

PC '25

New Member Guidebook

Zeta Tau Alpha — Gamma Pi Chapter

University of Georgia

Fall 2025

Authored by Ann Macon Watkins, Hannah Hartley & Abby McCarty

This is a portfolio version of the PC '25 New Member Guidebook — a 40-page onboarding resource created for 93 incoming members of UGA's Zeta Tau Alpha chapter. Personal contact information, private internal links, and member-only access details have been removed. All content reflects the original document.

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Welcome

Hi beautiful women!! We are absolutely thrilled to welcome each of you to our chapter. You are here for a reason, and we feel so genuinely blessed to have you join our sisterhood. We understand that the first few weeks in Zeta can be overwhelming, and our hope is that this guidebook will serve as a helpful and comforting resource.

Here for you always,

Hannah, Ann Macon & Abby

Zeta Communication — Geneva

Geneva is our chapter's all-in-one communication app, designed to keep us connected, organized, and informed. Think of it as our digital ZTA house where all our conversations, announcements, and planning happen in one central, easy-to-navigate place.

How Our ZTA Geneva Home Works

When you open Geneva, you'll enter our ZTA Home Page. On the left sidebar, you'll see a list of 'Rooms' — dedicated spaces for different topics or groups.

Important Communication Rooms

- Fall 2025 Calendar — Your go-to for all chapter dates, events, and deadlines.
- Chapter Slideshows — Presentations, important visuals, or recaps from chapter meetings.
- Exec Council Announcements — Official announcements and important updates from leadership.
- Programs Council Announcements — Updates, opportunities, and information from Programs Council.

EC Resources

Dedicated rooms for each Executive Council position — including Programming, Learning & Development, Recruitment, Philanthropy & Service, Finance, Academic Achievement, and more.

Group Chats

- Whole chapter group chat — General conversations and informal chats with all sisters.
- PC '25 New Member — Private space for the pledge class; includes important dates and points opportunities.
- Programs Council 2025 — A dedicated chat for all members serving on Programs Council.

Tips for Using Geneva Effectively

1. Check important communication daily so you don't miss anything vital.
2. Use the right room — EC Resources and Important Communication are for EC and PC to post in.

3. Utilize the search bar to find past messages or posts quickly.

Points System

Our points system tracks attendance and involvement in chapter events and opportunities. Earning points ensures you're eligible to attend date nights and helps you become eligible to live in the house.

How to Submit Points

1. Use the forms in Geneva to submit points.
2. Select the category, write a description, and submit photo proof.
3. Be honest — VP Administration can verify submissions.
4. Don't resubmit the same activities across the semester.

Note: Mandatory events (Chapter, socials, UGA sporting events) do not count for points.

Finance & Dues

New Member Dues Overview

- Fall dues are billed in two installments — September and October.
- Spring semester billing transitions to regular member rates.
- Bills are issued on the 1st of each month and due on the 11th.
- A 4% late fee applies if payment is not received by the 15th. Late fees cannot be waived.
- Payments are processed through BillHighway — your account is created automatically upon joining.
- Invoices are sent to the email addresses provided in Sisters Only.

Spring Payment Plans

In the spring, members can pay dues across three monthly installments instead of two. The VP Finance will send out a form to select your preferred plan. You may also pay the full amount upfront if preferred.

Common Finance FAQs

Q: Can I pay after the grace period?

A: Yes — just be aware of late fees that accrue.

Q: Why am I billed for Board-Out of House?

A: This covers chapter utilities in common rooms and chapter dinner.

Q: Can the VP Finance update my parent email?

A: No — update it yourself in Sisters Only; it syncs automatically to BillHighway.

Academics

Zeta's Academic Standards

- Members must maintain a GPA of 2.75 or above per semester to be in good academic standing with ZTA.
- Members whose GPA drops below 2.75 will be placed on academic probation and meet with the Academic Achievement Board.
- Members on academic probation may have some social privileges reinstated at the discretion of the Academic Achievement Chair.
- As a new member, your first semester GPA becomes your cumulative GPA — starting strong matters.

Resources are available through the Academic Achievement chair and Geneva at any time.

Ritual & Attire

What Are Rituals?

Rituals are formal ceremonies and traditions significant to ZTA's identity and values. They help build community, strengthen bonds, and maintain the sorority's heritage — unchanged since they were first written in 1898.

Ritual Attire

- Chalk white attire — conservative dresses or white tops and skirts (not off-white, ivory, or cream).
- Either all white shoes or all white socks (no logos).
- No jewelry (permanent jewelry will be covered with nude-colored wrap).
- No bra straps showing. No athletic clothing permitted.

Formal Attire

Required for certain chapter events. Think church clothes in any color — no shorts, jeans, t-shirts, or athletic wear.

Social Media Guidelines

Social media is a way to highlight everything that makes our chapter special and stay connected with sisters and alumni. As a member of ZTA, it's important to present yourself appropriately online.

Key Guidelines

- No posting with alcohol if you are under 21 — this includes anything that could appear to be alcohol.
- Do not attempt to cover alcohol with emojis — just don't post it.
- No inappropriate photos from social events, including photos on elevated surfaces or anything where you appear visibly intoxicated.
- Represent yourself as the poised, high-character woman you are.

A formal social media agreement will be reviewed and signed during the new member process.

Chapter Photo Sharing

The chapter uses a shared photo app to collect images for Instagram. Details on how to join are shared during the new member period.

Philanthropy

Zeta Tau Alpha's national philanthropy is breast cancer education and awareness. The ZTA Foundation funds scholarships, educational and leadership development programming, and breast cancer education initiatives nationwide. Partners include the NFL®, the American Cancer Society®, and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Main Events

Diamond Challenge — Annual fall philanthropy event — ZTAs coach teams of friends in a single-elimination softball tournament. Each member serves in some capacity.

Think Pink 5K — Spring philanthropy run around UGA's campus. Recent editions have raised over \$12,000 with 250+ runners.

Pink Month Events — Throughout October (Breast Cancer Awareness Month), the chapter hosts workouts, percentage nights, and community awareness events.

Pink Picnic — A chapter lawn event with live music and cross-Greek fellowship.

Shop for a Cause — During Parents' Weekend, local vendors and members set up pop-up shops around the ZTA House — with a portion of sales donated to philanthropy.

Fundraising Requirements

Each active member is required to raise funds during the fall semester through a personal CrowdChange page. Additional sponsorship opportunities are available throughout the year.

Panhellenic

What Is Panhellenic?

The governing body for the 20 Panhellenic sororities on UGA's campus. A student-led council that oversees recruitment, promotes collaboration among chapters, and coordinates events, programming, and community service. The council includes 8 executive members, 20 delegates (one per chapter), and 20 assistants.

How to Get Involved

- Apply for JPAN (Junior Panhellenic Council) — a council composed of first-year Panhellenic members.
- Apply for a delegate or assistant delegate position for ZTA.
- Attend Panhellenic-wide events and programming throughout the year.

Zeta Vocabulary

Crown Crews (New Member Council) — The group you were placed in for Bid Day — used to make friends, meet older pledge classes, and transition into ZTA. Go to your Crown Crew leaders first with questions.

Berry Buddy Dates — Big-little dates for new members to meet and spend time with the pledge class above them.

ListServ — A monthly update from each EC member about what's happening in their position and what they need from members.

PC — Pledge Class — refers to the year you joined (e.g., PC '25).

Bid Day — The day new members receive and accept their invitation to join ZTA.

Big-Little — A mentorship pairing between an older member (Big) and a newer member (Little).

Chapter Leadership Structure

Executive Council (EC)

The EC serves as the core leadership team, responsible for guiding the chapter's overall direction and ensuring smooth operations.

President — Primary chapter leader — oversees all operations, chairs EC and chapter meetings, represents the chapter externally.

VP Learning & Development — Oversees new member programming from Bid Day through Initiation; leads and guides the New Member Council team.

VP Recruitment — Responsible for growing the chapter — coordinates all recruitment strategy, events, and processes.

VP Administration — Manages points system, chapter attendance, and administrative functions.

VP Finance (Treasurer) — Manages all chapter finances, dues, billing, and financial communications with members and parents.

VP Harm Reduction — Oversees safety policies, risk management, and event compliance guidelines.

VP Communication — Manages chapter social media, public relations, and chapter storytelling.

VP Campus Relations (Panhellenic Delegate) — Serves as ZTA's ambassador to the campus fraternity and sorority community.

VP Academic Achievement — Works to maintain and celebrate the chapter's academic performance.

VP Philanthropy & Service — Leads all breast cancer awareness programming and fundraising initiatives.

VP Facility Operations (House Manager) — Manages the ZTA House and all facility-related matters.

Programs Council (PC) Roles

The Programs Council supports the EC and plays a key role in making the chapter run smoothly. Key positions include:

New Member Council

- Asst. VP Learning & Development — Plans events like Bid Day, Big Little Reveal, and Berry Buddy Dates; serves as a key resource for new members throughout the process.
- Crown Crew Leaders — Small group mentors assigned to guide new members through the transition into chapter life.

Activities

- Director of Activities — Oversees Intramurals, T-shirts, Banners, Fitness, Homecoming, and External Relations chairs.
- Intramurals Chair — Organizes intramural sport participation across the chapter.
- Banner Committee — Designs, traces, paints, and hangs chapter banners for events (~30 banners per year).
- Fitness Chair — Encourages fitness, exercise, and personal wellness across the chapter.
- Date Night Chairs — Plans and coordinates all chapter date night events.

Member Enrichment

- Director of Member Enrichment — Oversees DEI, Service, Environmental, Enrichment, and Discipleship chairs.
- DEI Chair — Leads educational programming focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Service Chair — Coordinates chapter community service initiatives.

- Environmental Chair — Promotes sustainability awareness within the chapter.
- Discipleship Chair — Supports faith-based programming and spiritual enrichment.
- Enrichment Chair — Plans events that enhance leadership skills and member growth.

Sisterhood

- Sisterhood Chair — Plans events that bring the chapter together and strengthen bonds.
- Chaplains — Lead weekly Bible study and share devotions at chapter meetings.
- Alumnae Relations — Maintains contact with the Athens Alumnae Chapter.
- Zeta Band — Performs at Pref Ceremony and the annual Sound of Milledge competition.

UGA Bus System Guide

Getting around campus on UGA's bus system can be confusing for new students. This section breaks down everything you need to know to navigate Athens confidently.

Getting Started

- Download the UGA Mobile App (available on App Store and Google Play) — tap 'Transit' for live bus routes, stops, and arrival times.
- Use TrackerUGA or the UGA app to see real-time bus locations.

Key Routes

- Route 10 (East-West) — Runs along Baxter Street and connects to North Campus.
- Route 16 (Health Sciences) — Connects main campus to the health sciences area.
- Route 27 (East Campus) — Covers East Campus housing and the Ramsey Center area.
- Route 4 (North Campus Loop) — Circles North Campus and connects to downtown stops.

Late Night Options

- UGA Night Campus buses run Monday–Wednesday 7PM–1AM, Thursday–Saturday 7PM–3AM.
- UGA Ride Smart Lyft Program — \$5 off up to 4 rides per month between 10PM and 6AM.
- Always ride with another person at night or let friends know when you're leaving somewhere.