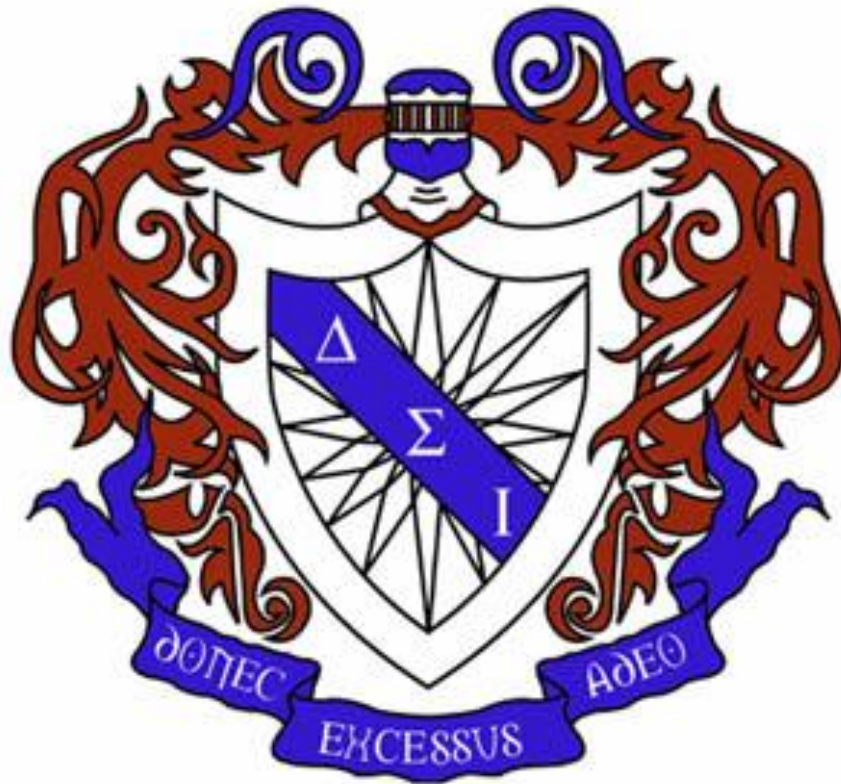


# Delta Sigma Iota

## Information Packet



Service | Education | Unity

# Welcome

On behalf of the brothers of Delta Sigma Iota, I would like to thank you for your interest in our fraternity. Delta Sigma Iota is a brotherhood of men excelling in service, education, and unity. I will attempt to explain our values and goals as a fraternity; hopefully, allowing you a chance to better understand who we are and where we are going.

Founded at the Pennsylvania State University, our 5 founding fathers sensed a need for a brotherhood that was grounded in exceptional principles. Unfortunately, their research into other groups did not meet their ideals, and our founding fathers incorporated Delta Sigma Iota with a different purpose and design.

Delta Sigma Iota was created to unify all those interested in South Asian Culture. Our chapters all share an interest in promoting South Asian culture around their individual campuses and the community-at-large. Chapters are held to strict education and service requirements. Even though we have a minimum set, each chapter has consistently gone above and beyond this bar. Our chapters annually win awards for Highest GPA, Most Service Hours Completed, and Chapters of the Year. The impact that this fraternity has had on campuses and the community has been substantial. Since its inception, Delta Sigma Iota has donated over \$50,000.

It has been an amazing start for Delta Sigma Iota, and the future looks even brighter. The brotherhood is consistently growing and we currently have over 200 members. Our reach extends across the globe, and we have an alumni presence that continues to help us develop and grow as leaders.

The motto of our fraternity, "Building Leaders...One Brother at a Time," is something that we do not take lightly. Our brothers have a passion for success and are constantly looking for methods to improve their ventures. That being said, there are some questions you must ask yourself: What are you looking for in your college experience?; When you graduate college, what impact will you have left?; What will you have changed?; What will people say of you?. Delta Sigma Iota is a catalyst for building your leadership, commitment, and passions. Every brother of Delta Sigma Iota can attest to this, every brother has been given responsibilities and has been given the ability to grow as a person.

We value the opportunity to help you on your quest. Please read through the rest of the materials, and be sure to ask questions. If you feel that Delta Sigma Iota is something that may benefit your community or campus, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you for your interest and we hope you make a decision that will ultimately benefit you, your campus, your community, and our world.

Respectfully,

Saket Nigam  
National Vice President of Expansion  
Delta Sigma Iota Fraternity, Inc.

# History

Mohandas K. Gandhi believed in truth, education, unity, and brotherhood. He had a vision of all South Asians united in the pursuit of freedom. Based on this vision, individuals united to free themselves from the tyranny of British rule on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1947. On this day, one goal was accomplished and fifty-three years later, a new vision was created.

Delta Sigma Iota was founded on August 15<sup>th</sup> of 2000 at the University Park campus of The Pennsylvania State University. Five men with five unique strengths, connected through their heritage, gathered to form a binding oath. Over a period of time, the bonds grew stronger. Like five fingers in a hand, each are distinct; when put together to form a fist, the fingers create a very powerful force. Not only did these men formalize their brotherhood, they created a fraternity inspired in the beliefs of Gandhi as well as their own individual goals.

These five individuals were Tarak Bhavsar, Vishal Desai, Roby Palakudy, Rupesh Patel and Vipul Patel. With no road paved ahead of them, they embarked on a journey to build a strong, influential, organization based on the three fraternity pillars of service, education, and unity. The journey did not prove to be easy, and along the way the five founding fathers faced many obstacles. With their strong will, dedication and with the support of the first chapter advisor, Benny Joseph, Delta Sigma Iota Fraternity, Inc. was created.



The Founding Fathers did not simply stop once the establishment of Delta Sigma Iota had begun. With a bigger vision in mind, the Founding Fathers edged forward to create an organization that created service, social and educational events on a regular basis that would make a difference in the lives of students at The Pennsylvania State University and throughout the United States. Several educational institutions, including The University of North Carolina located in Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University, and Rutgers New Brunswick have followed in the Delta Sigma Iota philosophy and become established chapters of the fraternity.

Our work ethic and our passion to make a difference in our communities differentiates Delta Sigma Iota from other fraternities. We also emphasize on the importance of education, networking in the real world, and forging strong bonds within our organization. We create leaders...one brother at a time.

# Service

“Consciously or unconsciously, every one of us does render some service or another. If we cultivate the habit of doing this service deliberately, our desire for service will steadily grow stronger, and it will make not only for our own happiness, but that of the world at large”

--Mohandas K. Gandhi

The strength of mind of Mohandas K. Gandhi lives on through the brothers of Delta Sigma Iota. Service plays an integral part of our brotherhood. The brothers of Delta Sigma Iota show much pride in their selfless dedication to improving and helping the lives of others. We believe in giving back to a community that has given to us so much. We have worked with an array of non-profit organizations such (such as The Make-A-Wish Foundation, UNICEF, Feed the Children, American Heart Association, Ekal Vidyalaya, Pratham, Samar) and have thus helped changed the face of community service our respective universities while demonstrating exemplar attitude, character and spirit.

Each year we have a growing impact on our communities. Our efforts have been recognized by the organizations our brothers are helping. Because of our continued efforts as a fraternity, many alumni have gone on to continue to help the non-profit groups through fundraising and donating their time. Several brothers have also gone into programs such as AmeriCorps and gone overseas for service projects.



Both Mohandas K. Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. shared a common dream of service and we honor this dream annually by participating in unique service events with not only the members of Delta Sigma Iota, but with the community. All of our chapters and colonies have long been involved in a variety of community service events. As a fraternity based on South Asian heritage, one of our goals is to give back to the South Asian Community that has provided us with so much. We do this largely by participating in events such as National Gandhi Day of Service on a yearly basis, which raise awareness and money for grass roots projects in India. Our fundraising has established schools, gone to emergency relief funds, and been used to educate rural villages.

# Philanthropy

**National Philanthropy:** South Asian Marrow Donor Program South Asian Marrow Association of Recruiters (SAMAR) serves patients diagnosed with leukemia and other fatal blood disorders from the South Asian community and other minority groups who are in search of Blood Stem Cell/Marrow donors. Since many minorities, especially South Asians are underrepresented in the National Bone Marrow Donor Registry, Delta Sigma Iota is focusing its efforts to help to get as many registered. In support of our national philanthropy, our chapters and colonies have successfully registered over (100 from beta chapter) new donors through sponsored bone marrow registration drives. Our mission is simple. To get as many people of all different ethnicities registered into the National Registry.



**Other Philanthropic Endeavors:** Penn State IFC/Pan-Hellenic Dance Marathon (THON™), Ekal Vidyalaya, Relay For Life, Embrace Kids Foundation

The Penn State IFC/Pan-Hellenic Dance Marathon (THON™) is the single largest student-run philanthropy in the world. THON is a year round fundraising event benefiting The Four Diamonds Fund, conquering childhood cancer, at the Penn State Children's Hospital in Hershey, PA. The 46-hour dance marathon held every February has raised over \$30 million and helped the lives of thousands of children and families fight pediatric cancer. Every year, Delta Sigma Iota sponsors and organizes canning trips to raise money and spread awareness for THON.



Ekal Vidyalaya provides a basic education to rural and underprivileged communities in India through single teacher schools. In the past two years, the brothers of UNC have been able to sponsor three such schools through major fundraising events, such as their annual charity flag football tournament. In this manner, the brothers of Delta Sigma Iota have been able to contribute to both local and international communities.

Relay for Life is an annual event held by the American Cancer Society. Throughout the year, the brothers of the N.C. State raise money and sponsor events for the American Cancer Society. Usually in mid-April, the event spans 24 hours and groups of brothers walk the track in shifts for the duration of the event.

Embrace Kids Foundation is the charity that receives the benefits from Rutgers' Dance Marathon. The brothers at Rutgers have donated over \$4000. Through their work and dedication they have been accepted to sponsor a family that is receiving aid from the Embrace Kids Foundation.

# Education

The institutions that harbor our letters and make us the Greeks of today and tomorrow are the same institutions that provide us our imperative education. Our organization has recognized the importance of education and vouches to strive for excellence in both academics as well as cultural knowledge.

The brothers of Delta Sigma Iota, in the pursuit for excellence in academics and cultural knowledge have set educational requirements that all members must meet. Our own standards require that our active brothers maintain a minimum required grade point average.

“Education is what we are in college for. It does not stop in the classroom, but it does begin there. Without our personal pursuit of education, we cannot achieve our goals, and without the education that we have received as brothers of this fraternity, we cannot achieve greatness. The educational process is ever-changing and ever-evolving, and the brothers of Delta Sigma Iota strive for the betterment of themselves and the fraternity through every method of education imaginable.”

Anshey Bhatia – Alpha Chapter

We believe in building a strong foundation on which our brothers can grow to become the leaders of tomorrow. The brothers of Delta Sigma Iota are always willing to try and learn new skills beyond what they have mastered in order to grow into influential men.

To assist brothers in their quest all members partake in study hours on a weekly basis. They provide tutoring sessions to brothers and as brothers accumulate courses a readily accessible database of course materials is developed. Our educational events reach back to the community and leave a powerful and profound message to our audience. A sample of educational projects Delta Sigma Iota has completed includes resume workshops, tutoring sessions, and leadership building sessions.

The alumni of Delta Sigma Iota have created a huge array of resources for people seeking employment, learning about medical school, dental school, and those interested in other various fields. The alumni keep up to date with their respective chapters, and have helped insure that our fraternity is consistently moving in the right direction. They have also created scholarships for brothers that achieve academic excellence.

# Brotherhood

The meaning of brotherhood to brothers of Delta Sigma Iota can be summed by the following words spoken by Mohandas K. Gandhi, “My mission is not merely the brotherhood of Indian humanity, but I hope to realize and carry on the mission of brotherhood of man.” Our brothers are always looking forward to bringing together a community to share a common goal and lead us into the future.

Our members come from a variety of backgrounds bringing diversity, different ideas, and different cultures into Delta Sigma Iota. We strongly feel that diversity is the key to ensure that our organization will continue to move forward. Our bonds are strengthened because brothers participate in a variety of brotherhood events, ranging from sports, to games, to a simple night out on the town.



Our unity and brotherhood is represented in our Greek letters, yet goes beyond the eye of the beholder. We hold a passionate lifelong dedication to our fraternity and to all of our brothers and are always offering a helping hand to one another. We are a family of brothers that bridges the gap of cultural and racial diversity and share some of our most memorable college moments together.

The idea of unity extends beyond brotherhood into the Greek and South Asian community. Delta Sigma Iota has maintained a close relationship with our fellow Greeks. On a regular basis we hold social and service events with other Greeks. Outside the Greek realm, we play an important role in uniting the South Asian community, through such events as Movie Night in conjunction with other South Asian organizations and participation and organization of cultural shows.

“Brotherhood is a term that cannot be easily described. It’s something deeper than an acquaintance and stronger than a friendship. I’ve managed to find this bond through Delta Sigma Iota. It’s something that will be with me for the rest of my life.”

Purav Patel – Alpha Chapter

# Expansion

The colonization process to bring a chapter of Delta Sigma Iota to your community is divided into different stages.

1. Contact the National Vice President of Expansion or any chapter/colony expansion chair regarding your interest.
2. Establish an interest group (with minimum of five other people) at your school.
3. Send the interest group's contact information to the Expansion Chair. Everyone will be sent an electronic copy of an application.
4. After the Rush process, the qualified individuals will receive a bid and enter the New Member Education Process, learning the virtues, values and traditions of the fraternity while closely monitoring academic progress.
5. Once the interest group has successfully completed and the appropriate effort of recognition the Brother Education Process, a colony charter of Delta Sigma Iota will officially be established at your respective school.

Obviously there is much more than these six steps, however this should serve as a basic outline. We strongly urge you to contact the National Vice President of Expansion to open a line of communication.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **1. What does it mean to be in a Fraternity?**

Besides the obvious pride of wearing Greek letters, you will join a network of distinguished gentlemen that will last a lifetime. This eternal brotherhood can help you during your years in school and beyond. Additionally, you will stand out as a leader amongst your peers and truly leave a legacy at your college/university.

## **2. What sets $\Delta\Sigma\iota$ apart?**

We hold our brothers to a far higher standard than ordinary individuals. We strive for excellence and bring out the best in each and every one of our brothers. Our commitment to community service, education, and brotherhood are few of the things that set Delta Sigma Iota apart from other fraternities. As a brother of Delta Sigma Iota there is no question you will leave your mark at your school once you graduate. We are one of the strongest fraternities and our alumni' success show how we are succeeding as a fraternity. Lastly, Delta Sigma Iota is more than just a fraternity; it is a family.

## **3. What does the future hold for us?**

As our numbers continue to grow, we obviously are constantly in search of distinguished gentlemen that share the same values that the brothers of Delta Sigma Iota share. We are always interested in expanding to different schools across the nation to diversify and expand our brotherhood and spread our message. There is only so much we can tell you through a brochure. We strongly encourage you to contact any of our brothers (contact information on next page) to find out what it really means to be a part of Delta Sigma Iota.

## **4. What is hazing and does Delta Sigma Iota participate in hazing?**

Hazing is defined as "subjecting someone to abusive and/or humiliating mental or physical harm". Delta Sigma Iota does **not** participate in hazing and will not subject you to any hazing throughout the New Member Education Process.

# Contact Information

For further information regarding expansion, please feel free to contact anyone listed below.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing interest.

## **Expansion Team**

Saket Nigam  
National VP of Expansion  
saket@email.unc.edu

Neal Mehta  
Expansion Chair, Penn State University  
nam5206@psu.edu

Kumar Dave  
Expansion Chair, University of North Carolina  
kdave@email.unc.edu

Zain Akhter  
Expansion Chair, North Carolina State University  
zakhter@ncsu.edu

Ankit Soni  
Expansion Chair, New Brunswick  
awesome\_ankit88@yahoo.com

For more information, visit our website at [www.deltasigmaiota.org](http://www.deltasigmaiota.org)