

# *Epsilon Psi Epsilon*

*Organized May 1911*

*at Columbia University*

## *Constitution*

*Revised November, 2025*

### **Student Organization Constitution**

#### **ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

Epsilon Psi Epsilon

#### **ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION PURPOSE**

Epsilon Psi Epsilon shall have for its objectives the pursuit and cultivation of the practice of optometry and the sciences on which the same is based, together with the defense of the rights and elevation of the dignity of the optometric profession.

#### **ARTICLE III. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS**

##### **Section A. Harassment and Discrimination, including Sexual Misconduct**

Epsilon Psi Epsilon *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**

Epsilon Psi Epsilon *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**

Epsilon Psi Epsilon *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**

The members of this fraternity shall consist of alumni, active, and honorary members.

- 1) Any member who ceases to be an active member automatically becomes an alumnus, provided they have graduated from an accredited school or college of optometry. An alumnus shall not have the power to vote or take any active part in regular chapter meetings.
- 2) Students attending the course in optometry shall be elected to membership as provided in this constitution and shall constitute the active members of the fraternity.
- 3) Other persons that have distinguished themselves in optometry, and elected as provided in the constitution, shall be honorary members. Such members will not be granted a right to vote but may take part in the regular chapter meeting.

##### **Section B. Member Selection**

Any student in optometry in good academic standing may propose themselves for membership by signing up to participate in rush week activities through providing an email to the executive board during the first two weeks of Spring semester. The rush week events will consist of various activities aimed at getting the incoming members to meet individuals within both their class and upper classes. Any individual who successfully participates in the activities will be granted membership into the organization. Upon membership, individuals will be provided an EYE handbook and EYE pin to signify their membership.

Any active at any meeting may move that a pledge be depledged, if they are in violation of any of the values outlined in the constitution. If the motion is seconded and passed by ten percent of those present, the pledge will automatically undergo a tribunal within the following week. The tribunal will consist of the pledge in question, their big sibling, the active requesting the depledging, and one of the following: the president or vice-president. The purpose of this tribunal is to make the pledge aware of the complaint against them, and for the members of the tribunal to form opinions so that they can make recommendations to the active chapter. The following week the motion to depledge may be reintroduced under old business, and at that time, the tribunal may state its findings and recommendations. After questions and an open discussion, a vote shall be taken. A ten-percent vote of those present in favor of depledging will result in the immediate depledging of the pledge.

Should any person be defeated in their bid for membership, they may again be proposed for pledgeship after a lapse of one year.

Any eminent person in optometry or its related sciences may be proposed for honorary membership at any regular meeting of a chapter by any active member in good standing. A ballot shall be taken on their fitness. If the vote is not unanimous, they may again be proposed after the lapse of two years. If the vote is unanimous they may be elected to honorary membership following final approval by the Board of Trustees of the Alumni Association.

### **Section C. Membership Timeline**

Recruitment of new members shall occur at the beginning of the spring semester. Upon successful completion of the pledgeship process, as outlined in this Constitution, individuals shall be granted full membership status in Epsilon Psi Epsilon. The active members elected in the manner prescribed above shall be required to complete their membership by paying their initiation fee, as defined in the By-Laws, within two weeks of initiation. To maintain active membership, all members shall remit dues at the beginning of each academic semester in accordance with the financial policies of the Fraternity. Upon graduation from the College of Optometry, members shall automatically transition to alumnus status.

### **Section D. Member Removal**

Any member who shall absent themselves from two consecutive meetings of this chapter without sufficient cause and prior written notice shall no longer be regarded as an active member. Those retired from active membership shall be known as inactive members. They shall not be entitled to vote nor be eligible to hold office, nor shall they enjoy any of the privileges of an active member (all social and professional functions and use of the fraternity facilities). Reactivation shall be at the discretion of the Board.

Any active member who expresses a desire for deactivation may choose either of the two following alternatives:

- a) Temporary deactivation, in which the member wishes to rejoin the fraternity in the future. A \$75 assessment must be paid in full to reactivate, along with dues for the reactivation semester
- b) Permanent deactivation, in which the member must notify the president and turn in their pin and charter, thus signifying complete dissociation from this fraternity.

Any Active member who expresses a desire for deactivation must notify the treasurer by the conclusion of the second week of the semester. Any requests for deactivation after this date are at the treasurer's discretion.

Any member who shall be guilty of malpractice in their profession, who shall commit any offense against the rules of ethics, who shall engage in any conduct calculated to bring odium to this fraternity or embarrasses its operation, or who shall be ineligible for membership in the American Optometric Association, may, after being confronted by their accusers and fairly tried, be expelled by a two-thirds vote from this fraternity.

Failure to present themselves before the active chapter within sixty days after receiving a copy of the charges will automatically bring expulsion from this fraternity and forfeiture of their pin and personal fraternity charter.

## **ARTICLE V            ADVISOR**

### **Section A. Advisor Duties and Responsibilities**

1. The Advisor's responsibilities include:
  2. Assisting the officers of the active chapter,
    1. Attending board and membership meetings when able,
    1. Acting as a liaison between the active chapter, the alumni association of the fraternity, and the academic leadership of the college.

### **Section B. Advisor Term**

1. The Advisor shall serve an indefinite term.

### **Section C. Advisor Selection**

1. The Advisor shall be chosen from the non-probationary faculty of the College of Optometry.
1. The Advisor will be appointed by the dean of the college, with the assent of the Officer Board of the active chapter.

### **Section D. Advisor Replacement**

1. The Faculty Advisor may be replaced by request of the Officer Board or the Advisor, with the final decision made by the dean of the college.
- 2.

## **ARTICLE VI            ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP**

### **Section A. Officer Positions**

1. *Primary Leader - President* - in charge of organizing all of the chapter meetings, connecting with alumni via the alumni board, and securing sponsors for various events. In the case of any ties with in the organization, the president holds the power to break the tie. Upon graduation, the president will serve on the alumni board for at least the next two years.

1. *Secondary Leader - Vice-President-* in charge of the planning the spring banquet each year and determining the fourth year gifts when the individual is a fourth year. The vice president will serve as active president at any event in which the president is unable to attend.
1. *Treasurer-* in charge of making the annual budget, manages donations and sponsors, maintaining the bank account and records of all purchases, as well as filing taxes each year. The treasurer has ultimate say in how the money is used each year and should consult the president as needed.
1. *Treasurer Elect-* learns from the treasurer and helps with any tasks that may need completed. Will become the treasure after serving as elect for one year.
1. *Recording Secretary x2-* takes attendance at all meetings, runs the social media accounts, and makes any presentation or promotional materials for recruitment.
2. *Corresponding Secretary-* creates the annual O-EYE-O magazine and is in charge of finding sponsors and organizing for composite pictures each year.
1. *Sergeant-at-arms-* plans all of the tailgates and buys all of the materials
1. *Members-at-large x2-* helps the sergeant at arms with tasks related to tailgates

#### **Section B. Officer Eligibility**

The offices of President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary shall be held only by members who are entering their third year of optometry courses and who have maintained continuous active membership without any inactive semesters. The office of Treasurer shall be held by members who have been elected as Treasurer-Elect while entering their second year and who will assume the office of Treasurer upon entering their third year. All other officer positions shall be held by members who are entering their second year of optometry courses and who have maintained continuous active membership without any inactive semesters.

#### **Section C. Officer Selection Process**

The nomination of officers shall be open during the Spring semester, and the election and installation of officers shall be conducted at the conclusion of the Spring semester. Newly elected officers shall preside over the first meeting of the following Autumn semester. Officers shall be elected separately by secret ballot, and a majority vote of the active members shall be required for election. In the event that no nominee receives a majority vote, a runoff election shall be held between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes, with the candidate receiving a majority in the runoff being declared elected. Any nominee defeated for an office may subsequently be nominated for another office. The order of elections shall be as follows: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and the two Members-at-Large for the Honor Council.

#### **Section D. Officer Removal**

Any office or Board position that becomes vacant, except for the office of President, shall be filled by a special election conducted in accordance with the procedures established for general elections. In the event that the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall assume the office of President, and the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice President shall be filled as provided above. An elected officer may be relieved of their duties by a vote of the active chapter following a review by the Honor Council. In such a vote, three-fourths of the active membership must be present, and a two-thirds majority of those present shall be required to remove the officer from their position.

### **ARTICLE VII. ORGANIZATION DISSOLUTION**

#### **Section A. Dissolution Requirements**

In the event that Epsilon Psi Epsilon Fraternity, Beta Chapter, ceases to exist, the President of the Alumni Association of Epsilon Psi Epsilon, Beta Chapter, together with the Faculty Advisor, shall oversee the dissolution of the Fraternity in coordination with the most recent Officer Board Members. Dissolution can only occur after a 90% vote for dissolution that would include both the active chapter members and the alumni association and a unanimous vote from the Grand Council. The responsibilities of the Grand Council will be assumed by the Alumni Association of the remaining active chapter if the number of total active chapters is less than two.

Dissolution will be considered if the number of active members falls below ten or if the conduct of the chapter brings odium to this fraternity or the optometric profession.

#### **Section B. Dissolution Procedures, including Assets and Debts**

Upon dissolution, all outstanding debts and financial obligations of the organization shall be satisfied in full. Any remaining assets shall be transferred to the Alumni Association of Epsilon Psi Epsilon, Beta Chapter, to be used for alumni purposes and for the preservation of the Fraternity's legacy. Under no circumstances shall any member of the organization derive personal financial benefit from the distribution of assets.

### **ARTICLE VIII. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

#### **Section A. Amendment Process**

The constitution and by-laws must be reviewed every three years by a committee of active members.

Any amendment or alteration to these by-laws must first be submitted to the active chapter in writing and referred to the following meeting of the Honor Council and Chief Executive for impartial discussion and then brought before the chapter for discussion and voting at the following meeting. A three-fourths affirmative vote is necessary for acceptance and a minimum of two-thirds of the active members must be in attendance at the time of the vote.