

**BYLAWS OF THE JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY CHAPTER
OF
PHI ALPHA THETA**

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization shall be Tau-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Phi Alpha Theta chapter is to promote the study of History encouraging research, good teaching, publication, and the exchange of learning among historians. It is a professional International Honor Society which seeks to bring students, teachers, and writers of History together both intellectually and socially. We encourage and assist, in a variety of ways, the historical research and publication of our members.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: General Membership Information and Joining Requirements

Membership in this organization is open to all JMU students and will not be restricted on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, color, religion, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation or political affiliation. All regularly enrolled students of James Madison University or members of the faculty shall be eligible for membership in the Tau-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta. Faculty members above the rank of graduate assistant qualify automatically for membership.

Scholastic requirements for membership are as follows:

- For undergraduate students, completion of at least 12 semester hours in History with a grade point average over 3.1, and an overall grade point average of 3.0.
- Graduate students should have completed a minimum of 12 semester hours towards their Master's Degree, have a GPA of better than 3.5, and shall have completed approximately 30% of their residence requirements for their Master's Activities.

There is a one-time membership fee. Membership is for life.

Section 2.1 Regular Chapter Membership Guidelines

Regular Membership is what you obtain when you successfully apply and pay the membership fee to join Phi Alpha Theta. This does not qualify you as a Member in "Good Standing" and thus does not qualify you to receive your red Phi Alpha Theta sash at graduation. [see Art. III, Sec. 2.2 Requirements for Good Standing Membership] A Regular Member may become a Member in Good Standing upon reaching the requirements necessary.

2.2 Requirements for Regular Chapter Membership

1. Successful attainment of credit and GPA requirements outlined in Article III
2. Accepted through the application process.
3. Paid membership dues.

2.3 Entitlements of Regular Chapter Membership

1. Receive one year of *The Historian* – academic journal of Phi Alpha Theta
2. Ability to use membership as C.V. Line
3. Opportunity to participate in Phi Alpha Theta events
4. Lifetime membership in Phi Alpha Theta, transferable to other chapters at other campuses

Section 3.1 Chapter Members in Good Standing

A member deemed to be a Member in Good Standing has taken an active role in Phi Alpha Theta. On top of achieving the requirements to become a Regular Member, [see Art. III, sec. 2.2] a Member in Good Standing has participated in 3 events per semester [see Art. III, sec. 4 Event Guidelines]. Taking advantage of these opportunities has signaled their dedication to both the study of history and the Society and entitles them to receive their red Phi Alpha Theta sash for graduation.

3.2 Requirements for Good Standing Membership

1. All requirements for Regular Membership established in Art. III, Sec. 2.
2. Recorded attendance at 3 events per semester since joining. [see Article III, Sec. 4 Event Guidelines as to what those entail]
3. To achieve the status of a member in Good Standing the member must achieve the requirements in Art. III, Sec. 3.2, in two consecutive semesters or more.

3.3 Entitlements of Good Standing Membership

1. All entitlements of Regular Membership established in Art. III, Sec. 2.
2. Receive red Phi Alpha Theta sash to be worn at graduation.

Section 4.1 Event Guidelines

To be a Member in Good Standing, Phi Alpha Theta members must participate in three events during each semester since they acquire membership. These must be one each of a meeting and a history-related event, with the third being one of the member's choice.

4.2 Event Types

1. Regular or Special Phi Alpha Theta Meetings (such as the Grad School Info Session)
2. Fall/Spring Picnics
3. Movie Nights
4. Lectures sponsored by Phi Alpha Theta or Madison Historians or lectures designated appropriate by officers

5. Used Book Sale
6. T-Shirt Sales
7. Conferences, regional or national
8. Service Projects
9. Phi Alpha Theta leadership may inform members of other events deemed acceptable and an application for acceptable events may be created.

4.3 Recording Attendance

Members will be required to see a Phi Alpha Theta member who has been charged with keeping attendance at certain events. Other means of verification may be accepted and members will be informed as such.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 1. The officers of the Chapter shall be the President, a Vice President, a Secretary/Historian, and a Faculty advisor. These officers shall compose the executive committee of the Chapter.

Section 2. The President shall preside at all meetings, call meetings, appoint committees, and have general supervision of the affairs of the Chapter.

Section 3. The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in the event of his/her absence.

Section 4. The Secretary/Historian shall keep an accurate record of the minutes of each meeting and manage publicity of all activities of the Chapter.

Section 5. The adviser shall be a full time faculty or staff member at James Madison University. The adviser will assume those responsibilities as outlined in this constitution and/or found in University Policy No. 3101 entitled "Faculty Advisers to Student Organizations." The faculty advisor of the Chapter shall be a member of Phi Alpha Theta elected by the executive committee of the chapter and appointed by the Head of the Department of History. The faculty advisor also serves as treasurer and has sole responsibility of the organization's finance in accordance with national requirements.

ARTICLE V: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DURATION IN OFFICE

Section 1. The officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of all regular members of the Chapter, and shall hold office until the next annual election. Officers must be a full time student. Nominees chosen by open nomination.

Section 2. Officers shall only be impeached by a petition of a majority of the members in good standing. Impeached officers shall be removed from office by a 2/3 vote of the membership of the Chapter.

Section 3. The faculty advisor shall hold office until another is appointed or their voluntary resignation to encourage continuity through different executive committees.

Section 4. Interim officers may be selected during the semester by the faculty advisor or executive committee should the need arise. In the semester following their appointment, their position should be held to a vote by the membership.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Section 1. There shall be at least two regular meetings of the Chapter during the academic year. The executive committee of the Chapter may meet as often as necessary to conduct business and may call as many regular meetings as they see fit.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President.

Section 3. The executive committee may plan and organize events they deem appropriate to the stated purpose in ARTICLE II, and these shall be considered as a type of meeting.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Chapter may organize and designate subcommittees to enable the Chapter to better achieve its stated purpose specified in ARTICLE II.

Article VIII: Hazing

“Phi Alpha Theta,” in keeping with JMU’s expectations for a positive academic and social environment, unconditionally opposes hazing. No individual member of our group or the group itself may engage in or plan any activity that may be defined as hazing.

“Phi Alpha Theta” opposes any situation created intentionally to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule to its members or potential members. In addition, no individual nor recognized organization may by physical or mental stress or by subtle or covert technique, impair, make captive, or destroy an individuals’ freedom of thought and choice.

Hazing, under Virginia law, is defined as activities for the initiation or induction into an organization which include calisthenics or other strenuous physical activity; exposure to inclement weather; consumption of food, liquid, beverage, drug or other substance; confinement in any room or compartment; spraying, painting or pelting with any substance; burying in any substance; burning, branding or tattooing or

another activity which may result in physical injury or endanger the health or life of the individual being hazed.

J17-101 Section 18.2-56 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, which declares hazing illegal, establishes conditions for civil and criminal liability and outlines the duties of the university when a student has been found guilty of hazing.

It is hereby incorporated as part of this constitution and will serve as a guide for action by the university and “*Phi Alpha Theta*” if there is an instance of hazing by this organization or any of the members of this organization. It will be the duty of the officers of “*Phi Alpha Theta*” to educate the membership of this policy.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any general membership meeting of the organization by a two-thirds vote of the active members present, provided that the amendment proposed had been submitted in writing to the president and discussed in previous general meeting. The constitution will become final after approval from the Office of Student Activities & Involvement within 10 days of adoption.