



Theta Delta Chi International Fraternity

Transitioning to Alumni Status

Thinking about Transitioning to Alumni Status:

“And on our hearts, inscribed shall be
Theta Chi Delta, when we die.”

Membership is for life. We all probably remember the anticipation we felt as an undergraduate when awaiting initiation into Theta Delta Chi. The experience was supported by the active brotherhood and our big brothers. We can all remember many of the great experiences we had as brothers, and for many of us, we never really thought about the transition to alumni status and what that might mean. When graduation time rolled around, our focus was on getting a job and beginning a life beyond our collegiate years.

When we entered the Fraternity, we were supported by our fellow **undergraduate** Brothers. When we transition to alumni status, we need the support of our fellow **alumni** Brothers. This alumni network can provide professional guidance, career advice, and an expanded social network that brings us back to the “why” of joining Theta Delta Chi. However, this transition should not happen as a one-off experience. A successful transition can begin, with alumni support before graduation day.

Arguably, the purpose of an engaged alumnus would be one who stays involved with other alumni, in an ongoing fashion, for the purpose of the sustainability and growth of the undergraduate experience. The purpose of this document is to provide some suggestions as to actions that alumni can take to assist Brothers in the transition from their undergraduate experience to becoming an alumnus.

Celebrate and recognize the transition

We all like to be recognized in special and significant ways for our achievements. By doing so, the likelihood of those successful behaviors continuing on is increased. Because we are all part of a fraternity, we need to continue to maintain the bonds of friendship in as many ways as possible. Therefore, it is important to find as many ways to celebrate and recognize achievements together as possible.

- Host a dinner for graduating seniors. Have as many alumni attend as available. Make this a special event where each graduating senior is recognized. Perhaps even present them with a gift from the Alumni Association. You might want to include a program to discuss:

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- a. Have them discuss their next steps (see if they need support prior to the dinner):
 - i. Career plans
 - ii. Graduate school
 - b. Have them share their favorite moment as a Brother during their undergraduate years
 - c. Alumni speakers about why and how to be engaged
- Host alumni dinners at the end of each academic year for all undergraduate Brothers and alumni of the Charge. This is a time for alumni and undergraduates to come together to celebrate the achievements of those who are graduating and to honor current alumni.
 - Make a one-time nominal donation to the Educational Foundation on the part of a graduating senior so that their name will appear in the Voluntary Graduate (VG) Dues Honor Roll in the *Shield* magazine. This will honor their achievement and will possibly motivate them to continue donating.
 - Send a letter to the parents of graduating seniors recognizing both the academic achievements of their son along with the contribution they made to the Fraternity. If you give a gift, share that with the parents as well.

Setting the expectation of being an alumnus

We cannot expect seniors to suddenly become engaged alumni if we don't set the expectations for this to happen and if we don't provide opportunities to engage undergraduates in learning the expectations of being an alumnus.

- Create shadowing opportunities for Alumni Board positions
- Involve undergraduates on alumni committees that plan events and social opportunities. A good time to do this is would be for homecoming, anniversary events, golf outings, or alumni dinners.
- Include more that the Charge president on alumni association calls and meetings
- Open each meeting with a recitation of the Preamble and the Ritual open as outlined in the Book of Rituals. Invite undergrads to lead the recitation of the Preamble and act as the herald for the Ritual opening.
- Mentor undergraduate leadership

Model being an engaged alumnus

Much like the recruitment of undergraduates into the Fraternity, we need to also recruit graduating members into alumni associations and activities. This means we need to meet our potential alumni members where they are. They need to see the value in participating as alumni and the value of giving back to the organization. They also need to see other alumni participating in the organization and then be asked to join with their Brothers in participating as an alumnus. There are a variety of actions that alumni can undertake that show value in participating, demonstrate what responsible social actions look like as alumni and

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demonstrate that the values of Theta Delta Chi live beyond the undergraduate experience.

- Make sure all alumni have registered into MyTDX.org and that their profile is current.
- Make sure alumni career profiles are accurate, this will populate the Job Board section of the portal.
- Participate in alumni events at the Charge. If you do not live locally to a Charge, at least support the actions of your alumni association.
- Sponsor career information sessions at your Charge. Homecoming would be a great time to host this.
- Work with the Career Center to provide a workshop on how to leverage your experience with Theta Delta Chi for your resume.
- Consider a mentoring program for undergraduates within their career field with other alumni.
- Volunteer to review resumes and provide editing services to undergraduates at all levels.
- Volunteer to practice interviews with undergraduates.
- Stop by the Charge or contact Charge leadership to offer support and encouragement. Undergraduates enjoy meeting alumni and knowing there is life beyond the undergraduate experience.
- Sponsor an additional delegate to the Preamble Institute.
- Sponsor a non-delegate brother to the annual convention.
- Provide a book scholarship for the undergraduates to use as a recruitment tool.

Encourage alumni engagement

As Brothers prepare to graduate, we need to encourage them to stay connected. Remember that in the first few years out of college, the focus for most of these men is starting a career and possibly a family. It is important, as alumni help this transition and to still remind them of the bonds of brotherhood. The ways these graduates can stay connected are:

- Ensure their MyTDX.org profile is updated
 - Use a permanent email address, rather than a college email address
 - Make sure to continually provide an updated physical address
 - Include a NEW job and location so others might benefit from their experience
 - Update their cell and work phone number
- Join Theta Delta Chi on social media:
 - Facebook
 - Theta Delt Nation
 - Theta Delta Chi Fraternity
 - Charge Specific Facebook groups
 - LinkedIn

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- [Theta Delta Chi Professional Network](#)
- [Theta Delta Chi Fraternity](#)
- [Theta Delta Chi Alumni](#)
- Instagram
 - Theta Delta Chi Fraternity
- Join a Charge Alumni Association and/or look for a Theta Delt alumni association in their area or at a college close to them
- Use mytdx.org to connect with other Brothers in their NEW location. Contact the CFO if help is needed.
- Determine a class captain and make that person the point of contact with the Alumni Association
- [Donate](#) to the Educational Foundation of Theta Delta Chi which supports:
 - Scholarships
 - Charge Grants
 - Programming such Minerva sessions at Convention and Preamble Institute