

Alpha Epsilon Lambda Constitution (uniform for all chapters)

CONSTITUTION OF THE ##### CHAPTER OF ALPHA EPSILON LAMBDA

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section A. Name

The name of the society shall be ##### Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Lambda, the Academic Excellence and Leadership Honor Society of Graduate and Professional School Students at the University of #####, hereafter referred to as Chapter and University. The Alpha Epsilon Lambda, Inc. national office is hereafter referred to as AEL.

Section B. Purpose

The purpose for which the Chapter is organized are:

1. To recognize, promote, and foster outstanding leadership and high academic achievement among graduate and professional school students.
2. To provide service to graduate and professional school students and student organizations at the University.
3. To encourage and support development of all campuswide, college-level, and departmental graduate and professional school student organizations at the University and their participation in national graduate student organizations, including the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students.

ARTICLE II. CHAPTER

Section A. Authority

The Chapter exists under the authority of AEL and the AEL Board of Directors as witnessed by the granting of a charter. The charter may be revoked should the Chapter fail to act in accordance with the purposes for which the Chapter is established, as determined by the AEL Board of Directors. Upon revocation of the Chapter charter the University student organization shall cease to use the name of Alpha Epsilon Lambda, shall cease to use the insignia of Alpha Epsilon Lambda, and shall hold no affiliation with Alpha Epsilon Lambda.

Section B. University Regulations Compliance

The Chapter shall adhere to all student organization rules and regulations as required by the University. Failure to adhere to these guidelines shall constitute sufficient grounds for revocation of the chapter charter.

ARTICLE III. BYLAWS

Section A. University Regulations

With the exception of those provisions listed in Articles IX, X and XI, all University regulations of primary importance to governance of the Chapter shall be specified in the Chapter Bylaws.

Section B. Supremacy

The Chapter Bylaws may not establish guidelines on matters already provided for in the Chapter Constitution or the AEL Constitution and Bylaws. The Chapter Constitution has supremacy over the Chapter Bylaws. The AEL Constitution and Bylaws have supremacy over the Chapter Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERS

Section A. Member Criteria

Student members of the Chapter shall be those University students who have completed at least 12 credit hours as a degree-seeking graduate or professional (law, medical, etc) student at the University and who have been duly initiated in accordance with the Chapter Bylaws. Classification of members and associated criteria are:

1. Academic Member

Academic members shall be those students elected by the Chapter. The election procedure and candidate eligibility requirements must adhere to the Chapter Bylaws and AEL Bylaws. Not more than 10% of the total number of graduate/professional school students at the University shall be elected to Academic Member status in a single calendar year. Eligible candidates must demonstrate an academic record placing them in the top 35% of their campus graduate students, evaluated using GPA at the campus, college, departmental or program level. This category of member may not serve as a chapter president, vice president, or member.

2. Leadership Member

Leadership Members are those candidates nominated by the Chapter membership review committee, president, or vice president and approved by the AEL National Selection Committee. The selection procedure and candidate eligibility requirements must adhere to the Chapter Bylaws and AEL Bylaws. Not more than 1% of the total number of graduate/professional school students at the University campus shall be elected to Leadership Member status in a single calendar year. Eligible candidates must demonstrate a distinguished record of leadership in graduate student organizations as elected officers. The Chapter shall issue application invitations to all officers of their campus-wide graduate student organizations. These applications shall be submitted through the forms provided on the AEL national web page.

3. Leadership and Academic Member

Leadership and Academic Members are those candidates who satisfy the criteria of both Academic Member and Leadership Member.

4. Honorary Member

Individuals not holding degree-seeking student status but who are worthy of special recognition may be admitted to the Chapter under the title Honorary Member. Honorary Members may be admitted upon election by the Chapter. Chapters may admit two Honorary Members per year.

Section B. Transferability

National Members, International Members, and National Honorary Members, along with those members inducted at any other chapters chartered by AEL are automatic members of the Chapter.

ARTICLE V. ACTIVITIES

Section A. Meetings

The Chapter shall hold at least two meetings per semester, excluding summer, as scheduled by the president. One meeting shall be called for the purpose of considering applicants for membership and one meeting shall be called to present membership and other recognition awards, elect officers, and discuss service projects.

Section B. Service Projects

The Chapter shall establish a primary service project in accordance with the purpose of the society. A description of the project shall be incorporated into the bylaws. The Chapter shall participate in AEL national service projects.

Section C. Annual Report

The Chapter shall complete an annual report/checklist provided by the AEL Board of Directors. The checklist shall include submission of digital version of all Chapter documents and records to a shared online storage folder provided by AEL to the Chapter. Chapter may admit no members until they have submitted an annual report judged satisfactory by AEL. These reports, checklist and documents are necessary for Chapter history and standards compliance verification.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS

Section A. Roster of Officers

The officers of the society shall be the president, the vice president, and the secretary-treasurer. The position of secretary-treasurer may be split into two positions. The Chapter Bylaws may provide for additional officer positions (vice president for membership, vice president for service projects, historian, etc.). Term of office shall be one year for all officers. Duties of officers shall be specified in the Chapter Bylaws. Officers shall be elected in the manner and time as set forth in the Chapter Bylaws.

Section B. Eligibility

The president, vice president and members of the membership screening committee must hold Leadership, National, International or Honorary Member status. Academic Members may serve as secretary-treasurer and other committee.

Section C. Faculty Advisor

Administrator (Dean, Associate Dean, etc.) of the Graduate School shall be invited to serve as the society faculty advisor. If the dean is unable to serve in this capacity, a faculty advisor shall be elected by the members of the society for a term of three years.

Section D. Vacancies

In the event of a vacancy in the office of president, the vice president shall serve as president until a replacement is elected at the next meeting of the society. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the vice president or secretary-treasurer, the president shall appoint (with the approval of the faculty advisor) a replacement who shall serve until a replacement is elected at the next meeting of the society. The Faculty Advisor and AEL President are empowered to fill vacancies not otherwise appointed by the Chapter president.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCES

Section A. Dues

Members shall be assessed chapter dues in accordance with the Chapter Bylaws. Annual Chapter dues shall not exceed the AEL induction dues as specified in the AEL Constitution and Bylaws. Member of the Chapter shall be required to pay AEL induction dues upon admission to the Chapter.

Section B. National Members

AEL National and International Members attending the University may be assessed Chapter dues as a condition of participating as voting members of the Chapter.

Section C. Compliance

The secretary-treasurer shall adhere to all rules and procedures of the University, with applicable regulations and references provided in the Chapter Bylaws. All transactions must be reported to the faculty advisor and membership in a financial report included as part of every meeting of the society.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section A. Articles IX through XI

Articles IX through XI may be amended by two-thirds vote of the Chapter members provided that such amendments:

1. Do not alter the title of the article.
2. Address a subject consistent with the article title.
3. Represent a University regulation required to be included in the Constitution by the University student organizations handbook or similar online published document.
4. Includes in the text an explicit reference to the document and specific section in which the requirement is stated by the University.

Section B. Articles I through VIII

The Chapter Constitution is a uniform document for all AEL chapters and as such Articles I through VIII of the Constitution may not be altered by the Chapter. Proposed amendments for these Articles may be submitted to the AEL Board of Directors for consideration and possible amendment adoption by the AEL Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX. NON-DISCRIMINATION

The society will not discriminate, respecting guidelines of the University articulated in the Chapter Bylaws.

ARTICLE X. RECRUITMENT AND HAZING

No solicitation or propaganda, such as rushing and social pressure, shall be used to ensure acceptance or invitation to membership. No members or applicants shall be subjected to any form of hazing as specified in University regulations which shall be articulated in the Chapter Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI. OTHER UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Regulations governing student organizations required by the University to be included in the Constitution of all student organizations and that are not appropriate for inclusion in Article IX or Article X shall be included in the sections of this article.