

About Ramapo College Alpha Lambda Delta

Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD) is a national society that honors academic excellence during a student's first year in college. Founded in 1924, ALD is among the oldest and remains one of the most prestigious honor societies in the nation, with currently 240 chapters nationwide and more than 750,000 students initiated.

Purpose

ALD strives to encourage superior academic achievement among students in their first year at institutions of higher learning, promoting intelligent living and a continued high standard of learning. ALD believes in "Tradition, Honor, Excellence." Once accepted into the organization, students remain a life-time member of ALD, regardless of their final grade point average.

Benefits

Once initiated, the student becomes a lifetime member of ALD, with the chance of being an officer during the sophomore year. Initiated members become eligible for sophomore book awards and \$3000 fellowships awarded for graduate study.

Spring 2010 Qualifications

The requirements for membership in Alpha Lambda Delta are as follows:

- 3.5 GPA for Fall 2009 semester
- Top 20% of your class
- Full-time student pursuing a Bachelor's degree

January 25	ALD Applications available
Friday, February 19	Applications due online, membership dues submitted to RRC
March 8 and 9	New member orientation meetings (times tbd)
Friday, March 12	Elections candidate bio due
Friday, March 26	ALD E-Board Elections complete
Saturday, April 17	ALD Induction Ceremony

This induction ceremony is open to parents, family and friends (2 guests per inductee). It may be in your best interest to notify them to "hold the date" upon the event of your acceptance.

If you have questions regarding the selection process, application, qualifications, the induction ceremony or any other inquiries, please contact John Yao, Assistant Director for First-Year Experience and Adult Learning at jyao@ramapo.edu or 201-684-7587.

About Alpha Lambda Delta

Alpha Lambda Delta was founded in 1924 by the Dean of Women, Maria Leonard, at the University of Illinois to recognize academic excellence among freshmen women. One year before, Dean Thomas Arkle Clark had founded Phi Eta Sigma, an honor society to recognize academic excellence among freshmen men. Both groups operated as single sex organizations until the mid-70s when they both became coeducational in response to Title IX.

The honor society soon became a national organization through the chartering of chapters at Purdue University in 1926, at DePauw University in 1927, at the University of Michigan in 1927, and at the University of Oklahoma in 1929. The first national convention was held in 1930 on the campus of the University of Illinois. Conventions were suspended during the depression years because of travel expenses. The third convention was held in 1938 at the University of Michigan. A decision was made at that convention to suspend holding a national convention and to invest those funds into establishing a graduate fellowship fund. The first fellowship was awarded to Louise Houssiere for graduate study at MIT in 1940.

The Association of College Honor Societies was organized in 1925 to consider matters of mutual concern to member organizations; Alpha Lambda Delta has been active in the Association since its admission to membership in 1939. In 1976 in response to Title IX, the National Council voted for the Society to become coeducational. In 1981, the first two male members of the National Council were installed.

Alpha Lambda Delta has continued to be innovative and responsive in recognizing academic excellence by providing Senior Certificates and the Maria Leonard Senior Book Award since 1939, offering workshops since 1978, recognizing outstanding chapters with the Order of the Torch Award since 1989, recognizing an Outstanding Adviser of the Year since 1990, and taking advantage of technology by posting a national web site in January of 1997.

Alpha Lambda Delta has continued to celebrate academic excellence among first year students and has grown to over 250 chapters and has initiated over 700,000 students. The National Council which governs the organization has prudently invested the resources and gifts from local chapters, national council members, former fellowship recipients, and friends of the Society over the years so that the Perpetual Fellowship Fund now exceeds \$2 million and can provide income to support 35 undergraduate scholarships of \$1000 each, 23 graduate fellowships from \$3000 to \$7500. The fellowships are named for significant people in the history of the Society including the founder, Maria Leonard, the first adviser, Gladys Pennington, two Executive Directors, and several national presidents.

To learn more about Alpha Lambda Delta please log on to the following website:

The National Alpha Lambda Delta Site: <http://www.nationalald.org/>