

IV. Sigma Alpha Zeta Frequently Asked Questions

What does it mean to "pledge?"

The pledge process is a time that allows new members to become acquainted with what is involved in being a Sigma Alpha Zeta sister. New members are called little sisters. Little sisters take part in weekly classes where they learn about the rich tradition and history of Sigma Alpha Zeta.

During weekly meetings, little sisters not only learn about Sigma Alpha Zeta's history, but also learn about our sisterhood and our bond with each other. Little sisters will learn about the many service opportunities and leadership roles that Sigma Alpha Zeta has to offer, and also have the chance to plan service and social activities for the entire chapter.

The pledge program is also an opportunity for little sisters to get to know the initiated members, alumnae, and advisors on a more personal level and to learn about their roles. Each little sister receives a Big Sister during her pledge program. Big Sisters are there if little sisters have questions, or if they need guidance at any time. The Big Sister relationship is a special one in Sigma Alpha Zeta that extends far beyond the pledge program.

In a more serious sense, little sisters will experience meaningful occasions in our sorority that lead to greater understanding of our traditions and goals as they prepare for assuming full membership as an initiated member. Sigma Alpha Zeta has many beautiful rituals in which little sisters take part, including our pledging and initiation services.

Sigma Alpha Zeta does not believe hazing has any part in the sorority experience. Little sisters are not expected to do anything demeaning or belittling to "earn" their membership in Sigma Alpha Zeta. We believe our little sisters are the chapter's future and we treat them with respect and caring.

The pledge program is a time for learning, a time for having fun, but most importantly it is a time for joining and strengthening the bond of our sisterhood.

What is Rush and when is it?

Rush is a time where those who are interested in joining Sigma Alpha Zeta get the chance to learn about our members and our organization. Rush begins at different times on our various campuses, so contact the individual Rush chairs for information. At San Diego State, Rush usually begins the second week of the semester and ends the following week.

What are the financial obligations of being a member?

This information varies from chapter to chapter, and will be explained in depth to you during Rush. Just ask one of the chapter members for these details.

My sister was a Sigma Alpha Zeta at another school. Does that make me a legacy? Do I need to do anything?

Yes, you are considered a legacy by our national board. Sigma Alpha Zeta considers you a legacy if your mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, or stepmother was an initiated member of Sigma Alpha Zeta. If you are planning on going through recruitment, please have your relation (i.e. your grandmother or mother) contact the local chapter president.

I keep hearing about philanthropies. What is Sigma Alpha Zeta's philanthropy?

Sigma Alpha Zeta supports advocacy against Domestic Violence as our national philanthropy. Chapters also sponsor several local charity organizations. Depending on the needs of the philanthropy, each chapter holds various events to raise money for them or to work closely one-on-one with them.

What are some other basic facts about Sigma Alpha Zeta?

Sigma Alpha Zeta is a Local Regional Sorority established at California State Fresno in 1992. Our colors are Navy Blue, Hunter Green and White. Our mascot is the Dolphin. Our flowers are the Red and White Rose, and our open motto is Sisterhood Through Education.

Will I have time to be involved in other campus organizations or have a job?

Yes. As a matter of fact, Sigma Alpha Zeta highly encourages our women to be involved in other organizations on campus, and many of our sisters have jobs working 2-3 nights a week.

My parents are really worried about my grades. Will they suffer if I join a sorority?

That's a good question. In most cases, grades will go up. Sigma Alpha Zeta has a GPA requirement to join their chapter and stay active. Sigma Alpha Zeta also has a scholarship program, which helps to maintain grades. Sigma Alpha Zeta has held a 95% graduation rate since it was founded in 1992.

What are some of the qualities I'll gain from joining Sigma Alpha Zeta?

There are so many things you can gain from being in our sorority during your collegiate years. Some of the main ones though are leadership, time management, service, teamwork, and the list goes on and on. During Rush don't be afraid to ask the ladies what they have gained from being in their respective chapters.

Who do I contact if I'm interested in joining?

Contact the Sigma Alpha Zeta rush chair of your campus.

- Alpha Chapter @ Fresno State Rush Chair
- Beta Chapter @ San Jose State Rush Chair
- Gamma Chapter @ UC Santa Barbara Rush Chair
- Delta Chapter @ San Diego State Rush Chair
- Epsilon Chapter @ UC Davis Rush Chair
- Zeta Chapter @ Los Angeles Rush Chair