



## **Recommendation Form Changes - Spring 2022**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

In December 2021, Council endorsed several updates to the Fraternity's Membership Selection Policy pertaining to recommendation forms and sponsorship. This FAQ was created to help answer questions related to these recent policy changes and their implementation this spring.

#### **What changes were made to the Membership Selection Policy?**

Two changes were made to the membership selection policy related to Recommendation Forms. First, an additional opportunity was added for collegiate members to sponsor Potential New Members (PNMs). Second, PNMs are still required to be sponsored by a member of Delta Gamma, but informational Recommendation Forms can now be completed by anyone who can speak to the PNM's character.

#### **Why were these changes made?**

In 2019, the Fraternity's membership team began seeking input from alumnae and collegians regarding our recommendation and sponsorship process. The feedback we received indicated that our current process was no longer up to date, nor was it meeting the needs of all collegiate Evaluating Committees (EVC).

In some chapters, EVCs were receiving only a handful of recommendations, which necessitated that EVC complete a recommendation for all other PNMs they were interested in inviting to further rounds. In other chapters, EVCs were mostly receiving recommendations from Delta Gammas who did not know the PNM personally but had been requested to complete the form to satisfy a requirement. Elsewhere, EVCs received multiple recommendations for each PNM with duplicate information, in addition to many of the same details PNMs were already providing during recruitment registration.

In other cases, PNMs were interested in joining our sisterhood but didn't know any members of Delta Gamma from whom to request a recommendation. Our collegiate chapters asked for an opportunity to let individuals who know a PNM personally recommend her to Delta Gamma and speak to her character. Our chapters also shared a need to simplify the paperwork associated with pledging. The changes we are implementing this spring help satisfy both of those requests, while also hopefully providing more relevant information about PNMs to our collegiate chapters.



### What is the difference between sponsorship and a Recommendation Form?

According to the Fraternity Constitution, Article V. Section 1, to be eligible for pledging, a candidate for membership must be sponsored by a member of Delta Gamma. Sponsoring a potential new member indicates that a current alumnae or collegiate member of Delta Gamma is confident that the potential new member meets the standards of Delta Gamma and that her membership will have a positive impact on the Fraternity. Members of Delta Gamma can sponsor a woman in one of two ways:

- **Alumnae and Collegians:** All members can complete an online Recommendation Form. This form provides information about the PNM to introduce her to the collegiate chapter and provide an endorsement for sponsorship.
- **Collegians:** Collegiate members can utilize the Fraternity's recruitment software to endorse a PNM. As most information that is asked on the Recommendation Form is available in our voting software, collegiate members simply need to provide their endorsement for sponsorship.

While the online Recommendation Form can currently be used by Delta Gamma alumnae and collegians to sponsor a potential new member, the online form will also be made available to non-members later this spring to help introduce a PNM to a chapter. If a PNM does not know a member of Delta Gamma, she can ask anyone who can speak to her character to complete an online form on her behalf.

**A Recommendation Form submitted by a non-member does not meet the requirement for sponsorship but does provide the opportunity for EVC to learn more about a PNM and make informed decisions as they create their invitation lists during each round of recruitment.**

### What does this mean for collegians, alumnae, and potential new members?

Alumnae members are still encouraged to sponsor PNMs by submitting an online Recommendation Form for potential new members they know. These policy changes do not impact the alumnae sponsorship process.

Collegiate members who know a PNM coming through recruitment, or who meet a PNM during recruitment and feel confident that her membership will positively impact Delta Gamma, can sponsor the PNM via the online Recommendation Form or the Fraternity's recruitment software, MyVote. Both methods of sponsorship for collegiate members are currently available.



PNMs who know a collegiate or alumnae member of Delta Gamma can ask them to sponsor them by completing an online Recommendation Form. If the PNM does not know a Delta Gamma, they can ask a teacher, mentor, or other individual who can speak to their character to complete an online Recommendation Form for them. While this form does not meet Delta Gamma's constitutional requirement for sponsorship, it is an excellent way for the chapter and EVC to get to know the potential new member. The option to allow non-members to complete an online Recommendation Form will be available in April 2022.

### **When can I start submitting recommendations for the 2022-2023 academic year?**

Recommendations for the 2022-2023 academic year can be submitted starting in April 2022 once all changes to the online form have been implemented. The online Recommendation Form will be unavailable while it is being updated. We ask that all recommendations be submitted via the online form after these planned updates have been implemented.

### **When will the recommendation form be unavailable?**

The online Recommendation Form will be unavailable starting on March 7, 2022. We anticipate that all maintenance will be complete by early- to mid-April 2022. An official announcement when the form closes and when it reopens will be made on our website and via social media.

### **What changes can we expect once the form re-opens?**

- Both Delta Gamma members and non-members will be able to access and complete an online Recommendation Form.
- Non-essential data fields, or those containing information PNMs submit for themselves when registering for recruitment, will be eliminated.
- The section capturing sorority affiliations will be removed, in line with Delta Gamma's current legacy policy, and to make the form more user-friendly for non-members to complete.
- Character limits in the Qualifications section will be expanded, allowing those completing the Recommendation Form to include more information about the PNM in the body of the form.
- Photo and attachment fields will no longer be available, as chapters are primarily using information entered into the form to get to know the PNM.



### **Can I mail or email in my recommendation while the online form is unavailable?**

Members should refrain from mailing or emailing recommendation materials directly to collegiate chapters moving forward. This will ensure that the appropriate information, collected via the online form, is sent directly to chapters and will also allow us to track and confirm all Recommendation Form submissions. Collegiate chapters have a lot on their plates as they prepare for recruitment, and they have been asking that recommendation materials reach them via one method. At this time, the method most efficient for collegiate chapters and for those submitting recommendations is via our online Recommendation Form.

### **What if I can't meet a local recommendation deadline because the online Recommendation Form is unavailable?**

Delta Gamma does not set spring and summer deadlines for the submission of recommendations. All Delta Gamma chapters accept recommendations until the start of the recruitment process on their campus. We understand timely submission of recommendations is important but want to assure members that they will have plenty of opportunity to submit an online Recommendation Form between April and the first recruitment events in August.

### **Where can I access the online Recommendation Form?**

The online Recommendation Form is available at [members.deltagamma.org](https://members.deltagamma.org).