

# THETA TAU

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING FRATERNITY





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Founded

University of Minnesota  
October 15, 1904.

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Within each closely-knit chapter, the fraternity stimulates professional activity and social compatibility, and provides the framework for group participation, recreation, and lasting friendship.

The various types of Greek-letter organizations are sometimes confused. The system may be shown schematically by this diagram, which includes a long-established example of each type of organization.

## GREEK-LETTER ORGANIZATIONS

<b>Fraternities</b>	<b>Societies</b>
General (social) Kappa Alpha	Honor Tau Beta Pi
Professional Theta Tau	Recognition Alpha Phi Omega

A characteristic of Greek-letter organizations generally is that membership is by invitation only, and is for life. **Fraternities** traditionally elect to membership only by the unanimous secret vote of their active members. Care is exercised to select men of high personal quality who are capable students. The high scholastic average regularly required by honor societies is not, however, required for fraternity membership.

Within his professional field, a man may belong to only one professional fraternity, but he may also belong to a general fraternity and to honor societies.

In 1928, Theta Tau was a founding member of the Professional Interfraternity Conference, which today, through its 31 member fraternities in the various professional fields, represents well over a half million professional men.



The PIC has presented this definition: "The professional fraternity confines its membership to qualified students (plus faculty, graduate, and honorary members) in an organized curriculum leading to a professional degree in that field, has a minimum scholastic requirement for membership, elects its members after a careful investigation and generally by secret ballot. It initiates its student members early in their professional college life, enabling them to participate actively and beneficially in the professional aims of the fraternity, holds frequent meetings, conducts professional and social activities, and frequently maintains a chapter house or quarters. Professional fraternities also sponsor programs of special value to alumni members."



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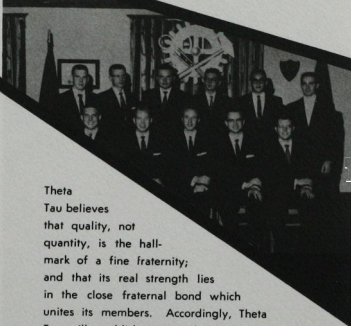
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The jeweled badge of Theta Tau, worn by these new initiates pictured, denotes student engineers throughout America and professional engineers throughout the world who are among the more than 16,000 members of the fraternity.

Theta Tau alumni practice and teach in every phase of engineering endeavor.



Theta Tau believes that quality, not quantity, is the hallmark of a fine fraternity; and that its real strength lies in the close fraternal bond which unites its members. Accordingly, Theta Tau will establish a new chapter only in an accredited degree-granting school. In the United States, accreditation by the Engineers' Council for Professional Development (ECPD) of at least one curriculum (and preferably of several) is required before a school will be considered actively as a potential chapter site. Further, no chapter may have more than fifty actives at one time.

Because of its policies of careful extension and limited chapter size, Theta Tau is not large in comparison with many social fraternities or honor societies. Nevertheless, it is the largest (as well as the oldest) professional fraternity in the general engineering field.

Through its Biennial Conventions and Regional Conferences, Theta Tau provides an opportunity for representative members of each chapter to convene annually. These meetings are most valuable to the units of the fraternity. Virtually the entire expense of these meetings is borne by the national fraternity.

Through the magazine, **The Gear of Theta Tau**, provided to each initiate for life, contact is maintained with alumni everywhere.

Through periodic official visits made by the national officers, the fraternity is assured that each chapter's operation continues to be a credit to its school and to  
Theta Tau.

As a professional fraternity, Theta Tau offers its members a well-balanced program. Each chapter's professional development program includes regularly scheduled presentations on subjects of interest to engineering students. Social activities include both stag affairs and parties with dates and wives. Each member is encouraged to participate fully in the technical society in his field, and as fully as his abilities and academic load will permit in intramural sports and other worthwhile campus activities. Since all members have a common interest in engineering, they can help and encourage one another on academic problems. Annual service projects are undertaken by most chapters.

Alumni associations have been established in major centers of engineering activity. In these, alumni in the area join together for fellowship.

Each chapter is expected to maintain a permanent headquarter. A minimum adequate headquarter is a chapter room for the virtually exclusive use of its members for meetings, for relaxing together, etc. About half of the present chapters occupy houses offering lodging and eating facilities for their members.

Theta Tau draws its initiates from among men studying or practicing one of the 32 branches of engineering recognized by the Engineers' Council for Professional Development.

The fraternity takes pride in the fact that there are on its rolls of student initiates many who have now prominently distinguished themselves in their profession.

Theta Tau is pleased to be associated, through its 25 active chapters, with the following schools:

University of Alabama . . . University of Arizona  
. . . University of Arkansas . . . University of California  
. . . Case Institute of Technology . . . Colorado School  
of Mines . . . George Washington University . . . Uni-  
versity of Houston . . . State University of Iowa . . .  
University of Kansas . . . University of Louisville . . .  
Michigan College of Mining and Technology . . . Uni-  
versity of Minnesota . . . Missouri School of Mines and  
Metallurgy . . . Montana School of Mines . . . North  
Carolina State College . . . Ohio State University . . .  
Purdue University . . . South Dakota School of  
Mines and Technology . . . Syracuse Uni-  
versity . . . University of Utah . . . Utah  
State University . . . University of  
Virginia . . . Wayne State  
University . . . Universi-  
ty of Wisconsin.



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