

Alpha Sigma Nu Ritual of Induction

Introduction

This manual is presented as a guideline for Chapter induction ceremonies. While flexibility and different degrees of formality may be appropriate, the following order of ceremonies and instructions are offered to assist local chapters in carrying out this essential ritual of induction into the Jesuit Honor Society. It is always appropriate to invite Board of Directors members living nearby and to introduce active alumni members. The Alpha Sigma Nu office has induction covers available to all chapters at no charge.

Order of Ceremonies

Introduction of Candidates

Remarks of the Chapter President

Standard of “Scholarship” Explained by Vice President

Standard of “Loyalty” Explained by Secretary

Standard of “Service” Explained by Treasurer

President’s Address

Alpha Sigma Nu Pledge

Acceptance of Candidates

Presentation of Keys and Certificates

Conferral of Honorary and Alumni Memberships (optional)

Remarks by School President, Faculty Adviser, or Guest Speaker

Introduction of Guests, National Board/Alumni Representatives

Announcements

Reception/Banquet

General Instructions

The objective is to make the ceremony as impressive as possible for the inductees and guests. This ceremony may be the only formal contact some will have with Alpha Sigma Nu. Chapter officers are urged to retain the essentials but are free to add elements that will enhance the ceremony.

Suggestions contained in this ritual are based on those adopted and used by chapters through the years. The adviser, or person responsible for the Ritual of Induction, may be attracted to one or more of these alternatives. It is desirable that each candidate be identified as clearly as possible. This may be accomplished by clearly announcing each name before the ceremony, by nametags, which will identify candidates to the faculty and guests attending these rites, or by publication of names in the induction program.

President in this ritual will refer to the president of the local chapter. The president of the institution will be specifically noted. It is highly recommended that the president of the institution take an active part in the ceremony, which requires setting the date far in advance.

Variety and interest are added to the ceremony when a number of active members (student, alumni, national board and honorary) participate as well.

Chapters are also urged to consider candidates for honorary and alumni membership from among their own or other Jesuit graduates. Other individuals who have distinguished themselves in their community or professions may be considered if they are not already members of Alpha Sigma Nu. The **president** and **chief academic officer** of the institution and the chapter's **faculty adviser** should become honorary members at the first induction following their appointment.

Alternatives for induction of honorary/alumni members follow:

1. The honorary/alumni member(s) may be presented during the induction ceremony immediately after the reading on service.
2. Induction of the honorary member(s) could be delayed until student members have recited the pledge and received their keys and certificates. The faculty adviser could then step forward to introduce the honorary/alumni and ask that the citation be read.
3. Another possibility is to make the presentation at an induction banquet. At the appropriate time, the faculty adviser (or another designated person) could introduce the honorary/alumni member and read the citation. The president would then confer the key and certificate and introduce the honorary/alumni member as the banquet speaker if such an arrangement is desired. Keep in mind, however, that a chapter is allowed to induct as many as four honorary members at each induction.

1. Responsibilities

All of the officers are responsible for the induction. The induction meeting is called to order by the president of the student chapter.

2. Invitations

It is left to the discretion of the faculty adviser and chapter to decide whether the ceremony will be open to the institution's community or if it will be by invitation only. Faculty members, deans, department heads and other administrative officers should be reminded to wear Alpha Sigma Nu medallions and, possibly, academic attire to enhance the solemnity of the ceremony.

3. Protocol

Members, especially officers, should wear their pins/pendants. Chapters are urged to display the Alpha Sigma Nu banner at the ceremony and at any social functions following the induction. Provision for music at the entrance and exit or a suitable musical interlude might be made. The institution's song and/or an appropriate anthem might be sung. If the adviser has any "unclaimed" pins they could be used at the induction for officers and the institution president.

4. Seating

The initiates present should be arranged in the central place. Chapter officers are also to have prominent places. Honorary inductees and the student inductees should be seated where they can be seen and where they can move conveniently about and to the dais area. The faculty should be seated near the candidates.

5. Standards

The explanation of the three standards is the essential points and should be included. It is recommended that the officers rewrite these into their own words. The text is included below.

6. Social

A reception line may be formed immediately after the ceremony for new members to receive the congratulations of the faculty and guests. The institution president may wish to meet inductees' families. Refreshments may follow.

Introduction of the Candidates

Once the officials, faculty and guests are in their places, the president directs the secretary to introduce the candidates. This can be done by calling their names as they enter the hall or by asking them to stand as their name is called if they are already present and seated. Individual introductions may also be done at the presentation of certificates and pins. If candidates are not present, their names could be read after all present are introduced. When all of the candidates have been introduced, the president proceeds to the rostrum for introductory remarks. The text includes the points which should be covered in the Ritual. It is suggested that the officers translate these into their own words for spontaneity and enthusiasm.

Remarks of the President

The ritual of induction includes a consideration of the basic purposes and the nature of Alpha Sigma Nu, the honor society of the Jesuit institutions of higher education. It is an international society based upon the high ideals of Scholarship, Loyalty and Service. In 1973 two such societies, Alpha Sigma Nu for men (1915) and Gamma Pi Epsilon for women (1925) merged into a single society. By 1983 there were active chapters of Alpha Sigma Nu on all 28 Jesuit college and university campuses in the United States and a chapter at Sogang University in Seoul, South Korea. In 1994, the Jesuit graduate schools of theology in the United States (in Cambridge and Berkeley) became members and in 2000 Regis College, Toronto established a chapter.

The name Alpha Sigma Nu signifies the Greek words *Adelphotes Scholastikon Nikephoron*, meaning the company of honor students. The key of the society bears the three Greek letters together with the eye of wisdom. On the reverse side is the member's name and date of induction. The society's colors are maroon and gold. An invitation to membership in an honor society is preceded by a period of probation.

For this national honor society, too, there was such a period, which began for you on the first day you registered as a student at **(name)** and continued to this time. You are now entitled to know the standards by which you were judged worthy of membership. Keep in mind that as they determined your selection, so they will justify it in the future. The first of these standards by which you were chosen is *Scholarship*.

The idea of Scholarship will be explained by the vice president of our chapter **(name)**.

Scholarship

Scholarship is the most important qualification for membership in Alpha Sigma Nu. This reflects the primarily intellectual purpose of higher education. A high grade point average alone does not demonstrate true Scholarship, nor does the mastery of information and specialized knowledge.

Alpha Sigma Nu recognizes those persons as scholars who possess a depth of comprehension and a breadth of knowledge. Alpha Sigma Nu honors those students who have a passion for knowledge, the world of ideas, and critical analysis. The true scholar realizes that education and knowledge are lifelong pursuits, and the true scholar never loses contact with the world of reality beyond the library or the classroom. Through a sane and balanced integration of experiences, the scholar advances in both knowledge and wisdom. Humility is a mark of true scholars who continue to develop their intellectual gifts with the awareness that they pursue a standard set by God, who alone is wise.

(The president then calls on the secretary to explain the criterion of Loyalty)

Loyalty

The second of the standards by which your record has and will continue to be appraised is Loyalty, which will be explained by **(name)**, secretary of our chapter. The qualification of *Loyalty* as defined by Alpha Sigma Nu means an intellectual appreciation of Jesuit ideals of higher education and a commitment to these ideals on the intellectual, social, moral and religious levels. To be loyal to these ideals means developing a deep sense of decency and a responsibility to truth and justice. It might mean occasionally going against the grain of our society and embracing unpopular positions. It will always mean a deep commitment to moral convictions and an abiding effort to advance the good of society and the well being of its citizens.

(The president then calls on the treasurer to explain the criterion of Service.)

Service

The third of the standards, which were the basis for your selection, is *Service*. The nature of this requirement will be presented by **(name)**, the treasurer of our chapter. Service to our fellow human beings is an integral part of the philosophy of Jesuit education and thus of Alpha Sigma Nu. Knowledge should not exist in a vacuum; it should build up and ennoble the world in which we live.

This is why a distinguished academic record is necessary but not sufficient for admission to Alpha Sigma Nu; there must be a dimension of service to others. This is demonstrated by giving freely of time and energy to the school and to the larger community. It also means giving as freely to less recognized activities, even to such intangible pursuits as the preservation of sound student morale. Alpha Sigma Nu expects its members to be lifelong contributors to campus and/or community organizations and activities. This Service reflects a concern for the welfare of our society.

President's Address

The three standards of *Scholarship, Loyalty and Service* have been well explained. How are these ideals realized in the concrete? This is answered initially in the first article of the Alpha Sigma Nu Bylaws: "The purpose of the Society shall be to honor students of Jesuit institutions of higher education who distinguish themselves in scholarship, loyalty and service; . . . to band together and to encourage those so honored to understand, to appreciate and to promote these ideals of Jesuit education." In achieving these objectives, methods will necessarily be as diverse as the situations require.

In a general way, the members will alert themselves to the rising and ebbing tides of school vitality, to the movements that are launched, to the activities that are planned, and to the sentiments of the students in so far as they relate to the school. Members often find themselves attuned to these changing patterns of life at their institution through their participation in student government or in various service organizations, in educational and cultural enterprises, and in numerous other ways connected with student life. Other members translate their ideals into action in service of the community beyond their institutions. In all of these, their judgment and actions will be conditioned by the ideals of scholarship, loyalty and service to which they have committed themselves.

Today's newly inducted members will be expected to join those who are already members as they commit their imagination and energy to address the needs and concerns of the world around them.

Alpha Sigma Nu Pledge

**As a member of Alpha Sigma Nu,
I promise to do everything in my power
To carry out the ideals of scholarship,
loyalty and service.
I will be committed to intellectual integrity
and the pursuit of wisdom.
I will be loyal to the moral, social,
and religious ideals of my education.
And I will continue to be genuinely committed
to the well-being of others
and active in serving them.
I will do all this
in light of the Jesuit concern
for the greater honor and glory of God.**

Acceptance of the Candidates

After the pledge has been recited, the president calls upon the institution president who formally declares the candidates members of Alpha Sigma Nu with the following statement; “As president of **(name)** and in the name of the Alpha Sigma Nu Board of Directors, I formally declare the candidates presented at this ceremony to be members of Alpha Sigma Nu.”

In the absence of the school president, an academic officer member, the faculty adviser or a member of the Board of Directors could make the formal declaration of membership.

Presentation of Keys and Certificates

The president now requests the members to approach the president of the institution to receive their certificates and keys in the order agreed upon for the rite. Names should be clearly announced and not rushed. Many families wish to take pictures at this time.

Conferral of Honorary Memberships

(President) At this time, we wish to introduce our new honorary and alumni members. As we do so, we acknowledge their outstanding commitment to Scholarship, Loyalty and Service within their respective careers and lives. Each stands while a designated student or alumnus reads a citation. To avoid awkwardness, decide beforehand if the person(s) honored will come to the dais or stand at their place.

Remarks by the Institution President, Faculty Adviser Or Guest Speaker

After the presentation of the keys and certificates, the president calls upon the president of the institution, the faculty adviser or the guest speaker for appropriate remarks or a formal address. If a social function follows, these addresses might be eliminated or given at the banquet instead.

Introduction of Board of Directors, Alumni Representatives, Special Guests and Announcements

Another welcome to Alpha Sigma Nu. You join an alumni group of over 45,000 life-long members. They represent a remarkable network for your professional and personal life. And you can find them, contact them, work with them, solicit advice or make friends. All of this is possible by using the Online Member Directory found at the website, www.alphasigmanu.org. Use the member password JESUIT (all capital letters) to log in to the Member Directory. And if you forget the password, or have other questions about Alpha Sigma Nu, please contact the ASN Central Office, whose staff will be happy to answer your questions. Their contact information is on the welcome brochure you have received today, and will be listed in the newsletters you will receive twice a year as a life-long member of Alpha Sigma Nu.

The program which follows will vary with chapters. Announcements by the president will naturally be made in the light of events planned to follow the induction ceremony. The president may instruct officers, student members, alumni and faculty to form a reception line. Thereupon the new members, in the order of the secretary's list, greet the president of the school, the faculty adviser, chapter members and honored guests to introduce themselves and to receive congratulations.

Since the environment will vary, each chapter will adapt its instructions to local circumstances.

This Ritual of Induction was revised in 2001 with the work of Board Members, Daniel K. Lahart, S.J., president, Brian Linnane, S.J., vice-president, Robert Harrison, III, secretary, Benjamin Fiore, S.J., faculty adviser, and David Emond. It has been edited by the Central Office in 2009.

A ΣN Chapters

Boston College Chestnut Hill, MA
Campion College, Regina, SK, Canada
Canisius College Buffalo, NY
College of the Holy Cross Worcester, MA
Creighton University Omaha, NE
Fairfield University Fairfield, CT
Fordham University Bronx, NY
Georgetown University Washington, DC
Gonzaga University Spokane, WA
Jesuit School of Theology Berkeley, CA
John Carroll University Cleveland, OH
Le Moyne College Syracuse, NY
Loyola College in Maryland Baltimore, MD
Loyola Marymount University Los Angeles, CA
Loyola University Chicago Chicago, IL
Loyola University New Orleans New Orleans, LA
Marquette University Milwaukee, WI
Regis College Toronto, ON Canada
Regis University Denver, CO
Rockhurst University Kansas City, MO
St. Joseph's University Philadelphia, PA
St. Louis University St. Louis, MO
St. Peter's College Jersey City, NJ
Santa Clara University Santa Clara, CA
Seattle University Seattle, WA
Sogang University Seoul, Korea
Spring Hill College Mobile, AL
University of Detroit Mercy Detroit, MI
University of San Francisco San Francisco, CA
University of Scranton Scranton, PA
Wheeling Jesuit University Wheeling, WV
Xavier University Cincinnati, OH