



BETA THETA PI

— MEN OF PRINCIPLE —

NEW MEMBER EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

The New Member Education Assessment (NMEA) is designed to support and promote the safety and quality of the new member experience in Beta Theta Pi. **NMEA certification is a requirement for all chapters. The certification must be completed prior to new member activities taking place.** This checklist details required components as well as items and activities prohibited in new member programs.

DEADLINES:

- Programs must be certified each time a new member class is inducted.
- **Fall:** Chapters taking fall new members must have their programs certified by **September 1 or two weeks prior to pledge ceremony**, whichever is earlier.
- **Spring:** Chapters taking winter/spring new members must have their programs certified by **February 1 or two weeks prior to pledge ceremony**.
- New Chapters are exempt from this process and will work with their on-site Chapter Development Consultant if not already enrolled in Son of the Stars.
- Chapters participating in Son of the Stars must also be certified although the process is slightly different. Contact the Director of Leadership & Education with questions about Son of the Stars certification.
 - *In order to be SCOE compliant: all SOTS chapters must complete the assigned Lessonly modules, submission of materials and submission of modular semester schedule no later than February 1 or two weeks prior to pledge ceremony.*
- If a chapter does not have a new member program, or the one they have is inadequate, contact the Director of Leadership & Education for a template program to work from.

NMEA CERTIFICATION PROCESS:

1. A centralized message is sent to all VPs of Education, Chapter Presidents, Member Education Advisors and/or Chapter Counselors to remind them of the dates and process for NMEA Certification.
2. The assigned NMEA Volunteer contacts the VP of Education and member education advisor to confirm upcoming recruitment dates and agree on a timeline for NMEA certification.
3. VP of Education, Chapter President and at least one advisor review current program against the checklist and revise as needed.
4. Chapter sends new member education materials to NMEA Volunteer, including all supplemental materials, the calendar for new member events and chapter calendar.
5. NMEA Volunteer reviews materials using this checklist.
6. NMEA Volunteer provides program feedback to the VP of Education, Advisor and District Chief and asks questions as needed or appropriate. [This resource includes helpful questions you can ask.](#)
7. VP of Education, working with his advisor, revises new member program based on feedback and sends revised new member program back to the NMEA Volunteer.
 - a. Chapters with “holdover” new members must specifically address a plan for their member education.
8. NMEA Volunteer reviews program to confirm changes have been made and submits (on-line survey) the certification and the chapter’s education curriculum. Copies of certification are sent to Chapter Counselor, District Chief, Regional Chief, Director of Leadership & Education and Director of Chapter Development.
9. Director of Leadership & Education updates the NMEA Tracker. Director of Chapter Development updates the chapter’s SCOE standing.



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OUTCOMES FOR NEW MEMBER EDUCATION:

All new member programs regardless of length or author should be designed to achieve these outcomes:

INTRODUCTION TO BETA THETA PI

- New member knows Beta's five core values and knows how to apply them to his daily life.
- New member knows chapter leadership structure and has met all executive team members.
- New member feels a strong sense of belonging in his chapter.

GENERAL ORIENTATION

- New member knows the financial obligations of membership, where his money goes, and is current in his financial obligations.
- New member knows academic requirements of membership and consistently meets standards.
- New member knows and is prepared to meet requirements for meeting and event attendance.
- New member knows chapter housing expectations, including financial obligations, expectations to live and eat in the facility, and demonstrates respectful treatment of the chapter home.

HISTORY, RITUAL AND LORE

- New member knows the founding history and lore of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity.
- New member knows the founding history and lore of his local chapter.
- New member has participated in at least one Eye of Wooglin ceremony.
- New member can sing several Beta songs, including songs that are part of ritual ceremonies.

BROTHERHOOD

- New member has deep, authentic friendships with several members of his new member class.
- New member has positive personal relationships with upperclassmen / initiated members.
- New member has a positive supportive relationship with his big brother.
- New member has met more than one chapter advisor / house corporation board member and knows the role volunteers play in supporting the chapter.
- New member believes that members of the chapter care about him.

PERSONAL GROWTH

- New member believes the chapter supports his academic achievements.
- New member knows the role of the Kai Committee and other mechanisms for personal and group accountability within the chapter.
- New member has been educated on Beta's Risk Management Policy and applicable campus policies regarding alcohol, hazing, sexual assault and safe event planning.
- New member has been trained on appropriate steps to prevent and respond to risk and risk management issues, including how and to whom to report concerning events or behavior.
- New member has experienced at least one fraternity or university sponsored workshop or program on a topic of personal growth.
- New member has been presented opportunities to participate in Beta's leadership development programs or leadership programs sponsored by the campus.

HOME

- New member feels a strong sense of belonging.
- New member feels welcome in the chapter facility.
- New member believes the chapter supports his personal values and he is not asked to compromise himself, his values or his beliefs to be a member of the Fraternity.
- New member has demonstrated respect for other members, guests and the community.



REQUIRED NEW MEMBER EDUCATION PROGRAM COMPONENTS

For a program to be certified, it must include all items below. These must be identifiable in the written program and easily understood by the reader.

- A written calendar of all new member activities including date, time, location and names of exec members scheduled to attend or facilitate.
- A clear end to the new member period. Recommended program length is no more than 8 weeks.
- Documented involvement from advisors.
- Written outlines, scripts / lesson plans / discussion guides, tests or other materials for all events and activities. [If you need help writing a lesson plan please use this resource and template.](#)
- Documented training about Beta's Risk Management Policy within the first three weeks.
- Written expectations for the new member period for both new members and initiated brothers.
- Documented criteria, training and expectations for Big Brothers.
- Written accountability plan for new members who do not meet expectations.
- Documented and reasonable date, time, location for all ritual ceremonies that do not conflict with executive officer obligations.
- Approval for any local rituals or adaptations of ceremonies outlined in the Ritual Book.
- Written reviews/reflections for all ritual ceremonies that involve the entire chapter membership.
- Program must be in line with any campus regulations that are in place.

RED FLAGS IN THE NEW MEMBER PROGRAM

Any of following items included in the new member program should be discussed with the VP of Education and advisors using [this resource and list of questions](#) and revised prior to certification.

- Advisor involvement is not indicated or included in the program.
- VP of Education is given complete control and autonomy over the program.
- New members are asked to:
 - Follow unusual or unnecessary rules. (*Ex. requiring new members to wear specific clothing, requiring periods of silence, not use certain parts of the house.*)
 - Complete tasks or duties different or beyond what initiated members are asked.
 - Surrender their wallets, cell phones or other personal belongings.
 - Sleep anywhere other than their normal bedroom, for any amount of time.
 - Attend Excessive study hours in a specific location.
 - Be in a specific location for an excessive period of time with no function or purpose.
 - Schedule interviews with upper-class members that could lead to personal servitude or inappropriate activities to "earn" a signature.
 - Serve as sober monitors for social functions.
- Retreats or off-campus activities requiring overnight stays and/or large blocks of unprogrammed time.
- Scavenger hunts, excessive memorization, or other special activities only the new members are required to complete.
- No training or documented expectations for how initiated members should treat new members.
- Chapters that have "pledge reviews" without clear objectives, criteria or process.
- Wording or language to indicate that the chapter has developed their own values and purposes that are different than Beta Theta Pi's.

This list is not comprehensive. These are examples of the types of activities and expectations that should cause concern around a new member program and prompt further discussion. Please contact the Administrative Office (800.800.2382) if you need guidance or support while completing this assessment.