



Dear Prospective Sisters,

Thank you for your interest in starting a new chapter of Theta Alpha Christian Sorority! Theta Alpha exists as a ministry to glorify God on college campuses- we seek to ignite a passion for Christ in college women, equipping them to become a generation of selfless leaders solving the world's problems in the name of Jesus. Thus, our foremost consideration in starting a new chapter is whether each prospective sister shares this mission and passion for our Savior.

There are a few steps that prospective sisters must take to apply to become a chapter of our sorority. In order to better educate you all on what being a chapter of Theta Alpha Christian Sorority entails, we have included an informational packet, including our purpose as a ministry, our constitution, and a detailed plan and timeline of how a chapter is set up. We have also included a series of questions for you all to answer about yourselves, your faith, and your peers. We choose to use an application like this one to serve as a tool for understanding your spiritual and sisterly commitment. Because of our high standards in leadership, service, scholastics, and outreach, we have included questions designed to measure your pursuits of the same. Lastly, we hope to get a better glimpse of your vision for starting a new chapter of Theta Alpha Christian Sorority and understand how your strengths and weaknesses can be used to further that endeavor.

Please read through our information packet, complete each section of this application in full, and return it to evp@thetaalpha.org. Should you have any questions, please address them to our National External Vice President, Hannah Beth Savitt at that same email. Again, congratulations on your decision to pursue a chapter with Theta Alpha Christian Sorority. We are excited to learn more about you and begin this expansion journey together.

As one, for ONE,
The Theta Alpha Christian Sorority National Board





Theta Alpha 101

We are so excited to join you on your mission to bring Theta Alpha to your campus! Below we try to give you a “crash course” in what Theta Alpha really is, what it stands for, and how our local chapters (and national board!) operate. We love to share our history, purpose, and operational logistics with incoming sisters so they can truly understand how they can play a crucial part in our movement to grow, encourage, and equip women for their mission in the Lord.

History

In the Fall of 2005, Laurie Bailey set out to establish a Christian Sorority on the campus of the Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida.

After working with the University of Florida chapter of another pre-existing national Christian Sorority, Laurie was able to communicate with the national office; however, for one reason or another, the chapter was not able to be established.

Laurie did not give up hope and in the Spring of 2006, with the help of the Theta chapter of Kappa Upsilon Chi at the University of Florida, Laurie set out to start a new sorority all together. Laurie prayed about the decision and decided that God was pushing her to prayerfully begin a new Christian sisterhood.

With help from the Theta chapter of Kappa Upsilon Chi, Laurie set out to write out the rituals, constitutions, infrastructure, accountability guidelines and the other necessary components for national organization.

At this time, curiosity began to grow in the hearts of several girls about starting Theta Alpha at the University of Florida. Caroline Burns, a junior at the University of Florida, worked with Laurie and the Alpha and Beta chapters were established that April. FSU held initiation on April 20, 2006, when they initiated their eleven charter members and four officers from the University of Florida. On April 28, 2006, UF held their own initiation for their two remaining officers and five charter members.

Laurie Bailey, Caroline Burns, Kristen Rupert, Lindsey Soulis, Beth Cordova, and Kaitlin Griffiths are recognized as founders of Theta Alpha at the national level.

Purpose

Theta Alpha exists as a ministry to glorify God on college campuses by encouraging sisters to grow in their relationship with the Lord and equipping them for their mission in the world. Theta Alpha's sisterhood strives to establish unity among its members through a shared faith in Jesus Christ and His teachings.

Pledge Sister & Active Sister

Theta Alpha is open to all registered undergraduate female students within your prospective university. Prospective members will be admitted to the organization during the Rush period. Once admitted into the sisterhood, Theta Alpha consists of 2 types of members. The first is the Pledge



Sister. The Pledge Sister is a New Member of Theta Alpha, who will go through 40 days of New Member Education. This is an opportunity to learn more about the sisterhood through various events, meetings, and resources. All events during this period are required, unless otherwise stated. Once the pledge sister has completed the 40-day period, she will become an Active Member of Theta Alpha. Pledge & Active sisters are responsible for adhering by our Standards of Membership.

Standards of Membership

Our Standards of Membership include Logistical and Character Standards.

Our Logistical Standards include attending Chapter Meetings, Recruitment Events, Weekly Accountability Groups, Semester Retreats, Prayer Nights, Outreach events, and more! It also includes members paying semesterly membership dues, being enrolled at the prospective university, maintaining a minimum 2.0 GPA, and participating in a local church. While we encourage Active Sisters to attend as many Theta Alpha events as able, we do have an Attendance Policy in place to sustain our membership standards. Within the Attendance Policy, we have a clause that allows for excused absences. Excused absences would include work, school, illness, or an event outside of a sister's control.

Our Character Standards are standards set in place to help each sister glorify God. Amongst our character standards, we ask our sisters to be examples to one another in speech, love, faith, and purity (See 1 Timothy 4:12 for reference). Our sisters must prioritize glorifying God in everything they do and uphold the Lord's commandments. Each Character Standard found within the Constitution is directly tied to Scripture for reference, as the Gospel is our foundation as believers and as an organization.

While this is simply a summary of our standards of membership, our logistical and character standards are set up to leave room for grace. However, this does not diminish their importance within the organization.

No person shall be refused membership to Theta Alpha on the grounds of race, national origin, age, handicap, religion, appearance or social status. Members shall be female in order to preserve the sacred fellowship of sisterhood. Although Theta Alpha prefers that new members profess faith in Jesus Christ as their savior, we do not discriminate based on one's current profession of faith.

Officers & Roles

Theta Alpha's Officer Board consists of 6 Officer Roles. Below the roles have been summarized:

- **President:** The President is in charge of overseeing and supervising all sorority & business activities. She serves as the Public Representative of the sisterhood.
- **Internal Vice President (IVP):** The IVP oversees all rush activities and new member initiatives, including ritual events and standards of membership.
- **External Vice President (EVP):** The EVP oversees all Public Relations & External initiatives, such as Recruitment, Philanthropy, and Social Activities.
- **Chaplain:** The Chaplain directs the ministry portion of our sisterhood. She is responsible for directing the spiritual growth of the chapter and maintaining the chapter focused on the



Lord through ministerial & discipleship events like Outreach, Prayer Nights, Big/Little, and Retreat.

- **Treasurer:** The Treasurer is responsible for stewarding faithfully the financial resources of the sisterhood. She oversees the financial upkeep and authorized spending of the chapter.
- **Secretary:** The Secretary serves as the communication liaison between the local chapter and alumnae of the sisterhood. She directs all communication, history, and alumnae relations, while also recording attendance and notes within the local chapter.

Our Officers are meant to serve with a servant heart for the Lord and their sisters. They should maintain open communication with their respective National Board members, Pledge & Active Sisters, and Alumnae Body. We define Servant Leadership in regards to the following Scripture passages: 1 Peter 4:10; Mark 10:43; 2 Corinthians 4:5.

Sisterhood Operations

Our operation as a sisterhood is designed to both streamline chapter relations in a business manner and to create opportunities for sisters to bond and grow together. These operations and events are foremost a chance for our sisters to bond together and grow in the Lord; they also can serve as a light to their prospective campus to show God's love and compassion to others, especially those who may not know him.

Chapter meetings are held by the sisterhood once a week. These chapter meetings have two purposes: worship and business. The worship portion of chapter meetings will be held with all members of the chapter. This portion of chapter meetings is open to the public-any and all students, male or female may attend. They will focus on praise and worship and include a message, sharing, and prayer. After the worship portion of chapter meetings, business meetings will begin, at which point only officers and active members will attend. The business portion is meant to inform sisters on upcoming events and deadlines, sisterhood "housekeeping" items (like budget or voting decisions), or updates from the National Board. The minutes of these meetings will be public record.

Members of Theta Alpha, in accordance with the Standards of Membership, will attend a set number of events (put on weekly) by their chapter. These events include (but are not limited to) prayer, sisterhood, service, outreach, retreat, and philanthropic events put on by their chapter. Prayer events are based on scripture and spiritual guidance. Sisterhood events are based on sisterhood bonding through fun and activities. Service events are based on serving the prospective chapter's local community. Outreach events are based on evangelism and sharing Jesus with other students. Retreat is based on giving sisters the space to disconnect with the outside world to better connect with Jesus. Finally, philanthropy events are based on serving the prospective chapter's philanthropic causes, showcasing their philanthropy and their chapter to other organizations and individuals on their prospective school's campus, and to ideally share and spread the love of God to others.

To ensure that sisters are actively pouring into each other and into Theta Alpha, an Attendance Policy is put into place to help women remain accountable to their sisters and grow with them. The usual attendance requirements of an active sister is two prayer, sisterhood, and service events and



one outreach, retreat, and philanthropy event a semester. Reviewing the Attendance Policy above, select circumstances can excuse a sister from these events.

At the beginning of every semester, chapters have the opportunity to hold a recruitment session, or “rush” week. All undergraduate students of the prospective university are welcome to attend and participate in Recruitment week activities. Recruitment occur in stages: chapters hold an information session, an informal (sisterhood) session, a video (mock chapter) session, and then a formal (interview) session. The Theta Alpha Chapter will invite prospective members to interview with the officers, and then potential members will receive a bid of membership at “Bid Day.” They will then enter the 40-day period of New Member Education before becoming an Active Sister of Theta Alpha.

As a sisterhood, there is also the opportunity to hold extra events that are not covered under the attendance policy- these events are simply for fun! Some examples of events that are planned and held by our local chapters are socials with other Greek or social sororities or fraternities, date functions and formals, participation in a school-wide philanthropy (like Dance Marathon), public worship events, and more! Our local chapters find these events help grow a culture within their sisterhood that makes sisters proud to be Theta Alpha members and puts them in a better position to spread Christian teachings and love to those who may not know Him.

Spiritual Operations

From the very beginning, the Founding Mothers wanted to make accountability, discipleship, spiritual growth, and fellowship among Christian sisters the key components of Theta Alpha. Today, Theta Alpha has many tenets in place to ensure that this legacy of helping guard and grow a sister’s spiritual life lives on.

Our big and little sister relationships are centered on the concept of Christian discipleship between believers. The big little process is one that should be gone into understanding how each sister can impact the other to grow towards Jesus. This pairing is set up that they may guide each other through their college careers and beyond.

Chapter members are also assigned to accountability groups, who meet weekly for the purpose of encouraging one another to live biblical principles. By maintaining accountability with one another, sisters give each other the tools to grow in Jesus and in their faith, while also recognizing their shortcomings. Proverbs 27:17 says, “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” We encourage our sisters to sharpen each other.

Chapter members are also encouraged to seek outside discipleship from Theta Alpha. Theta Alpha is of the church, but is not the church itself. We recognize that while Christian fellowship between sisters is wonderful, there is more that can be gained by sisters by surrounding themselves with believers of all backgrounds. This is why we (in our Standards of Membership) ask sisters to immerse themselves in a local church, participate in a Bible study, and more. Our goal is that sisters can bring back into Theta Alpha what they’ve learned from their time in the church and in fellowship with other believers.



In general chapter operations, sisters still live out our spiritual mission as a sorority and ministry. Outreach events are created and held to help grow and minister to the community of your prospective school. Retreat and prayer events are used to help grow and minister to our sisterhood from within. Finally, Theta Alpha strives to establish Christian values and ministry in all of its events, even in its daily operations of sisterhood activities, socials, service, and philanthropic projects. One of the most important tenets of Theta Alpha is that our sisters are able to be lights on their campus and spread God's love wherever they go. We take immense pride in our sisters and their commitment to living a life that glorifies God.

Financial Operations

Theta Alpha and all subsidiaries are of a not-for-profit and non-commercial nature. Each chapter collects a modest semester tribute to operate. This semester tribute (also called "membership dues") will not exceed the cost of three credit hours at a public university in the chapter's home state. The allocation of those funds is as such that it may glorify God through activities that will grow a sister's relationship with the Lord and equip them for their mission in the world. As we are taught through scripture, Theta Alpha tithes a portion of each semester's budget. The recipient(s) of the tithe are voted on by each local chapter each semester.

Philanthropy and service to the community is a strong tenet of Theta Alpha. Each chapter has selected an organization to serve and raise funds to support. These organizations are important to the local chapter, with the philanthropic partnership intended to exist for many years. In addition to general fundraising, the chapters will host an annual event to invite other organizations at their college to participate. Serving the community well extends past the single philanthropy. Our chapters have embraced proclaiming the Lord and serving the community by participating in mission trips to serve additional organizations.

National Board of Directors

The chapters of Theta Alpha are overseen and supported by the National Board of Directors, a National Board consisting of Theta Alpha alumnae. The National Board of Directors serves all local chapters through mentorship, upholding the mission of Theta Alpha, and serves alumnae to preserve the sisterhood bonds formed.

I signify that I, as a potential Founding Mother of Theta Alpha, have read the "Theta Alpha 101" section in full. I understand the operation logistics that Theta Alpha has in place to create a long-lasting Christian community and Theta Alpha's commitment to their sisters and to the Lord. If I have any questions, I will ask the National External Vice President or another National Board Member as they come up.

Name (Printed)

Signature

Date



New Chapter Setup Stages

Below we have highlighted what the average chapter expansion timeline looks like. This is to help you envision what the time commitment will be as a founding chapter member, show you the logistics of going through our prospective member period, and explain the next steps you will take as a chapter once you have established yourself at your school.

Stage 1: Interest

During the interest stage, ten or more founding chapter members will express interest in founding a Theta Alpha chapter at their sorority. If less than ten express interests, the already interested members and the National Board will work together to comprise the remaining founding members until ten are found. These potential members will be directed by the National Board and updated periodically on the status of their potential chapter's establishment. They will be required to complete the questionnaire at the end of this packet, sign the necessary pages (at the end of *Theta Alpha 101* and *New Chapter Setup*), and return them to our National External Vice President at evp@thetaalpha.org. The National Board of Theta Alpha will then look over these responses and decide on approval of the request to become a Founding Member. Permission to establish a new chapter must come from the Theta Alpha National Board of Directors.

After the gathering and approval of ten or more potential founding chapter members, members will be required to review and sign our chapter policies, such as our Constitution, Bylaws, and alcohol policy, before moving on to Stage 2.

Stage 2: Formation and Induction

Plans will be made between the National Board and the founding members to hold a formal (interview) night event similar to the one found in Bylaw II of the Constitution. The prospective founding members will attend the formal night and be interviewed solely by the National Board members. Members from additional chapters may be present to provide Christian fellowship and morale but will not conduct interviews. At the end of the night, the prospective founding members will receive bids to their new chapter of Theta Alpha Christian Sorority.

After receiving their bid, the founding members will attend a "Bid Day" celebration of their entrance into Theta Alpha, planned by the National Board. Members from additional chapters may be present to provide Christian fellowship and morale, and the day will be worship centered. At the end of Bid Day, the founding members will be inducted into Theta Alpha by the National Board and other chapter sisters. At the end of this stage, the sisters will officially be deemed as "Pledges" of Theta Alpha and will serve forty days of pledge-ship after Induction.

Stage 3: Pledge-Ship

After Induction, pledges will be provided with a calendar of events. Chapter and new pledge meetings will be conducted for pledges by the members of the National board. An introduction to



each of the tenets of Theta Alpha (service, prayer, sisterhood, outreach, and Philanthropy) will be planned and executed by different founding members, with the help of the National Board. These events would be considered “mandatory,” and excuses would follow the “Excused Absence Policy” in Bylaw I. Pledges will also be encouraged to spend extra time together in a casual setting to form long-lasting relationships and grow in the Lord together.

Here is what a sample calendar of these events would look like:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 31 Induction						
	Sept 1	2 Chapter	3	4 Pledge Meeting	5	6 Sisterhood #1
7	8	9 Chapter Prayer #1	10	11 Pledge Meeting	12	13
14	15 Service #1	16 Chapter	17	18 Pledge Meeting	19	20
21	22	23 Chapter Prayer #2	24	25 Pledge Meeting	26 Outreach	27
28	29	30 Chapter				
			Oct 1 Philanthropy	2 Pledge Meeting	3	4
5	6 Sisterhood #2	7 Chapter	8	9 Pledge Meeting	10	11 Initiation

Chapter and Pledge Meeting- Led by National Board

Service, Prayer, Sisterhood, Outreach, Philanthropy- Led by New Members, Overseen by Nationals

At the beginning of pledge-ship, pledges will be given an active sister “mentor” from our active Theta Alpha chapters. Each sister will be able to answer any questions their mentee pledge may have about Theta Alpha or their faith. The National Board will also be very hands on in mentoring new pledges and committing to their spiritual and sisterly growth.

At the end of the pledge-ship, pledges will be initiated into the sisterhood, learn the secret meaning behind our letters, and become full active sisters of Theta Alpha Christian Sorority. This will be the final event planned by the National Board and will be conducted by the National Board and other chapter sisters.



Stage 4: Establishment of New Chapter, Officers, and Future Sisters

The National Board will ensure the smooth transition of management of the chapter from the National Board to the members themselves. First, the National Board will conduct “exit” surveys before pledges leave pledge-ship to determine where problems may lie. The National Board will survey the founding members on interest in managing the chapter and elect officers that will serve the chapter for the upcoming school year (according to Article IV of the Constitution). If the establishment of the chapter occurred in the Spring, these officers would serve for the following Fall and Spring; if establishment occurred in the Fall, these officers would end their term in the following Spring. The following semester, the new chapter would hold rush according to the Bylaw II and induct their Alpha pledge class. The National Board would assist the new chapter with creating their first semester calendar, holding their first rush, and moving into the discipleship process with the incoming pledge class. They would maintain consistent contact as the chapter first grows.

I signify that I, as a potential Founding Mother of Theta Alpha, have read this page in full and understand the commitment and logistics of starting a new Theta Alpha chapter at my prospective college or university. If I have any questions, I will ask the National External Vice President or another National Board Member as they come up.

Name (Printed)

Signature

Date



Prospective Sister Questionnaire

Name:
University/College:
Major:
Expected Graduation Date:
Phone:
Mailing Address:
Email Address:
Year in School:

Personality

1. Romans 1:11-12 says, “I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.” What kind of strengths or gifts do you have, and how do you see them encouraging your future sisters or chapter expansion goals?
2. As Founders of a new chapter, your sisters will need you to be able to lead a chapter through its establishment, through its trials and tribulations. What experience do you have with leadership?
3. We seek to equip sisters for their mission in the world, and sometimes that includes serving and outreaching to others. What experience do you have with service projects/events/roles in these areas that would help you complete these tasks and encourage other sisters to complete them as well?
4. 2 Corinthians 12:10 says, “That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” We never expect our sisters to be without fault, but as a leader of young women, we want to be able to acknowledge and grow through our faults. What are some weaknesses, barriers, and/or competing responsibilities that may hinder your efforts of chapter expansion, and what do you plan to do to address these? If you were to become a part of this ministry, how could we (as a National Board and as sisters) support you in overcoming these obstacles
5. How do your friends describe your personality?

Sorority

1. Why do you want to start a new chapter of Theta Alpha Christian sorority at your prospective university/college? What is your personal vision for Theta Alpha at your campus? How would it change your university/college?
2. What kind of events, besides the ones that are outlined in our Constitution and Bylaws, do you foresee your chapter putting together for sisters?
3. Running any type of student organization is a bit like running a business. While we have plans set in place for chapter tribute and monetary funds, we want to know: How would you steward your finances to grow your chapter and maintain sister morale?
4. Our chapters each serve a main “philanthropy” cause as part of our mission; for example, our Delta Chapter in Orlando serves the Orlando Children’s Church by fundraising for them



through events. Do you have an idea of what kind of cause you would want to serve as a chapter?

Ministry

1. Describe your walk with Christ thus far.
2. 1 Corinthians 12:12 says, “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.” We say that Theta Alpha is a ministry first, then a sorority; that both parts work together to work towards our mission. How would you maintain this standard among your sisters?
3. What does our open motto “As one, for One” mean to you?
4. Are there other Christian ministries for college students at your university/college? If yes, please describe them. How do you envision Theta Alpha serving a different purpose than these groups?
5. Would you be willing to visit a current chapter of Theta Alpha to have a personal encounter with Theta Alpha Christian Sorority (This is not required, but we highly encourage it! We can also set up an online visit!)?