

Alpha Zeta Partners

Student Organization Constitution

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

Name Alpha Zeta Partners

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION PURPOSE

The purpose of the fraternity of Alpha Zeta is to bind together a group of men and women interested in the continued advancement of agriculture and natural resources, and to foster and develop high standards of scholarship, character, leadership, and a spirit of fellowship among its members. Alpha Zeta Partners further extends this purpose by focusing on the components of leadership development.

ARTICLE III. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Section A. Harassment and Discrimination, including Sexual Misconduct

Alpha Zeta Partners agrees that it will not engage in sexual misconduct nor any harassment or discrimination on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status or any other basis in accordance with the Student Organization Registration Guidelines.

Section B. Hazing

Alpha Zeta Partners agrees to maintain a zero-tolerance policy for hazing, in compliance with Ohio State University and Collin's Law. All members must conduct themselves in a manner that supports an environment free from hazing. Hazing includes any activity, regardless of consent, that causes or creates a substantial risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm or humiliation to any individual as part of membership or affiliation with the student organization. If found responsible for hazing, members and/or the organization may face disciplinary actions.

Section C. Bylaws

Alpha Zeta Partners retains the right to maintain separate bylaws to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included in the previous articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements set forth by local, state, and federal laws, The Ohio State University's regulations, policies, and procedures, and the Council on Student Affairs (CSA) Student Organization Registration Guidelines. Organizations may make amendments and changes to the bylaws without consulting the Ohio Union & Student Activities department, and changes to bylaws do not require approval. All elements of organizational bylaws shall be consistent with the organization's currently approved constitution on file and CSA constitution requirements.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership Eligibility

Open to students enrolled in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences who have at least two remaining years of study. Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 for students with 30 credit hours or fewer, or a minimum GPA of 3.0 for students with 31 or more credit hours. GPA will be considered as part of a holistic evaluation. Applicants should demonstrate leadership potential or accomplishments within department, college, university, or community organizations, and must show evidence of good character and commitment to community service. This organization follows the University's non-discrimination policy and does not restrict membership based on any protected class. All students who meet the above neutral and generally applicable criteria are eligible for membership.

Section B. Member Selection

There will be an application with a series of short essays for each potential student to complete. From these applications, current AZP memberships shall vote to induct prospective members.

Section C. Membership Timeline

Membership applications will open annually during the fall semester. Interested students must submit all required materials, including short essays, by the designated deadline set by the Executive Committee. Applicants will complete a written application that includes a series of short essays. After applications are reviewed, the current voting membership of Alpha Zeta Partners will vote on each prospective member. A simple majority vote of the voting members present is required for induction. The Executive Committee will verify the vote results and confirm the final list of selected applicants. Newly selected members will be formally inducted

during a designated ceremony held in the spring semester. Inductees will receive an overview of expectations, opportunities, and the membership agreement. Once inducted, members are expected to actively participate in Alpha Zeta Partners events, meetings, and seminars for the duration of their membership. This typically spans two academic years, aligning with the eligibility requirement of having at least two years remaining in their degree program. Upon graduation or completion of the two-year membership period, members will transition to alumni status. Alumni may be invited to participate in select events and serve as mentors or advisors to current members.

Section D. Member Removal

Several criteria serve as grounds for delegation or removal from Alpha Zeta Partners. These are as follows:

1. If a member attends less than 1/2 of AZP events, meetings, or seminars.
2. If a member has fallen below the required 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) for 31 credits or more, or if a member has fallen below the required 3.3 cumulative grade point average (GPA) for 30 credits or less.
3. If a member has failed to meet the terms outlined in the AZP membership agreement.

If a member fails to meet these grounds, removal of the member may be delegated upon. This process shall take place if the member is not meeting the membership requirements, as outlined above. Before removal, the member in violation will have a chance to meet with organization officers and advisors to develop a remediation plan. If this process is not successful or is not achieved, the act of member removal shall be approved by a formal vote before the general body of Alpha Zeta Partners. Member removal shall require a 2/3 vote via the general body.

ARTICLE V. ADVISOR

Section A. Advisor Duties and Responsibilities

There shall be at least one full time OSU CFAES faculty or staff who shall serve as an advisor for the organization at all times. These advisors serve to provide guidance to AZP members and officers, support leadership development, uphold organizational values, and ensure alignment with university policies and procedures. Advisors may also assist with event planning, conflict resolution, and strategic planning as needed.

Section B. Advisor Term

Advisors shall serve a renewable term of one academic year, beginning in the fall semester and concluding at the end of the summer term. Advisors may continue in their role for multiple terms upon mutual agreement between the advisor and the AZP executive committee. Annual review of advisor engagement and effectiveness will be conducted by the officers to ensure continued alignment with AZP goals and member needs.

Section C. Advisor Selection

Advisors shall be selected through a collaborative process led by the AZP executive committee. Nominations may be submitted by current members, officers, or faculty. The committee will review nominees based on their experience, availability, and demonstrated commitment to student development. Final selection will be made by a majority vote of the executive committee, followed by a formal invitation and confirmation of the advisor's acceptance.

Section D. Advisor Replacement

If an advisor is unable to fulfill their duties or steps down from the role, the AZP Executive Committee shall initiate the replacement process. This includes notifying members, soliciting nominations, and conducting a review of potential candidates to ensure they meet university requirements for advising student organizations. Following the review of candidates, the Executive Committee will vote to select the new advisor. A simple majority vote of the Executive Committee is required to appoint a permanent advisor. The committee will then formally notify the selected individual and the membership. In cases of urgent need, an interim advisor may be appointed by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee to ensure continuity until a permanent replacement is confirmed. The advisor replacement process shall prioritize continuity, support for members, and adherence to all university guidelines.

ARTICLE VI. ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP

Section A. Officer Positions

- Chancellor - The chief executive of this chapter. It's their duty to preside over all meetings. The Chancellor shall appoint committees when appropriate. They must also uphold all articles of the constitution.
- Censor - The Censor has the ability to orchestrate the meeting without the Chancellor. Censors provide censorious knowledge on topics in the meeting. It is their duty to provide guidance to the committee chairs of the organization. It is also the duty of

this office to keep a record of meeting attendance.

- Scribe - The Scribe has the duty of keeping the minutes of all meetings and attending to all correspondence of the organization. They shall send reports to the National Office when deemed necessary. It is also his/her job to keep track of new and old business and relay that information to chapter members.
- Treasurer - The Treasurer receives all funds of the chapter and disburses funds as instructed by the chapter. In addition, they are responsible for collecting chapter dues, coordinating invoices to be paid with the national office, and working to create a yearly budget. The Treasurer should also work in conjunction with the Fundraising chair to build up the financial standing of the organization.
- Chronicler - The Chronicler is the historian, recorder, and reporter for the chapter. The Chronicler keeps a complete account of all achievements, addresses, and locations of all members of the chapter as well as provides information to keep the AZP website and social media pages up to date.
- CFAES Student Council Representative - This person shall represent the organization at all CFAES Student Council meetings. Our representative shall serve as the liaison between the organization and the college. In addition, the Council representative shall provide a full report of all council activities at each organizational meeting

Section B. Officer Eligibility

All officers must be enrolled students in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences and must be in good academic standing with the University. Officers must be active members of Alpha Zeta Partners and must have demonstrated consistent participation in meetings, events, and organizational activities. Officers must uphold the values, expectations, and conduct standards of Alpha Zeta Partners and the University. Officer eligibility shall comply fully with the University's non-discrimination policy. No protected class status may be used as a criterion for eligibility or leadership selection.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility for membership is open to students enrolled in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences who have at least two academic years

remaining in their degree program. Applicants must meet minimum academic requirements, including a 3.3 cumulative GPA for students with 30 credit hours or fewer, or a 3.0 cumulative GPA for students with 31 or more credit hours, with GPA considered as part of a holistic review. Applicants should demonstrate leadership potential or involvement in department, college, university, or community organizations, exhibit good character, and show evidence of meaningful community service. All eligibility criteria comply with the University's non-discrimination policy, and membership is open to all students who meet these neutral and generally applicable requirements.

Section C. Officer Selection Process

Election of officers shall be held during the Spring Semester each year. The term of each position shall be one full academic year. Prior to elections, an online form will be distributed to all members so potential candidates can review officer responsibilities and indicate which position(s) they wish to be considered for. Nominations may be submitted through the online form, by self-nomination, or through nominations from the floor by any active member during the designated election meeting. Voting shall take place during a scheduled election meeting and will be conducted by a show of hands. Only active members who are present may vote. Officers are elected by a simple majority vote of the active members present. In the event no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, the two candidates with the highest number of votes will proceed to a runoff vote, with the winner determined by simple majority. The results of the election shall be confirmed and recorded by the Executive Committee, and newly elected officers shall assume their duties at the start of the following academic term.

Section D. Officer Removal

Removal of elected and appointed officers shall take place if the officer is not fulfilling his or her duties as outlined in Article VI of the Constitution. The act of officer removal shall be approved by the executive committee with the approval of the advisor. If the decision is contested, it shall be brought before the general body of Alpha Zeta Partners, and the officer's removal shall require a 2/3 vote.

ARTICLE VII. ORGANIZATION DISSOLUTION

Section A. Dissolution Requirements

Only severe conditions, such as prolonged inactivity, incapacity to fulfill membership or financial responsibilities, or a unanimous decision from the executive committee and advisor(s), would be taken into consideration for the dissolution of Alpha Zeta Partners (AZP). A formal proposal must be sent in writing to the executive committee in order to start the dissolution procedure. Documentation demonstrating the organization's incapacity to continue operations must be included with this proposal, together with an explanation of the reasons for dissolution. The executive committee and adviser or advisers will study the idea, and then the general membership will vote on it. Dissolution must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the general body.

Section B. Dissolution Procedures, including Assets and Debts

Following acceptance of the dissolution, the executive committee will supervise the following processes after consulting with one or more advisors:

Notification: The organization's intention to dissolve must be communicated to the Office of Student Life and the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

Allocation of Assets: Any leftover resources, such as money, materials, or equipment, must be given to a student organization connected to CFAES, a scholarship fund, or a local NGO that shares the goals and ideals of AZP. A majority vote of the remaining AZP members will choose the receiving organization.

Debt Settlement before Dissolution: All existing debts and financial commitments must be paid off. The treasurer will make sure that all accounts are closed and liabilities are settled in compliance with university financial policy, with assistance from the adviser or advisors.

Archiving Records: To maintain Alpha Zeta Partners' history, organizational records, such as meeting minutes, membership rosters, and historical documents, must be archived with the CFAES Student Affairs Office or another recognized university agency.

Final Report: All former members will receive a final dissolution report from CFAES that summarizes the proceedings, conclusions, and asset and record disposition.

ARTICLE VIII. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Section A. Amendment Process

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any active member of the organization or by the Executive Committee. All proposed amendments must be submitted in writing (physical or digital) to the

Executive Committee. Proposed amendments must be distributed to all active members at least one regular meeting prior to the meeting at which the vote will occur. No action may be taken on an amendment during the same meeting in which it is first introduced.

The proposal shall be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next regular meeting, allowing members the opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback, or suggest revisions. Amendments may be voted on during a regular meeting or through a digital voting process if approved by the general membership. A three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the active members present (or of the active members participating digitally) is required for adoption. Amendments approved by the required vote shall take effect immediately unless the amendment specifies a different effective date.