

Beta Gamma Sigma General Statement on Conduct

Beta Gamma Sigma is a scholastic honor society, recognizing students primarily on the basis of their academic achievements. At the same time, the society proudly states as one of its purposes the fostering of integrity in the conduct of business operations and, additionally, that its membership is composed of those persons of high scholarship and good moral character.

It is clear that the invitation to membership is one that must be earned. First, a prospective member must demonstrate that he or she has performed academically at a level deserving of the highest recognition. The bylaws of the Society are very detailed on the definition of this qualification.

The articles of incorporation add that members must be of "good moral character." This is a more subjective standard, and many, perhaps even most chapters accept that prospective members meet this standard unless there is compelling evidence to the contrary such as honor code violations or conviction of serious offenses.

The Beta Gamma Sigma ritual expands on this concept and provides some additional guidance:

- Beta Gamma Sigma is the scholastic honor society dedicated to principles and ideals essential to a worthy life as well as to a commendable business career.
- Honor is personal integrity and excellence of character. It is an enduring quality found in all persons who deserve to lead others.

This does not demand that the Society only recognize those who are perfect, for that may not be attainable.

All honorable persons conscientiously seek to recognize, to uphold, and to encourage that which is ethical and that which is just. With humility, they acknowledge human failings which tend to induce the sacrifice of lofty ideas for base gains. They are aware of the difficulty of distinguishing right from wrong when confronted by a variety of alternative goals and a multitude of pressures and means to achieve those goals. But their honor is coupled with resolute courage. They may falter and they may fail. Yet they rise with renewed determination to do what is right. Their reputations are their most priceless possessions.

The Philosophy of the Judicial System at many universities expresses two significant aims. Firstly, the judicial system is intended to assist students in developing decision-making skills, personal discipline, an understanding of their responsibilities, and personal insight. Secondly, however, there is an acknowledgement that administrators of the system have a responsibility to protect the rights of other community members and to support the integrity of the academic mission.

Both the Beta Gamma Sigma documents and university Codes of Conduct acknowledge that ethical or right behavior is a goal to be aspired to and that unethical behavior can be a basis for discipline or denial of certain benefits, and in the case of Beta Gamma Sigma that could mean that invitation to membership would not be made.

Where Beta Gamma Sigma or chapters have compelling evidence that members have exhibited unethical, immoral or behavior that calls into question their personal integrity and commitment to recognize, uphold, and encourage that which is ethical and that which is just, such circumstances may be a basis for withholding or revoking membership. Such action is carefully analyzed to ensure members are being treated fairly and in a manner commensurate with their violation.

