

Approved February 2021

**Delta Delta Epsilon  
Forensic Science Honor Society**

# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be Delta Delta Epsilon ( $\Delta\Delta E$ ) Forensic Science Honor Society hereinafter referred to as the Society.

## ARTICLE II: MISSION

The mission of the Society is to function as an honor society for students and professionals of forensic science. The activities of the Society shall be designed to stimulate academic achievement, promote community understanding, and advance the fields of forensic science.

Colleges and universities which grant baccalaureate or advanced degrees in one or more forensic science disciplines that support this mission may establish chapters with the Society. Undergraduate and graduate students and professionals of sound scholarship and character who support this mission may be elected to membership.

## ARTICLE III: INSIGNIA

Section 1. The official emblem of the Society shall display the three capitalized initials of the organization ( $\Delta\Delta E$ ).

Section 2. The colors of the Society shall be gold and blue although ribbons holding the chapter medallions may consist of university colors of the local chapter.

## ARTICLE IV: MEMBERS

The Society is a membership corporation, with Active Members and Honorary Members as set forth below. Unless otherwise designated, all references to meetings of Members and other related provisions within this Article shall apply to both Active and Honorary Members.

Section 1. Classes of Members. Individuals shall meet the following minimum criteria for membership. Any chapter, at its discretion, may establish higher criteria.

A. Active Members. Undergraduate, Graduate, or Professional members shall be active members of the Society.

1. *Undergraduate Members.* Undergraduate members shall be students enrolled in an undergraduate program at an institution where a chapter of

Delta Delta Epsilon is located. In addition, Undergraduate members must also satisfy the following:

- a. Shall be enrolled in or recently graduated from a Forensic Science degree program or a degree in a natural science offering a concentration in forensic science. This does not include undergraduate students receiving a minor in forensic science.
- b. Have completed at least 37.5 percent of the total hours/credits required for the forensic science degree.
- c. Have a minimum grade point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale and rank in the top 35% of their class

2. *Graduate Members.* Graduate members shall be students enrolled in a graduate program at an institution where a chapter of Delta Delta Epsilon is located. In addition, Graduate members must also satisfy the following:

- a. Shall be enrolled in or recently graduated from a graduate program in Forensic Science
- b. Have completed 12 semester hours of graduate work or one full-term equivalency for one academic term used by the institution.
- c. Have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale

3. *Professional Members.* Alumni of collegiate chapters may become professional members if they meet the above criteria and elected to professional membership by the Chapter.

B. *Honorary Members.* Honorary membership may be given by a chapter and shall be persons who have made distinctive scholarly and research contributions to Forensic Science.

Section 2. Membership in the Society is open to qualified candidates including persons with disability, without regard to age, color, gender, national origin, race, religion, and/or sexual orientation.

Section 3. Privileges of Membership.

A. Active members shall have the right to vote, hold office, be elected as delegate to the Assembly of Chapters, be elected or appointed to committees of the Society and the chapters to which the members belong provided other uniform criteria are met, and shall have such other privileges as the Board of Directors shall determine.

B. Honorary members shall have all the privileges of active members except the right to vote, hold office, or serve on committees.

Section 4. If a member fails to pay chapter dues, fees, or assessments, active membership shall automatically terminate. A member may be reinstated by payment of required dues, fees, or assessments.

Section 5. A member desiring to resign from the Society shall submit such resignation in writing to their local chapter.

Section 6. Any member having resigned from membership may be reinstated upon application to their local chapter and upon meeting such uniform terms and conditions as may be established by the chapter.

Section 7. Membership in the Society may be suspended or terminated by the chapter for just cause. Sufficient cause for such suspension or termination of membership may be violation of this Constitution or any lawful rule or practice adopted by the Society or other conduct deemed by the Board of Directors to be prejudicial to the best interests of the Society. The chapter may adopt such rules as may be necessary to assure due process to the member. A member suspended or terminated for just cause shall not be entitled to return of dues.

Section 8. The amount of any national dues, fees, and assessments for any class of membership in the Society shall be established by the Board of Directors. Chapter dues will be determined by each chapter. The dues year shall be the same as the fiscal year, July 1 - June 30.

#### ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The officers of this Society shall be the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. To be eligible for any national office, a candidate shall be a member of the Council of Forensic Science Educators (COFSE) and be an active Society member or chapter adviser.

Section 2. The Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary shall be appointed by the COFSE President.

Section 3. Officers shall hold their offices for two-year terms or until their successors are appointed.

Section 4. No member shall be eligible to serve more than three consecutive terms in the same office. A member having served more than half a term shall be deemed to have served a term. The term of office shall begin on March 1 following the COFSE annual meeting.

Section 5. Any officer may be removed for just cause. Sufficient cause for such removal may be violation of this Constitution or any lawful rule, practice, or procedure adopted by the Society or other conduct deemed by the Board of Directors to be prejudicial to the best interest of the Society.

Section 6. Should the office of Chair become vacant, the Vice Chair shall become Chair automatically, to serve for the unexpired term. A vacancy in any other office shall be filled by appointment.

Section 7. No member shall receive compensation for service to the Society, unless specifically authorized by the Board of Directors.

Section 8. The Board of Directors may authorize reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their duties for the Society and prescribe procedures for approval and payment of such expenses.

#### ARTICLE VI: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers shall perform the duties prescribed by this Constitution and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Society.

Section 2. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, and provide leadership of the Society on behalf of the members.

Section 3. The Vice Chair shall preside in the absence of the Chair and fill any vacancy in the office of Chair, recommend appointments for committee memberships to the Board of Directors and shall have such other duties as may be determined by the Board of Directors to accomplish Society priorities.

Section 4. The Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of the Board of Directors and of all decisions made by the Society, develop an annual summary of Society activities and accomplishments for inclusion in the Society history, provide leadership for maintaining the Constitution, and shall have such other duties as may be determined by the Board of Directors to accomplish Society priorities.

#### ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1. The meeting of the Board shall be held commensurate with the American Academy of Forensic Science meetings in February each year.

Section 2. The Board shall be the policy-making body of the Society, subject to this Constitution. The Board may call an Assembly of Chapters which shall consist of the Board of Directors and one delegate from each collegiate chapter.

## ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees may be established by the Board of Directors. To be eligible for service on a national committee, a candidate shall be an active member of the Society.

## ARTICLE IX: CHAPTERS

Section 1. Collegiate Chapters.

A. A chapter of the Society may be established in a college or university in the United States of America and its territories offering a baccalaureate or advanced degree as defined in Article II. The institution shall be fully accredited by its regional accrediting agency, and the program shall meet uniform criteria determined by the Board of Directors.

B. International chapters may be established according to uniform criteria determined in Article II.

Section 2. Chapters in Good Standing. A chapter in good standing shall comply with the Constitution, shall meet uniform criteria determined by the Board of Directors, and shall be current in all financial obligations to the Society. The Board of Directors shall apply uniform criteria to determine those chapters which are not in good standing.

Section 3. Chapters Not in Good Standing.

A chapter shall be declared inactive by the Board of Directors in the event that (1) the institution at which the chapter is located fails to meet the requirements listed in Section 1 of this Article or (2) the chapter requests inactive status.

Section 4. Each chapter shall determine the number of meetings to be held during the year and report the same on the Chapter Annual Report.

Section 5. A chapter must have at least three elected officers representing the functions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor. The elected officers shall be the members of the chapter Executive Committee.

Section 6. Collegiate chapters shall have chapter advisory councils. A Chapter Advisory Council shall consist of one or more members of the faculty of the institution. The Council may also consist of one professional member.

Section 7. Chapter dues shall be determined by the chapter.

Section 8. Chapter names shall be designated according to the Greek alphabet in order of chartering by the Board of Directors.

Section 9. Nomination of Members. Nominations and acceptance of collegiate members shall be made by the Chapter Advisory Council.

#### ARTICLE X: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and any special rules of order the Society may adopt.

#### ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

A Constitution amendment approved by the Board of Directors and the Assembly of Chapters by majority vote may be adopted provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing to the chapters 120 days before the Board meeting. Input provided by any chapter should be considered in final deliberations.