



Theta Tau

Engineering Leaders for Service, Profession, and Brotherhood

Theta Tau

In addition to the desirable attributes of a general fraternity, Theta Tau offers a common bond: an interest in the pursuance of engineering in its various branches. It is more than just a club to which one belongs for a couple of years while a student. Membership in Theta Tau is for life. Not only is Theta Tau interested in developing academic skills, but it is also deeply involved in developing character. Character includes those qualities that make an individual distinguishable as a professional. Engineering is advancing so fast that technical knowledge is becoming obsolete at an ever-increasing rate. Further, when one changes jobs, some of his technical knowledge will no longer be of use. Professional character remains regardless of an engineer's career path.

A Theta Tau Chapter provides a program of activities to meet the social and professional needs of its members. A professional development program generally includes plant tours, speakers, workshops, and interaction with alumni. Social events often include picnics, parties, trips to other chapters, and intramural sports. Chapters often have community service projects through which the college or needy residents benefit from the philanthropic efforts of members. Theta Tau encourages its members to become involved in student government and to seek other worthwhile leadership positions. Most of all, Theta Tau encourages personal and professional growth. Self-expression, affection, helpfulness, understanding, sharing joys as well as sorrows, all these are instinctive and human emotions. They lift the human being higher than mere physical existence — so not to become simply a cog in the machine of industry.

It is not the fine houses that Theta Tau has, it is not its numbers, it is not the prominence of alumni, but it is the fraternal bond, its teachings and practices, its unselfish and enduring friendships, by which its usefulness is measured. Theta Tau differs from other organizations to which our members often belong. The Professional Fraternity combines the desirable features of general fraternities, technical societies, and honor societies to prepare its student members for the engineering profession and the lifetime ahead.

The Difference

Theta Tau differs from other organizations to which our members often belong. The Professional Fraternity combines the desirable features of general fraternities, technical societies, and honor societies to prepare its student members for the engineering profession and the lifetime ahead.

A General Fraternity

A fraternity offers its members a life long bond of brotherhood and activities to promote their educational objectives. A general characteristic of fraternities is that membership is by invitation only, membership is for life, and a ritual proclaiming the ideals of the organization is revealed to its members upon initiation. Fraternity members generally have a higher GPA and are more likely to graduate than the overall student body. A general fraternity can organize only the social life of its members.

A Technical Society

A technical society offers publications and meetings to improve one's technical abilities. Technical societies also offer contact with others in the same field and advance the profession by sponsoring continuing education. Theta Tau encourages participation in technical societies. Technical societies do not generally develop interpersonal or communication skills. Attending a technical society meeting is not unlike attending a class. Membership in a technical society lasts only as long as dues payments continue.

An Honor Society

An honor society offers its members recognition for academic excellence. Membership is usually granted to those who have a GPA exceeding a certain value or who are in some top percentage of the class. When employers see a GPA, however, membership in an honor society generally offers no additional information. Honor societies do little to develop the personal or professional life of their members. What then can a member say that he received from membership? Theta Tau promotes academic excellence, but wants more than insignia wearers or résumé fillers as members.

History

Founded October 15, 1904, at the University of Minnesota, Theta Tau is the oldest and largest professional engineering fraternity. Its purpose is to develop and maintain a high standard of professional interest among its members and to unite them in a strong bond of fraternal fellowship. A prospective student member may be initiated once receiving the favorable vote of a chapter's student members.

Once initiated, you will receive, a lifetime subscription to the magazine *The Gear of Theta Tau*. Your chapter (or the chapter in your area) will invite you back for special events and may ask you to speak as a practicing engineer.

Balanced Program

Theta Tau encourages its chapters to provide a healthy balance of community service, professional development, and brotherhood/social activities for its members. It is the diversity of activities which creates a balance program and a more meaningful undergraduate fraternity experience. While this does not inherently mean equal thirds of each type of activity, our analysis shows that our chapters collectively conduct about 250 service, 250 professional, and 300 brotherhood events in a given year.

Employment & Education

Employers place communication and leadership skills above all else in the selection of new employees. Grade point average testifies to one's academic ability, but academic excellence is not the only key to success.

Even the best idea is useless if you cannot convince others of its worth. Employers are seeking those with high ideals, credibility, and integrity. Interpersonal and leadership skills cannot be learned from a daily lecture, but only through experience. Theta Tau can help you develop these skills as well as provide a positive environment to improve technical skills. Developing your personal abilities and professional character while enjoying brotherhood with other members — that is what Theta Tau is all about!



The National Fraternity

Being a member of Theta Tau Fraternity offers distinct advantages over membership in some local organization. Some benefits are:

- RECOGNITION
- LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP
- NATIONAL & REGIONAL MEETINGS
- INTERACTION
- AWARDS
- STABILITY
- VISITATION
- PUBLICATIONS
- LEADERSHIP TRAINING & OPPORTUNITY
- PUBLICATIONS

Being a member of the oldest and largest engineering fraternity is not important in itself, but people are. A member's professional and personal development is the benefit of membership. Life after college is important, and membership in Theta Tau is for life, not just for a few collegiate semesters. The reputation of its members working throughout their profession establishes the fraternity's reputation. Alumni coming back to their chapters and campuses provide the opportunity to nurture personal friendships and professional contacts.

The Central Office maintains membership records and can supply an address of a friend from college or a list of other Theta Tau members living nearby. National Conventions, Regional Meetings, and Leadership Academies are held to help the members, the chapters, and the fraternity at large. Interaction with other engineering students and alumni from across the nation is an opportunity not available to most undergraduates. Theta Tau offers awards for outstanding personal and chapter achievements. Through visitation from national officers and other alumni, the stability of each chapter can be maintained. Publications are available to help manage the chapter in a professional manner.