



**CONSTITUTION OF GAMMA RHO KAPPA (ΓΡΚ)
AN INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY FOR STUDENTS
OF THE ANCIENT GREEK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE**

Name: Gamma Rho Kappa (ΓΡΚ)—letters abbreviating the noun Γραικός (Lat. *Graecus*) “Greek, Grecian.”

Purpose: ΓΡΚ is an international Greek Honor Society that recognizes outstanding attainments in the study of Ancient Greek language, literature, and culture.

Tracks: ΓΡΚ consists of two tracks for membership: *Kappa* and *Gamma*.

Kappa Track: The purpose of the *Kappa* track is to recognize outstanding attainments in the study of the Ancient Greek language and literature, to stimulate study and research in this field, to promote an understanding and appreciation of the Ancient Greek cultures, and to advocate the reading of Ancient Greek writings, including the Greek New Testament, other early Christian literature. The *Kappa* membership track is based upon scholarship, can only be pursued through a ΓΡΚ chapter organized at an educational institution, and must follow the general and *Kappa* specific bylaws.

Gamma Track: The purpose of the *Gamma* track is to encourage the active use of Ancient Greek, to promote cognitive teaching/learning styles, to actively engage the Greek New Testament, and to advocate Ancient Greek studies outside academia. The *Gamma* membership track is based upon continuing interest in Ancient Greek language and cultures, can be pursued through a ΓΡΚ chapter organized at an educational institution or a local community, and must follow the general and *Gamma* specific bylaws.

International Sponsor: Gamma Rho Kappa (ΓΡΚ) was founded by Chad M. Foster, T. Michael W. Halcomb, J. Klay Harrison, and Fredrick J. Long through GlossaHouse in 2013 to encourage high achievement in Ancient Greek studies. The AGROS (Accessible Greek Resources and Online Studies) board members through GlossaHouse continue to act as sponsor for the society and appoint the Coordinator of Gamma Rho Kappa.

International Coordinator: Fredrick J. Long, Ph.D. Any questions or inquiries can be made to fredrick.long@asburyseminary.edu.

ARTICLE I — FORMATION OF A LOCAL ΓPK CHAPTER

A. For an educational institution, the local chapter should typically be organized as follows.

1. In order to obtain official recognition from the local educational institution, if possible, the faculty or staff member interested in becoming the local chapter sponsor should seek the counsel and approval from the department chair, school dean, or equivalent in which in ancient Greek courses are offered as well as the provost and/or registrar (if official recognition at graduation is desired, which is recommended). Such approval is specifically to recognize the formation of the local chapter by the chapter sponsor (see Article II.E.).
2. Once the chapter sponsor has received institutional approval to form a local chapter of ΓPK, he or she shall call a meeting of potential student and faculty members that meet the minimum requirements according to the *Gamma Rho Kappa* (ΓPK) Constitution 5.0. The purpose of this meeting is to become familiar with this constitution and decide by consensus (if possible) whether there is a desire to increase its minimal requirements for membership; *however, there may be no reduction of these minimum standards*. Also, by consensus, the faculty sponsor will lead a discussion for a decision about the dues required for membership (if any) and the initial goals of the group.
3. The title of this local ΓPK Constitution shall be: CONSTITUTION OF THE _____ CHAPTER OF GAMMA RHO KAPPA (ΓPK): AN INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY FOR STUDENTS OF THE ANCIENT GREEK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE.
4. Once these adjustments (if any) are made to this current ΓPK Constitution 5.0, the chapter sponsor shall call another meeting inviting *all eligible* students and faculty colleagues and induct members into the local chapter with the payment of dues.
5. Once members have been inducted, any additional changes to the constitution must follow the amendment principles as stated in Article II.G. below.
6. The next step for the local chapter is to form an Executive Committee (Article III below).
7. The final step for official formation of a local chapter is for the chapter sponsor to submit a request for recognition of the local ΓPK chapter to the International ΓPK Coordinator. Accompanying the request should be a copy of the proposed adjusted constitution with any proposed changes, if any, **highlighted**. The AGROS board of GlossaHouse will grant recognition of the local ΓPK chapter through the International Coordinator of ΓPK.

B. Non-educational organizations may organize a ΓPK chapter as follows.

1. If an educational institution is not available, then another organization (e.g., local church) may organize a local ΓPK chapter.
2. The organization will designate a chapter sponsor (see Article II.E). This sponsor or advisor must at least satisfy the requirements for beta membership, and she or he must continue to study the Ancient Greek language and culture.
3. The local ΓPK chapter may then be initially formed by analogy according to Article I.A above and organized following steps Articles II–III below.

ARTICLE II—GENERAL BYLAWS

- A. **Membership eligibility:** For each local ΓPK chapter membership eligibility varies according to whether the chapter is formed as a *Kappa* Track or a *Gamma* Track. In general, these guidelines are minimum standards; local chapters may amend this basic constitution to raise minimum standards.
1. *Kappa* Track Minimum Requirements: *Kappa* membership shall be based upon academic achievement in coursework.
 - a. K–12 Students must have completed two Greek language courses (or a year’s worth) with a 3.0 grade point average (typically, a B average) or equivalent in those courses.
 - b. Undergraduates must have completed at least 6 credit hours (or equivalent) of Greek language courses with a 3.0 grade point average (typically, a B average) or equivalent in those courses.
 - c. Graduate students must have completed 9 credit hours (or equivalent) of Greek language courses with a 3.0 grade point average (typically a B average) or equivalent in those courses. The Executive Committee (see Article III) will consider any exceptional circumstances; here, honorary membership may be considered (see Article I.D.).
 - d. Postgraduate students must have completed 9 hours (or equivalent) of intermediate/advanced level Greek course work with at least a 3.3 grade point average (typically, an A- average) or equivalent in these courses taken during the student’s graduate and/or postgraduate program. Such courses should normally include intermediate Greek, advanced Greek, upper level exegesis courses, and/or textual criticism courses. Students who are in postgraduate programs that do not require coursework (e.g., non-American Ph.D. programs) must provide evidence of satisfactory completion of such advanced Greek courses during her/his graduate program or prove proficiency to the local ΓPK chapter’s Executive Committee (see Article III).
 - e. Alumni: Students, who have graduated from an educational institution and who would like to join the chapter of ΓPK at that educational institution must contact that local ΓPK chapter and meet their standards for membership at the appropriate educational level. Students who graduated with an undergraduate degree must fulfill the undergraduate criteria; graduated master-level students must fulfill the graduate level criteria. Such persons must provide evidence of maintaining their Greek education following their program of study. All persons at an institution holding a doctorate degree and working closely with Ancient Greek should be invited to join the local ΓPK chapter. The Executive Committee (see Article III) may consider honorary membership (see Article II.D.) for such persons.
 2. *Gamma* Specific: *Gamma* membership shall be based upon interest in the Ancient Greek language, literature, and culture.

- a. Greek certificate programs are available through some educational organizations. Official indication will occur after having completed the certificate course. If you have completed a Greek certificate program and were not contacted about ΓPK membership, then please notify the local ΓPK chapter or your educational organization for membership details.
 - b. AGROS Greek Curriculum: AGROS (Accessible Greek Resources and Online Studies) is producing a tiered Greek curriculum through GlossaHouse. A person may work through Tier 1 and Tier 2 resources and then take a basic Koine Greek competency exam through AGROS or a qualifying educational institution, in person or via webcam. After successful completion of the exam and a commitment to work through Tier 3 materials, *Gamma* membership may be acquired through a local *Gamma* ΓPK chapter.
 - c. Conversational Koine Classes are currently taught by T. Michael W. Halcomb [<http://www.ConversationalKoine.com>]. Upon the completion of two semesters of conversational Koine courses and a commitment to take a third semester, *Gamma* membership may be acquired through a local ΓPK chapter.
 - d. There can be other avenues for *Gamma* membership with a local ΓPK chapter as established in the local ΓPK chapter's constitution.
 - e. Voting privileges and eligibility for election to executive committee positions are determined by the local ΓPK chapter and are stated in their chapter's constitution. A ΓPK chapter may amend *Gamma* membership privileges following amendment procedures described in Article II.G.
3. Joint Memberships: A local ΓPK chapter may include members of both *Kappa* and *Gamma* tracks. During formation of a local ΓPK chapter, the chapter must decide whether *Gamma* members have voting privileges and if *Gamma* members are eligible for election of executive committee positions (see Article II). A ΓPK chapter may amend *Gamma* membership privileges following Article I.G.
- B. Dues**: Each ΓPK chapter is funded through dues and/or their founding institution. A founding institution is not responsible for funding the local ΓPK chapter, but is encouraged so to do. GlossaHouse does not financially support local chapters of ΓPK. The local ΓPK chapter is responsible for acquiring its own funds. Dues for ΓPK membership are not mandatory, but may be required by the local chapter. It is recommended that, if a local chapter chooses to require dues, then upon induction into the society a due should be requested of each member for that year.
1. Dues should normally be around \$10.00 to 20.00/year.
 2. Dues should not normally exceed \$30.00/year.
 3. The local ΓPK chapter shall expend dues on the local ΓPK chapter's expenses and promotions. Also, no money from dues will go to the *International Honor Society for Students of the Ancient Greek Language and Culture*, the Coordinator of ΓPK, or to GlossaHouse.

- C. **Newsletters, Blogs, or Websites:** The editor (see Article III.A.6.) for the local ΓPK chapter is responsible for creating a society newsletter (electronic or print), at least annually. It is requested that each *Kappa* ΓPK member, at some point before graduation, submit a piece of his/her work to be included by the editor in the society's newsletter. Cost of the newsletter should be covered by the local chapter's funds. The creation of a newsletter is not necessary but is encouraged. If the local chapter does produce a newsletter, it is recommended that a copy be sent to the Coordinator of ΓPK.
- D. **Honorary members:** Such persons may be chosen for the *Kappa* track on the basis of their scholarly distinction or notable contributions to the field of Ancient Greek language, culture, and/or literature. Such honorary members will not be required to pay *initial* dues. Those holding undergraduate degrees only are generally not eligible for honorary membership.
- E. **Chapter Sponsor:** The society shall normally have a chapter sponsor or faculty advisor from the departmental staff of the educational institution. The chapter sponsor may make recommendations to the society but cannot vote. All faculty members whose research interests involve Ancient Greek studies should be invited to join local ΓPK chapter. See also III.A.1.
- F. **AGROS Standards:** The local ΓPK chapter shall comply with the minimum standards established by AGROS editorial board through GlossaHouse and those established by the educational institution's student organization guidelines. Any organizational questions or clarifications may be directed to the International Coordinator of ΓPK.
- G. **Amendments:** An amendment to the constitution may be proposed to the Executive Committee (see Article III) by any ΓPK member. The Secretary (see Article III.A.4.) will notify all the members about the proposed amendment before the meeting at which the amendment will be discussed. The votes of two-thirds of the present voting members of the chapter are required for ratification of an amendment. If two-thirds of the present voting members are in agreement of the amendment, written documentation must be provided to the Coordinator of ΓPK who will for approval of final ratification (to ensure the standards of ΓPK Honor Society). The International Coordinator will consult the AGROS board of GlossaHouse, if necessary. The International Coordinator shall then contact the local ΓPK chapter with a written response regarding approval or disapproval of the final ratification. If the unusual case of disapproval by the International Coordinator of ΓPK, the local ΓPK chapter must reassess and vote upon the proposed amendment according to the guidance provided by the International Coordinator.
- H. **Formation of a New ΓPK Chapter:** In order to create a new ΓPK chapter, contact the International Coordinator of ΓPK through the AGROS board of GlossaHouse and follow the guidelines of Article I above. See also www.GlossaHouse.com for more information.

ARTICLE III — EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. **Committee Members.** In addition to the chapter sponsor or faculty advisor, each local ΓPK chapter should normally have an Executive Committee that consists of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and, if possible, an Editor. Additional positions may be adopted per chapter needs. The members of the Executive Committee for the following year shall be elected individually at the last meeting of the academic year, but no later than December 31st.

1. Chapter Sponsor or Faculty Advisor. Each chapter should have a Faculty Advisor or other person functioning as Sponsor (e.g., pastor, educator). The role of the chapter sponsor or faculty advisor is to draft the local ΓPK constitution, to encourage the students, to give advice, and to be a liaison when the local ΓPK chapter invites other professionals for special occasions or speeches. Such persons have voice but no vote, and should provide input, guidance, and a reference point within the institution for the local ΓPK chapter, mediating between the hosting institution (if applicable) and the ΓPK chapter.
 2. The President presides at meetings and is responsible for conducting the business of the chapter. The President may call special meetings with the understanding that the presence of 50% of the active members shall constitute a quorum, except in the case of a proposed constitutional amendment (see Article II.G.). In the case of a proposed constitutional amendment, two-thirds of the local chapter's voting members must be present. Furthermore, members may request a special meeting through the President, which then requires the approval of the Executive Committee in order to meet.
 3. The Vice-President presides at meetings in the absence of the President, and other duties specified by the President or by vote of the executive committee.
 4. The Secretary keeps minutes and records, and also conducts correspondence. Each year by December 31st, the Secretary shall submit a report of the activities of the chapter to the Coordinator of ΓPK. The report shall include the names of new members, the officers of the chapter, and any news and/or items of interest concerning the activities of the chapter. If the local ΓPK chapter produces a newsletter, website, or blog (Article II.C.), this report may be included in these.
 5. The Treasurer shall be in charge of the finances for the chapter—see Article II.B.
 6. The Editor shall be in charge of coordinating the newsletter, blog, or website for the chapter—see Article II.C.
- B. The Executive Committee organizes and plan events of the ΓPK chapter.** Suggested projects and activities to consider for each local ΓPK chapter may include, but are not limited to, these:
1. Sponsor lectures, conversational Greek courses, and other cultural events.
 2. Plan field trips to study ancient or modern Greece (museums, cultural centers, or Greece).
 3. Encourage the expansion of Ancient Greek studies at your institution.
 4. Offer tutoring projects and Ancient Greek reading groups.
 5. Publish a ΓPK newsletter or magazine in print and/or electronic form.
 6. Start a chapter blog, Facebook page, website, Instagram, etc.
 7. Provide information on scholarships and advanced studies.
 8. Encourage study abroad that focuses on Ancient Greek cultures.
 9. Start a program that introducing persons in the surrounding community to the benefits of learning about Ancient Greek cultures and language (e.g., a library program).
 10. Promote *Gamma* membership through local organizations or churches.
 11. Attend conferences and meet with other ΓPK chapters.