

## WHAT IS ΑΓΣ?

Alpha Gamma Sigma is the California Community College Scholastic Honor Society. AGS is dedicated to promoting scholarship, character, and civic responsibility statewide in California's community colleges. Membership in ΑΓΣ demonstrates you can balance philanthropy, leadership development, and academic excellence. Founded in 1926, ΑΓΣ seeks to assist students in their goals by encouraging achievement and volunteering, in building social and professional networks, and by giving information and focus needed for success.

- Α** – Alpha is “Arête” meaning **“Excellence”**
- Γ** – Gamma is “Gnosis” meaning **“Knowledge”**
- Σ** – Sigma is “Sophrosyne” meaning **“Wisdom”**

Thus, our motto: “Add to good character, knowledge and judgment.”

Alpha Gamma Sigma is the sum of its members in the Chapters throughout the state. Pasadena City College has the distinction of the initial AGS chapter established – thus the Alpha chapter – under our first AGS advisor, Miss Kathleen D. Loly. By associating with AGS, you inherit an honor and reputation maintained over nearly a century. You in turn have the charge to uphold that distinction for next semester's members coming into AGS.

- By your membership, colleges see your interests beyond academics;
- By your participation in fundraisers you grow AGS award amounts;
- By your activity you qualify for scholarships;
- By your involvement you learn and practice leadership;
- By your volunteering you better the community.

The student members and faculty advisors are committed to promoting social activities for its membership and honoring excellence in scholarship.

## THE FOUR TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

- **Temporary Membership** is granted to students entering their first semester of community college who either are lifetime members of the California Scholarship Federation (CSF) or have graduated a U.S. high school with a GPA of at least 3.5.
- **Initial Membership** is granted to students who have at least 12 semester units of college courses with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.
- **Continuing Membership** is for qualifying Initial members who were in AGS for at least one semester and who maintain at least a 3.0 GPA, either in the preceding semester, or in all college coursework going back up to 2 years. With 30 semester units they may wear the silver ΑΓΣ pin.
- **Permanent Membership** is granted to Continuing Members. Students are eligible to petition by application for Permanent Membership during the semester in which they
  - complete 60 semester units in degree-appropriate college courses, of which at least 54 units are for a grade (not as CR/No Credit),
  - have completed at least 30 of these units at the Community College level,
  - are currently registered as a Continuing Member, and

- meet one of the following criteria:
  1. If you are in your 2nd semester of AGS membership, you complete the semester with a cumulative 3.50 GPA or higher in all recognized college courses; or
  2. If you are in your 3rd semester of AGS membership or more, you complete the semester with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 in all recognized college courses.

Permanent members are entitled to benefits such as wearing the prestigious gold ΑΓΣ pin and special recognition at Commencement by wearing the distinguished gold stole. Additionally, for permanent members all future membership dues are waived.

Permanent Membership applications are considered only after all conditions of Continuing Membership have been fully satisfied, such as meeting attendance, payment of dues, GPA verification for the concurrent semester, and AGS and community service hour requirements.

## **APPLICATIONS AND DUES**

To obtain membership in AGS, you need to complete the entire application process and be established as a member in good standing. Good standing status constitutes proper completion of the application process, current enrollment in at least 9 units, payment of dues (non-refundable), minimum meeting attendance, satisfactory completion of the required amount of AGS, campus, and community service hours, and verification of units and cumulative GPA.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

The first step to become a member of AGS is to complete an application and pay dues. All continuing students must reapply every semester in order to keep membership current. Applications may be picked up in the following locations:

- Apply online by going to our website ([www.agspcc.org](http://www.agspcc.org)) and clicking on “Join AGS.”
- Download application off the AGS web site [agspcc.org](http://agspcc.org) (refer to the **Resources** link.)
- General Meetings, every Thursday at the Forum from 12 to 1 PM, and AGS chapter Planning Meetings.

Dues are very important to the operation of our chapter. Therefore, all applicants must pay membership dues. All membership dues are non-refundable.

- Inactive members pay \$30 per semester: reduced requirements, not eligible for awards
- Active members pay \$20 per semester: with rights to vote and apply for scholarships

Membership status is non-transferable after payment of dues.

**Applications and dues must be submitted together.**

## **SERVICE HOURS**

The goal of AGS is to promote philanthropy and academic achievement together. Therefore, AGS members must complete all service hours for AGS and the community during Fall and Spring semesters in order to establish and maintain good standing in the chapter. No membership will be granted until all hours have been completed, properly documented, submitted, and confirmed.

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Volunteering that you continue beyond the semester does not substitute for semester service hour requirements, but is testimony of your character as a member of AGS.

- Inactive members must complete within the semester a minimum of 9 service hours, 2 of which must be dedicated to AGS
- Active members must complete within the semester a minimum of 20 service hours, 6 of which must be dedicated to AGS

Included under AGS hours are activities fundraising specifically for or contributing to the chapter. You may earn  $\frac{1}{3}$  AGS hour per meeting attended (planning or general) and must attend 6. Campus and community service hours may not count towards AGS hours. However, AGS hours in excess of required minimums can help meet the total service hour requirement.

Why so many hours? Don't worry... it's not as hard as you think. With the many activities we have during the semester, there will be plenty of opportunities to complete your service time!

## DOCUMENTATION

In order to receive credit for the service time you complete, please do the following:

- For AGS events or any other event where a board member is present, have a board member in charge of the event write a receipt, documenting the hours you have earned for the event. If receipts are unavailable, have the board member put your name on the roster along with the time you began and ended work for the event. Be sure to obtain a receipt for your records!
- For non-AGS events you need to provide written documentation **on official letterhead** from the group with whom you volunteered. Included in the documentation should be your full name as indicated on the AGS roster, contact information for the group the service was rendered to, amount of time volunteered, a summary of the service completed, and signature of your supervisor. In addition, have the last 4 digits of your Soc.Sec.# appear near your name.

## BENEFITS

Alpha Gamma Sigma membership offers many benefits:

- Notation of membership on your permanent transcript (the only club at PCC that does this!)
- Advantage in transferring to 4-year universities, because they recognize that AGS members balance both books and philanthropy
- Permanent members who finish at PCC are granted the distinction of graduating with honor and wearing the gold stole at Commencement
- Graduating members receive recognition of their achievement with a gold seal for their diploma
- Opportunities to participate in our many fun activities
- Being kept well informed of AGS and PCC events
- Scheduled occasions to hear guest speakers discuss a variety of topics

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- Blast-a-Scholar — Fall and Spring
- Guest Speakers
- AGS Spring State Convention
- AGS Fall Regional Conference
- Much, much more!

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## SCHOLARSHIPS

Alpha Gamma Sigma prides itself in its members. Scholarships are offered to encourage and promote academic excellence and community service and to honor those with outstanding achievements in the chapter.

Scholarships are to recognize exceptional members. Scholarships therefore reward members who plan out their participation in activities from early on and help actively in community and AGS fundraising events.

To qualify for a scholarship, you must be an Active member and complete by the scholarship due date a minimum 30 service hours, 6 of which must be dedicated to AGS. The Scholarship Committee judges an applicant's service based on the number of completed service hours confirmed with the Recording Secretary by the scholarship application date.

### Information Regarding AGS Scholarship Awards

- **OUTSTANDING SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP**

The AGS scholarship committee has always taken into account the volunteer involvement of its members. Service is the primary determining factor for this scholarship, while maintaining scholastic achievement.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Student must be an Active member
2. Minimum 30 verified service hours which may be divided among:
  - a. Attendance of at least 6 AGS meetings (General or Planning) by due date = 2 AGS hours
  - b. AGS volunteer time (at least total 6 hours)
  - c. Community and/or campus volunteer time
3. Documentation required:
  - a. Completed scholarship application and a concise summary of service time (of hours confirmed with Recording Secretary; see end of this packet)
  - b. Copy of unofficial college transcript

- **OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP**

The cumulative Grade Point Average is the primary consideration for the awarding of this scholarship. Service will also be a determining factor in the consideration process.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Student must be an Active member
2. Minimum 30 verified service hours which may be divided among:
  - a. Attendance of at least 6 AGS meetings (General or Planning) by due date = 2 AGS hours
  - b. AGS volunteer time (at least total 6 hours)
  - c. Community and/or campus volunteer time
3. Documentation required:
  - a. Completed scholarship application and a concise summary of service time (of hours confirmed with Recording Secretary; see end of this packet)

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- b. Copy of unofficial college transcript

- **OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIP**

This scholarship will reward and give recognition to the student who has shown outstanding volunteer service to the community. Demonstrating a commitment of at least 2 hours per week to an approved organization/person throughout the semester is desirable.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Student must be an Active member
2. Minimum of 30 service hours completed
3. Documentation required:
  - a. Supporting letter(s) on **official letterhead** from the organization/persons the service was rendered to – All letters are submitted to and verified with the Recording Secretary – not attached to the scholarship application. Letters must include amount of service time, contact information of the organization, and service performed (for details, refer pg 3).
  - b. Completed scholarship application and a concise summary of service time (of hours confirmed with Recording Secretary; see end of this packet)

### **ΑΓΣ FLAKERS POLICY**

As an Honor society, we expect our members to act responsibly when removing themselves from participation in chapter events. To encourage AGS members to use good judgment, we institute the following “Flakers Policy.”

Please remember that most events are fundraisers, which pay for scholarships. If funds are not raised, scholarships cannot be awarded. In addition to missing an opportunity to raise funds, under certain circumstances, ΑΓΣ is forced to pay out money when people do not show at some events.

Furthermore, our good name is tarnished, and we are no longer considered a reliable organization.

Therefore, while we hope not to discourage any of our members from participating in ΑΓΣ events, we encourage all our members to abide by the following simple guidelines when there is really an emergency and you cannot make it to a promised event:

- o Please contact the board member in charge at least 24-48 hours prior to the event, either directly or by email to [agspcc@gmail.com](mailto:agspcc@gmail.com). (Include in the Subject line the name [or job title] of specific board member(s) you are trying to reach.)
  - You must give a valid reason for missing the event.
  - Have the name and contact information of a confirmed replacement, if appropriate.
- o Failure to do so – including a same-day cancellation – will result in the following actions:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Incident: dock how many hours signed for
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Incident: docked double hours signed up for
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Incident: Suspension for the Current Semester.
- o For all incidents, if ΑΓΣ loses specific funds or is required to pay out an amount because a member decided not to show up, that member is to reimburse ΑΓΣ the entirety of those funds. For example, if ΑΓΣ was to receive \$10 per person for a TV taping and instead must pay \$15 penalty for every no-show, any member who did not show up will be obliged to reimburse ΑΓΣ \$25.

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