

# **ΠΣΑ – ΘΦ**

## **PI SIGMA ALPHA**

### **The National Political Science Honor Society**

#### **History**

Pi Sigma Alpha was founded in 1920 at the University of Texas for the purpose of bringing together students and faculty interested in the study of government and politics. Professor C. Perry Patterson was an early leader of the first chapter and served as national president of ΠΣΑ from 1920 until 1932. The success of the honor society at the University of Texas prompted other institutions to apply for chapters, with the Universities of Oklahoma and Kansas establishing chapters by 1922. In March of that year the society held its first national convention at the University of Oklahoma. UNLV's Theta Phi Chapter was organized in 1978. Growth in the honor society was gradual throughout the 'twenties and 'thirties and accelerated after the Second World War; today there are over 615 chapters throughout the country. There is at least one college or university with a Pi Sigma Alpha chapter in every state and the District of Columbia and, as of 1995, the U. S. territory of Guam.

#### **Purpose of an Honor Society**

The Articles of Incorporation of Pi Sigma Alpha state as one of its purposes "to stimulate scholarship and intelligent interest in political science." The society functions at the national level, sponsoring programs and events of value to the profession and teaching of political science, and at the chapter level. Each chapter is encouraged to provide a framework for enriching the exposure of its members and the wider university community to the study of government and issues of public concern. The goals of Pi Sigma Alpha are consistent with the aims of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) as set out in the ACHS Booklet of Information. This material provides a good framework for understanding the meaning and value of a political science honor society and its place on an American campus, and makes worthwhile reading.

#### **Description and Purpose of the Theta Phi Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha**

Section 1. Pi Sigma Alpha is the national political science honor society with chapters established in colleges and universities of accredited and recognized standing that offer a prescribed minimum of work in political science. Section 2. The Theta Phi Chapter was established in 1978 and is the officially recognized chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Its objectives are to promote a greater understanding by students of issues relevant to political science, to encourage scholarship, and to recognize students who have achieved academic excellence in the discipline. The Chapter functions as an integral part of the Department of Political Science, providing extracurricular activities related to the above objectives.

#### **Membership**

Requirements for membership shall be the following:

##### *For undergraduates*

- a. Be a junior (60-89) or senior (90+)
- b. Completion of ten credits in Political Science courses with at least three of those credits in an approved upper division course (PSC 300 or above) while maintaining at least a (3.0) average
- c. Maintain a cumulative grade point average of no less than a (3.0)

##### *For graduate students*

- a. Completion of nine (9) graduate credits in political science;
- b. No grade lower than a "B."

NOTE: A student's undergraduate coursework and record do NOT apply to his or her eligibility for membership as a graduate student.

**Deadlines: Fall – October 25<sup>th</sup> & Spring – March 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Application must be turned in to the Political Science main office (WRI B227)**

**Chapter Advisor: Nerses Kopalyan, Ph.D., WRI A216 or [nerses.kopalyan@unlv.edu](mailto:nerses.kopalyan@unlv.edu)**  
**Announcements regarding the upcoming meetings will be forth coming at:**  
**<http://clubs.unlv.edu/psa>**

**PI SIGMA ALPHA  
POLITICAL SCIENCE HONOR SOCIETY  
THETA PHI CHAPTER**

UNLV – DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
4505 S MARYLAND PKWY BOX 455029  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89154-5029  
Phone: (702) 895-3307 ~ Fax: (702) 895-1065  
URL: <http://clubs.unlv.edu/psa>

**Application and Grade Verification Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

NSHE ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

UNLV E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby authorize the proper campus officials to allow the proper officers or official's access to my educational records in order to determine my eligibility for membership in Pi Sigma Alpha. I also understand that membership requires I pay National dues (\$35.00 lifetime).

I understand that Pi Sigma Alpha eligibility requirements, as defined by the Theta Phi Chapter of the Pi Sigma Alpha Constitution to be a student having completed ten credits in Political Science courses with at least three of those credits in an approved upper division course (PSC 300 or above), while maintaining at least a "B" (3.0) average. Members must further in good standing, that is, possess a cumulative grade point average of no less than a (3.0). As a graduate, completion of nine (9) graduate credits in Political Science, with no grade lower than a "B".

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This authority is valid until graduation of the applicant or termination of his/her Pi Sigma Alpha membership.

**DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE—FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

**Eligibility requirements:**

Enrollment status junior, senior or graduate student	YES _____ NO _____
Cumulative PSC GPA of at least 3.0 _____	YES _____ NO _____
Completed ten (10) credits in PSC at UNLV with at least three (3) of those credits at 300 level or above:	YES _____ NO _____
<b>or</b>	
Completion of nine (9) graduate credits in PSC at UNLV	YES _____ NO _____
No grade lower than a "B"	YES _____ NO _____

Verified by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of verification: \_\_\_\_\_