a faculty reception/dinner; sponsor a teaching award; invite faculty members to participate in the chapter’s service project and/or experiential learning event.
- ❑ **Alumni:** Encourage monthly Alumni and Volunteer Corporation meetings. Help to ensure members attend; distribute the chapter calendar to alumni and volunteers.
- ❑ **Sororities & Fraternities:** Invite other Greek organizations to participate in chapter programs, dinners, joint service projects, or new member functions together. Provide opportunities for executive officers to meet.
- ❑ **Community Mentors:** Hold a mentor appreciation reception/dinner once a semester; send them the chapter calendar.
- ❑ **Service Organizations:** Form partnerships for chapter service projects; use as a resource to get individual members involved. Learn more about service organizations by contacting either your campus outreach programs or visit SigEp on-line at www.sigep.org.



Q: What is a Balanced Man Steward? What does he/she do?

A: He/she is a volunteer who assists in implementing and supporting the Balanced Man Program in a chapter. He/she acts as a mentor to the Challenge Coordinators.

Q: What time commitment could be involved for a volunteer?

A: All volunteers should plan on attending at least one meeting per month.

Q: What role do alumni play in the Ritual?

A: The alumni serve to ensure the Ritual is performed consistently and well. Alumni attendance at Ritual meetings is always beneficial because it shows that they continue to believe in its teachings and find it important.

THE RITUAL

Q: Why has the most important part of Sigma Phi Epsilon been modified?

A: The recent changes in the text of the Ritual reflect the changing nature of our language and culture; it remains the same in content and meaning. Members will experience the Ritual four times as a participant instead of once. By participating more often, the Ritual will have increased personal significance and will become a regular part of the chapter programming.

Q: How often should Ritual meetings be held?

A: A Ritual meeting must take place once a month and during a monthly formal chapter meeting.

Each meeting should be opened and closed with the proper ceremonies. These ceremonies may be found in *The Ritual and Guide of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity*.

Q: Who can be contacted regarding questions about the Ritual?

A: There are many people to whom you may direct your questions:

- Balanced Man Stewards
- Chapter Counselors
- Regional Directors
- Headquarters staff