

# Constitution of the University of Montana's Chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha

## Preamble:

The University of Montana's Master of Public Administration (MPA) Chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha (UMPAA) is a chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA), a registered Trademark of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA).

UMPAA serves the students, alumni, and associates of the University of Montana engaged in public policy, affairs, and administration. The Chapter strives to enhance the experience of its members by providing opportunities for professional development, networking, and public service through academic and professional support.

## Article I: Name

This chapter shall be known as the University of Montana Chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha: The Global Honor Society of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration. This chapter shall be abbreviated as UMPAA.

## Article II: Purpose

The purpose of UMPAA shall be to foster high-level, innovative scholarship and accomplishment in public policy, affairs and administration. This is accomplished through the assertion of public service values, which are at the core of the University of Montana's MPA program. By emphasizing integrity, ethical conduct, serving the public interest, fairness, accountability, and transparency in the public sector, the program strives to cultivate and promote these values in students, alumni, and associates.

## Article III: Membership

### Section One: Qualifications

Membership in UMPAA shall be limited to those who have demonstrated academic excellence and achievement. Criteria for membership include a 3.7 GPA at the time of application (current student) or at completion of degree (alumni). For current students, 18 credits (50%) of the MPA program at the University of Montana must be completed at the time of induction. There is no restriction to the number who may be inducted.

### Section Two: Classes of Membership

Membership shall be limited to the following classes of membership: student, alumni, faculty, and honorary. Membership in a local chapter constitutes global membership with the national organization of Pi Alpha Alpha.

#### A. Student Membership

##### I. Master's Degree Students

- a. A graduate student may be inducted from among MPA students who have maintained a GPA of at least 3.7 for 50 percent of the required coursework (a minimum of 18 semester hours). A GPA of 3.67 or above can be rounded up to qualify.

## 2. Transfer and Doctoral Students

- a. Transfer or doctoral students who meet the qualifications for graduate membership may be inducted. A transfer student with preexisting membership shall be included into the local chapter.

## B. Alumni Membership

Those University of Montana MPA alumni who meet all the requirements of student membership may be inducted as alumni members. Student members shall become alumni members upon graduation. If an alumni member relocates to a city where there is another chapter, they may also affiliate with the other chapter.

## C. Faculty Membership

Any faculty member offering course work in public policy, affairs or administration in University of Montana's MPA program may be elected to faculty membership by UMPAA.

## D. Honorary Membership

### 1. Local Honorary

- a. Any person who has achieved distinction in public policy, public affairs or public administration and who possess the distinguished qualities that Pi Alpha Alpha foster may be inducted to honorary membership in UMPAA. UMPAA may induct as many as two individuals per year without express approval of the NASPAA Pi Alpha Alpha Special Ad Hoc Committee. Prior to induction of more than two honorary members, UMPAA must request and receive approval by the Ad Hoc Committee.

### 2. National Honorary

- a. A person who has made a particularly distinguished contribution to public policy, public affairs or public administration through practice or education may be inducted to national honorary membership.

## Section 3 - Nomination for Membership

UMPAA shall have a nominating committee consisting of at least three members, two of whom shall be members of the full-time faculty teaching in the MPA program and one student officer. The nominating committee will review applicants.

## Section 4 - Induction

Induction ceremonies shall be held once per academic year. Upon the Committee's discretion, inductions may be held semi-annually in the event of a large number of inductees.

## Section 5 - Dues

Each fellow shall pay such initiation fees and annual dues as may be prescribed by UMPAA and the NASPAA Pi Alpha Alpha Special Ad Hoc Committee.

## Section 6 - Remaining in Good Standing

### 1. Chapter Good Standing

- a. UMPAA shall perform the duties described in this Constitution to the best of its abilities and in good faith. Failure to do so shall result in the suspension of inductions and activities while UMPAA becomes inactive.

## 2. Student Member Standing

- b. All members shall remain in good standing by maintaining academic excellence and remaining in good faith with University of Montana's Student Code of Conduct. Failure to do so may result in the suspension or termination of the right to engage in UMPAA activities.

### Article IV: Inclusion

- A. UMPAA events and activities shall not be exclusive to members only.

### Article V: Chapter Organization

#### Section 1 - Officers

UMPAA shall be governed by a council of officers including a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Outreach Coordinator, and Chapter Advisor. With the exception of the Chapter Advisor(s), all positions shall be elected into office.

- A. President

The President shall preside over all meetings and serve as the principle representative of UMPAA.

- B. Vice-President

The Vice-President shall serve in the capacity of the President during such times as the President may be absent, and may perform other duties the Council assigns.

- C. Secretary

The Secretary shall serve in the capacity of the President during such times as both the President and Vice-President may be absent. This office shall keep the official minutes for UMPAA, and perform other duties the Council assigns.

- D. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall collect all dues and perform all other financial duties the Council assigns.

- E. Outreach Coordinator

The Outreach Coordinator shall perform duties relating to member recruitment and event organization.

- F. Chapter Advisor(s)

The Chapter Advisor(s) shall be a member(s) of University of Montana's MPA faculty and shall perform the duties associated with this office.

#### Section 2 - Terms & Elections

- A. Terms

All elected officers shall assume their positions following an annual election. Terms shall last one calendar year, and each elected officer shall be limited to two consecutive terms in a single office.

B. Eligibility

All existing members who remain in good standing with UMPAA may self-nominate for office.

C. Election

Elections shall be held for each office every spring semester. All members (students, alumni, and associates) retain the right to vote. A simple majority shall be required to succeed each office. In the event of a tie, a two-thirds vote from the incumbent Council shall decide the successor. Should a vacancy occur in any office, except the Chapter Advisor(s), it shall be filled by special election.

Section 3 - Meetings

- A. The UMPAA Council shall hold monthly meetings. The President and Chapter Advisor(s) reserve the right to call special meetings. Regularly scheduled meetings shall remain open to attendance by all members and prospective members. Meetings shall remain accessible via in-person or remote participation. A quorum of Officers shall be present at each meeting.

Article VI: Amendments

- A. The Constitution of UMPAA may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Council and with the approval of the Chapter Advisor(s).