

COLLEGIATE CONNECTION *Handbook*



DELTA SIGMA THETA
SORORITY, INC.

COLLEGIATE CONNECTION *Handbook*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2017 – 2019 National Membership Services,
Collegiate Connection Subcommittee

- 4** Purpose of Collegiate Connection
- 4** Why Transition?
- 5** The Transitioning Checklist
- 5** Collegiate Registry
- 6** The Road to Transition
- 8** Chapter Locator
- 9** Frequently Asked Questions
- 11** Special Scholarship Opportunities



Congratulations!

Sorors,

#ConGraDST on your graduation! We know this is a busy time for you. However, the National Membership Services, Collegiate Connection Subcommittee (CCC) is here to make your transition to an alumnae chapter a smooth process and an exciting experience.

The CCC wants all graduating seniors to have the opportunity to continue serving the sorority in an alumnae chapter. Therefore, the committee has developed this handbook to serve as a resource guide detailing why transitioning to an alumnae chapter is important, essential resources such as the transition checklist, and our newly launched chapter locator, which will help you locate an alumnae chapter in your area.

It's important to remember that Deltas stay #CommittedBeyondCollege by honoring our lifetime commitment to the sorority; so be encouraged and have fun exploring different chapters. Use your membership as an opportunity to build relationships with amazing alumnae sorors, learn new skills while serving on a committee, and enhance your growth: personally, professionally and within Delta. Your brilliance, creativity, and vibrancy will keep us moving forward, and help us continue to fulfill the legacy that was established in 1913 by our 22 founders.

We are excited to assist you in navigating this new journey and we support all of your endeavors.

Sisterly yours,

2017-2019 National Membership Services, Collegiate Connection Subcommittee

Sorors Louisa Tatum, Roberta Berry, Jada Kline, Kelly Page, Chandra Gill, Dalya Sanders, Tamia Thompson and Brittane Wallace.

“Joy In Our Sisterhood...Power In Our Voices.. Service In Our Hearts”



PURPOSE OF COLLEGIATE CONNECTION

- To address the campus life needs of collegiate sorors.
- Increase the rate of collegiate members transitioning to alumnae chapters
- Guide and foster a sisterly relationship between advisors and collegiate sorors; and support collaboration efforts among chapters at both the collegiate and alumnae level
- Assist collegiate sorors in locating an alumnae chapter at their post-graduation location
- To ensure a smooth transition of recent graduates in adjusting to their new membership status, completing the process of joining an alumnae chapter, and settling into a new chapter

WHY TRANSITION?

The Value of Continuing One's Membership In Delta Post-Graduation Would Be:

- Staying true to our promise of sisterhood, scholarship and service
- Serving in our communities and speaking for the unfortunate and weak, ie. using our voice to address social justice issues
- Continuing the strong legacy of Delta
- Professional development
- Networking opportunities
- Increasing knowledge about Delta and staying informed on local, regional or national initiatives by attending DIDs, clusters, regional conferences and national conventions

Why Should I Transition to an Alumnae Chapter?

Transitioning to an alumnae chapter is a MUST for collegiate sorors. The sisterhood, public service opportunities, and network (in Delta) can enhance ones opportunity to achieve current/future goals and open so many doors for transitioning sorors. Surrounding yourself with the esteemed women of our sorority forces one to "level up" and inspires transitioning sorors on the journey to success.

THE TRANSITIONING CHECKLIST:

Discuss the transition process with your Advisor & Alumnae Chapter Collegiate Connection Chair and inquire about these steps:

- Identifying which chapters in post-graduate locations waive local dues for transitioning collegiate members;
- Transitioning documents, an electronic/hardcopy packet of information, which will include committees, committee chairs, activities and events the chapter celebrates; and a chapter orientation to help transitioning collegiate members get acclimated to the alumnae chapter;
- A chapter mentor to assist the new members with questions or concerns they may have;
- Transitioning collegiate sorors may pay dues to their collegiate chapter prior to graduation;
- Complete the Dues Transfer Form and submit it to the alumnae chapter that you decide to join (Appendix 1); **Graduating sorors have no more than 6 months from the time of their graduation to request a transfer of dues. After the deadline, the chapter can use the funds for operations** (Grand Chapter Fiscal Officers Manual, Oct. 2016, p.76).
- Complete the Verification of Membership Form/ Membership Card Form (members.dstonline.org/Special-Pages/Member-Number-Request);
- Collegiate Connection will connect transitioning collegiate sorors with an alumnae chapter that is located in the soror's post-graduation location.

COLLEGIATE REGISTRY

- Transitioning collegiate members are to input their anticipated graduation date and post-graduation location
*Login to Member Portal on National website Sisters Only – Membership tab
- After registration, registrant will be given the contact information for an alumnae chapter(s) in their specified area
- This process will also assist Collegiate Connection in keeping track of how many collegiate members are graduating each year





THE ROAD TO TRANSITION

Graduation marks the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, countless hours of homework, and many sleepless nights. Collegiates of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. are faced with responsibilities that transcend the traditional college experience. While balancing school, work, social activities and Delta responsibilities, wrapping up the school year can be overwhelming and may leave little time to think about transitioning into an alumnae chapter. So...

Collegiate Connection Provides These Steps to Ease Your Transition.



9-12 MONTHS BEFORE GRADUATION

- Ensure you have registered on the Collegiate Registry
- Continue your responsibilities in your local chapter
- Narrow your post graduate plans
- Use chapter locator to identify potential alumnae chapter
- Discuss visiting an Alumnae chapter with your advisor, and connect with the local Collegiate Connection Chairs before your visit.
- Search www.deltafoundation.net for potential scholarships and internships
- Register and sit for graduate entrance examinations or identify potential employers
- Update and finalize your resume
- Prepare a post-graduate budget
- Visit the "Delta Red Pages" to network with Delta business owners in your desired career or educational field



COLLEGIATE CONNECTION

6-9 MONTHS

- Submit applications to graduate schools or to future employers
- Visit the career center at your local college/university to get additional insight on your post-graduation plans, look for internships/jobs, and find alumni working in positions or at companies of interest.
- Make contact and visit with potential alumnae chapters
- Continue your responsibilities in your local chapter
- Apply for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Delta Research Educational Foundation (DREF) Scholarships - www.deltafoundation.net.

3-6 MONTHS

- Confirm your graduation status
- Secure post graduate housing
- Complete all required exit examinations and/or financial aid exit interviews
- Notify your collegiate chapter president and chapter advisor you are intending to graduate
- Decide on the alumnae chapter you will join
- Participate in collegiate transition activities sponsored by local alumnae chapters
- Continue your responsibilities in your local chapter
- Establish a Delta saving account for the upcoming sorority year and begin saving money for dues

0-3 MONTHS

- Prepare for final exams and graduation
- Complete the dues transfer form (located on page 76 of the Fiscal Officers Manual on the national website in the members only section)
- Submit the dues transfer form to the intended alumnae chapter; the alumnae chapter will send the form to your collegiate chapter
- Follow up with both the alumnae and collegiate fiscal officers to ensure the transfer of dues is complete
- Participate in collegiate transition activities sponsored by local alumnae chapters
- Continue adding money to your savings to cover unexpected expenses

Be sure to pace yourself by administering self-care. Preserve your mental, emotional, physical and spiritual health as you begin preparing for your transition.

COLLEGIATE CONNECTION

CHAPTER

LOCATOR



Collegiate members can now **search** for chapters in the **location** where you anticipate living after graduation



Allows collegiate members the opportunity to contact an alumnae chapter prior to moving to the area



Will provide a very important opportunity for collegiate members to begin building a **support system** in your anticipated new city

The **CHAPTER LOCATOR** can be found on the National website www.delta.dstonline.org/DSTMember/Chapter-Locator.aspx

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q. How do I identify the best Alumnae Chapter for me?

A. The best way to find the right Alumnae Chapter is to attend a chapter meeting and connect with sorors – before/after the meeting or at a volunteer event. In addition, get advice from your collegiate chapter advisors, former collegiate chapter members, who have already transitioned, and check out the chapter’s social media pages. Consider location, meeting time, chapter size and other factors when choosing an alumnae chapter. Make sure to do your research to gain insight on whether the chapter will be a great fit for you. No two alumnae chapters are alike.

Q. Who should I contact if I would like to become a financial member of an Alumnae Chapter?

A. For more information on how to become a financial member of an alumnae chapter, you can contact the Collegiate Connection Subcommittee at dstnationalccc@gmail.com.

Q. How long does it take for my dues to transfer over and my name to be added to the Alumnae Chapter roster?

A. The dues transfer process may take up to 30 days, so you may not be added to the chapter’s roster until the process is complete.

Q. What if I submitted my dues transfer form 60 days ago, and I have not been added to the Alumnae Chapter’s roster?

A. Check the Sisters Only Member Portal to ensure that your contact information has been updated. If your information is accurate and you’ve checked your email junk/spam folders, contact the Membership or Collegiate Connection Chair to inquire about your membership status.

(Continue on page 10).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

Q. If I transition immediately after graduation, will my collegiate chapter lose money because my dues are being transferred to the alumnae chapter?

A. For alumnae chapters that waive local dues for recent graduates, the dues transfer form is used to notify national headquarters that your membership status is changing from collegiate to alumnae member; so your collegiate chapter will not lose money.

Q. Upon transitioning to an alumnae chapter, how can I begin to connect/network with alumnae chapter sorors?

A. Attend/volunteer for various chapter events, and upon transitioning serve on committees or request a mentor to develop relationships with other sorors. Also consider joining the Collegiate Connection Committee, as it is a great way to connect with sorors in your age group, current collegiates, and learn more about the chapter.



SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Special Scholarships (for financial Deltas only) of up to \$3000. In order to be considered, your application must be received no later than April 8th of the year.

- **The Julia Bumry Jones Scholarship** in memory of Soror Jones for graduate study related to the area of Communications;
- **The Juliette Derricotte Scholarship** in memory of Soror Derricotte for graduate study related to the area of Social Group Work;
- **The Sadie T. M. Alexander Scholarship** in memory of Soror Alexander for graduate study related to the area of Law;
- **The Myra Davis Hemmings Scholarship** in memory of Soror Hemmings for graduate study related to the area of Arts – Performing or Creative;
- **The Bertha Pitts Campbell Scholarship** in memory of Soror Campbell for study in the area of Education for graduate and undergraduate study;
- **The Vashti Turley Murphy Scholarship** in memory of Soror Murphy for Master's or Doctoral study in the area of Ministry

APPLY TO DELTA SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

In order to be considered for Special Scholarships you **MUST** be a financial Delta.

Go to **www.deltasigmatheta.org**;

Click on Member Portal;

Log on to Members Areas;

Click on National Area – Scholarship and Standards Committee.

***ALL sorors who apply for these scholarships are automatically eligible to receive financial aid money, if you are not selected as the winner.**



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BEVERLY E. SMITH

National President & CEO

CHERYL HICKMON

National First Vice President

JARIA MARTIN

National Second Vice President

ELSIE COOKE-HOLMES

National Secretary

DEBORAH JONES BUGGS

National Treasurer



2017-2019 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

COLLEGIATE CONNECTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

TAYLOR McCAIN, CHAIR |
National Membership Services Committee
Southern Region Miami Alumnae Chapter

KATHERINE BROWN
Membership Services Specialist

LOUISA TATUM, CHAIR | Eastern Region
North Manhattan Alumnae Chapter

ROBERTA BERRY | Eastern Region
Tri-County Maryland Alumnae Chapter

KELLY PAGE | South Atlantic Region
Durham Alumnae Chapter

JADA KLINE | Midwest Region
Madison Alumnae Chapter

CHANDRA GILL | Midwest Region
Chicago Alumnae Chapter

BRITTANEE WALLACE | Southern Region
Memphis Alumnae Chapter

TAMIA THOMPSON | Southern Region
Upsilon Zeta Chapter

DALYA SANDERS | Southwest Region
Collin County Alumnae Chapter

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING TRANSITIONING TO AN ALUMNAE CHAPTER OR ANY OTHER QUESTIONS,
contact Soror Louisa Tatum, Chair, National Membership Services,
Collegiate Connection Subcommittee at dstnationalccc@gmail.com.

THE COLLEGIATE CONNECTION SUBCOMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK

the Collegiate Transition Taskforce (CTT), who first developed the template and the resources for this handbook. In addition, we would like to extend a special thanks to Soror Pandora Frazier, Graphic Artist and Designer, and the Delta Membership Support Services Subcommittee for their contributions to the Collegiate Connection Handbook.



