

Recognition Ceremony- Sample Script

Introduction and Welcome

On behalf of the Beta Gamma Sigma Board of Governors and the Global Headquarters staff, we/I would like to welcome you to this membership recognition ceremony. You have been invited to become a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, as you have shown an outstanding aptitude for business studies and have demonstrated your work ethic and determination. This event is a testament to your hard work. We are honored to have you join us as a new member.

This recognition ceremony symbolizes your induction into a very exclusive group of top business scholars. Beta Gamma Sigma chapters are only permitted to establish at business institutions who have worked to attain prestigious AACSB accreditation. Currently, only 820 universities have earned this accreditation. Of that number, 600 have established a Beta Gamma Sigma chapter. From the pool of Beta Gamma Sigma chapters, only the top 10% of undergraduate students, the top 20% of graduate students and some of the most accomplished business practitioners are eligible to be recognized as a member.

History of the Organization and Members

Beta Gamma Sigma's origin dates back to the earliest years of the 20th century. During that time, business students were largely excluded from consideration for other societies recognizing academic excellence. As such, three student recognition societies on the campuses of the University of California-Berkley, University of Illinois and the University of Wisconsin came together in 1913 to establish a national organization which was named Beta Gamma Sigma. This name was chosen to represent the initials of three distinguished business professors at the University of Wisconsin.

Over 100 years later, Beta Gamma Sigma is the largest organization in the world to honor business school students and graduates. Beta Gamma Sigma membership is the highest honor a business student, attending an AACSB accredited institution can achieve. Members are all over the world and currently reside in over 190 countries. BGS members serve in a wide array of industries and are not focused on one specific professional area. This allows unique opportunities for our members to network with a variety of other business professionals from all walks of life.

Principles of Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS Ritual)

(Members of the chapter are seated in the rear of the room; the officers, in their respective positions at the front of the room.)

President:

Members of _____ Chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma, we will now proceed with the recognition of newly elected members. (Selected Chapter Officer), you will present the candidates.

Optional: (The new student members are escorted into the room in single file, alphabetical order. Prospective faculty members may enter earlier with the officers, but must subscribe to the pledge with the other new members. The prospective new student members are formed in a line, semicircle or compact square facing the chapter members. The inducting officers stand at one side, between the chapter members and the prospective new members.)

Selected Chapter Officer:

Mr. (or Ms.) President, I present (number) candidates for membership in Beta Gamma Sigma. They are (choose to read names in alphabetical order, or state they can be found in your program).

President: (to candidates)

Do you desire to be admitted to Beta Gamma Sigma? If so, say "I do."

Each Candidate: I do.

President:

You have been honored by an invitation to membership in Beta Gamma Sigma. Because of what you have achieved in scholarship and service, we are honored to have you join us.

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.

The Mission of the International Honor Society Beta Gamma Sigma is to encourage and honor academic achievement in the study of business, to foster personal and professional excellence, to advance the values of the Society, and to serve its lifelong members.

The principles of Beta Gamma Sigma are represented by three Greek words, the initials of which form the name of our Society. BETA (pause) GAMMA (pause) SIGMA (pause).

Hear now what BETA means to us.

STATEMENT OF BETA

(The speaker who presents the explanation of BETA faces the inductees.)

BETA Representative:

Beta is the initial letter of the Greek word BEBAEOS (Beb-i-os), which signifies honor.

Honor is personal integrity and excellence of character. It is an enduring quality found in all persons who deserve to lead others.

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.

All honorable persons recognize their duties before they demand their rights. They respect law and promote order not because of a negative fear of sanctions but because of an affirmative conviction that a good society requires the stability which order provides.

Worthy members of Beta Gamma Sigma consciously seek to act honorably at all times. Thus they confidently pursue peace of mind and happiness for themselves even as they serve as an exemplar for others.

Honor is a guiding star which encourages altruism, enlightened social responsibility, and service rather than selfishness.

I ask you to accept Honor as an ideal to be translated into reality in your conduct every day of your life.

President:

Listen now to the explanation of GAMMA.

STATEMENT OF GAMMA

(The speaker who presents the explanation of GAMMA faces the inductees.)

GAMMA Representative:

Gamma is the initial letter of the Greek word GNOSIS (no-sis), which means wisdom.

Wisdom is knowledge tested by experience and tempered by discerning judgment. It abhors prejudice, it insists upon freedom of thought and expression.

Truly wise persons are aware of their talents and achievements and do not deny or belittle them with misplaced modesty. However, they are also acutely aware of their own limitations and are sympathetic to the shortcomings of others. They are quick to acknowledge their profound dependence on masters who have gone before them. They laud those who have laboriously built earlier civilizations and they gratefully accept the rich intellectual and cultural heritage they have provided. They are, moreover, thankful for contributions to their development made by family and friends, by superiors and subordinates, by associates and antagonists.

Persons of wisdom constantly seek a better comprehension and more fruitful application of what is known. They are also endlessly engaged in a quest for an understanding of what is unknown. Although the fund of human knowledge has literally multiplied in recent decades, the wise person happily anticipates a future which promises to provide a geometric expansion of this treasure store. Confronted by a veritable flood of facts and concepts, the person of wisdom exercises special discrimination to select, to arrange, to relate, to interpret, and to apply. This is a challenge worthy of the finest mind.

I ask you to continue your quest for Wisdom. Nurture it and utilize it in your conduct every day of your life.

President:

Listen finally to the explanation of SIGMA.

STATEMENT OF SIGMA

(The speaker who presents the explanation of SIGMA faces the inductees.)

SIGMA Representative:

Sigma is the initial letter of the Greek word SPOUDE (spoo-day), which means earnestness.

Earnestness is enthusiasm measured by achievement, disciplined by reason and ennobled by sincerity. It is that dynamic quality which is essential for all great achievement.

Earnest persons reject both temerity and timidity. They have courage to match their convictions. They inspire confidence, invite action, and generate progress.

Without Earnestness, both Honor and Wisdom lose much of their potential effectiveness. Noble purposes, defined with wisdom and upheld with honor, remain evanescent dreams without the driving power of sensible enthusiasm. The greatest personal achievements are tributes to the blending of honor, wisdom and earnestness in the minds and hearts of those who lead. Rewards for the individual and progress for society surely proceed from this wholesome union of qualities.

To each of you, much has been given in mind and body and spirit. Of each of you, accordingly, much is expected. Earnestness will help provide the perseverance that dispels weariness, the forward thrust that overcomes opposition and the resilience that rebounds from reverses. To the earnest person, problems become opportunities for service and profit.

I ask you to accept Earnestness as a guide and stimulant in your personal conduct every day of your life.

President:

You have heard the principles which members of BETA GAMMA SIGMA endorse and strive to uphold: HONOR, WISDOM and EARNESTNESS. Do you accept these principles as your own? If so, say "I do."

Candidates: I do.

President:

Please repeat after me a statement in which you formally accept the principles of Beta Gamma Sigma.

(If any candidate objects to taking an "oath" or "pledge," that candidate may be excused at the discretion of the chapter.)

I pledge myself to maintain and uphold / the ideals and principles of Beta Gamma Sigma, / the scholastic business honor society. / I will guard and cherish Honor; / I will strive ever to acquire Wisdom / and use it for the betterment of mankind; / I will cultivate Earnestness in all my undertakings. / As a member of this chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma, / I will recognize my obligation to assist and cooperate / in the development of its purposes. / I will seek by all honorable means / to advance the interests of the College/University, / of my community and of my nation.

President:

Do you affirm this pledge? If so, say "I do."

Candidate: I do.

President:

In recognition of your accomplishments and of your pledge to high ideals, we will now present to you the key of Beta Gamma Sigma. This key is a symbol of the ideals of Honor, Wisdom and Earnestness which you have accepted.

(Selected Chapter Officer presents the keys to candidates as their names are read by the president.)

Closing and Congratulations

Please accept my/our sincerest congratulations and welcome to Beta Gamma Sigma.