



Open the door to Pi Alpha Alpha for your students:
Create a PAA chapter on your campus



What is Pi Alpha Alpha?

Honoring academic achievement in the field of public service.

Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA) is the national honor society for students in public affairs and administration. PAA encourages and recognizes outstanding scholarship and accomplishment in the field. PAA fosters integrity, professionalism, and effective performance in the conduct of government and related public service activities. Induction into Pi Alpha Alpha denotes the highest performance levels in educational programs pertinent to public service careers.

There are currently chapters at more than 150 campuses, with an entire membership of 45,000+, and an average of 2,000 students, faculty, and alumni being inducted each year. These local chapters become the backbone of Pi Alpha Alpha by recognizing top students; undertaking academic, outreach, and social activities; and fostering networks of students, new graduates, and alumni.

Formed in 1974, Pi Alpha Alpha is affiliated with the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA), the membership association and accrediting body for graduate programs in public administration and public policy. Pi Alpha Alpha is one of 65 members of the Association of College Honor Societies.

The Pi Alpha Alpha Mission

The purpose of this society is to encourage and recognize out-standing scholarship in public affairs and administration.

The society seeks to promote the advancement of quality in the education and practice of the art and science of public affairs and administration.

PAA objectives foster integrity, professionalism and effective performance in the conduct of government and related public service activities.

PAA membership identifies those with the highest performance levels in educational programs preparing them for public service careers.

Why start a chapter?

A lifetime association with excellence.

Benefits for students

- **Acknowledges academic achievement** – Induction into Pi Alpha Alpha denotes the highest academic achievement in the field of public service. It is a lifetime honor readily recognized by others in academia and beyond.
- **Provides a résumé-building advantage** – Pi Alpha Alpha membership signals “special qualifications and potential” to prospective employers.
- **Offers networking potential** – Membership creates opportunities to become acquainted with other Pi Alpha Alpha members, including alumni and members from other schools.

Benefits for programs

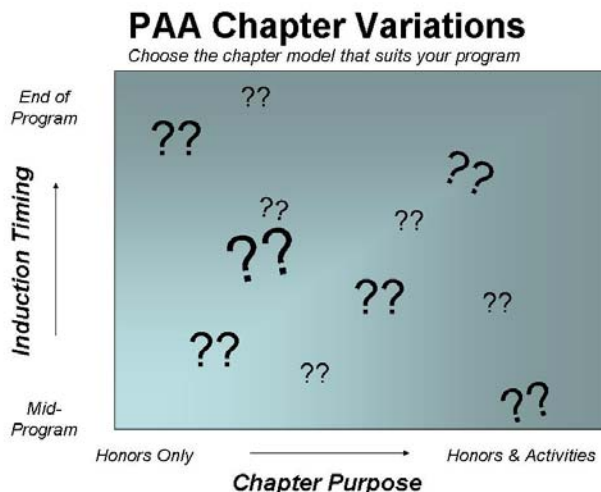
- **Provides national recognition for the program’s outstanding students** – A Pi Alpha Alpha chapter affords you the opportunity to flag your best students for honors at commencement and other institution-wide events.
- **Places your program among disciplines affiliated with national honor societies** – Associates your program with others able to bestow national recognition.
- **Gives top students and alumni a vehicle through which to organize activities** – The chapter provides a platform for student-driven outreach and internally focused projects.

Benefits for employers

- **Instantly identifies job applicants with outstanding scholastic credentials** – Pi Alpha Alpha membership can reinforce judgments from harried recruiters and hiring officials looking for prospective employees.
- **Reflects professionalism to other organizations** – Pi Alpha Alpha members on staff mark an organization as having highly professional and qualified employees.

Chapter approaches

Which combination works best for your campus?



Some programs induct their new PAA members as soon as practical after the halfway point in their programs of study. Other programs induct at or shortly before graduation. Still other programs fall between.

Some programs make their Pi Alpha Alpha chapter the hub of student-based activities. Other programs – particularly small programs that induct only a few students each year – maintain a Pi Alpha Alpha

chapter solely to offer national recognition for their very best scholars.

Pi Alpha Alpha chapters can be adapted to the needs and capacities of your school and can be refocused as needs change and opportunities emerge.

Obligations that come with sustaining a chapter

Not many.

Initial

- Apply for chapter approval.
- Remit one-time fee of \$150.
- Set up and activate chapter.

Ongoing:

- Identify, invite, and induct top scholars from your program.
- Submit a brief annual report (required).
- Appoint or elect officers.
- Organize and undertake activities through the chapter (optional).

Steps in forming a chapter

1-2-3-go.

1. Determine eligibility

- Is your school or program a member of NASPAA?
- Is your program NASPAA-accredited? If not:
 - Does your program grant degrees specifically in the field of public administration, public policy, or a sub-field?
 - Do you support your program with at least three full-time faculty (six faculty when both undergraduate and graduate programs will be involved in the chapter), all of whom devote half or more of their workload to the program?

2. Submit application package and fee

- Completed application form (see link below)
- Description of program's curriculum
- Brief vita for each faculty member
- Proposed chapter Constitution (see link below)
- Endorsement from institution's chief academic official
- One-time \$150 application fee

3. Obtain approval

- Accredited programs: Automatic approval
- Non-accredited programs: PAA National Council consideration

Go! Set up approved chapter

- Adopt Constitution
- Establish officers
- Set up record-keeping practices
- Create web presence (recommended)
- Encourage members to join national PAA social media networks

Advice and assistance

Contact encouraged.

Check the 'Establishing a Chapter" page on Pi Alpha Alpha's website:

http://naspaa.org/initiatives/paa/about_paa/establish_chapter.asp

Contact Pi Alpha Alpha's National Director, Jacqueline Lewis:

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