



## 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.

## ARTICLE I—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 scholarship in coursework.

a. 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.

b. 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 II) will consider any exceptional circumstances; here, honorary membership may be considered (see Article I.D.).

i. Asbury Theological Seminary students: NT501 and NT502 are required as basic Greek grammar courses (or equivalent competency, i.e. by exam), with the satisfactory completion of Intermediate Greek as a prerequisite for ΓPK membership. Satisfactory completion consists of a 3.0 grade average in Intermediate Greek, and NT501 and NT502 (or equivalents), if taken.

ii. Asbury Theological Seminary exceptional circumstances: students not having a 3.0 grade average in these courses upon completing Intermediate Greek may be considered for membership into ΓPK on the exceptional circumstance that they complete an advanced Greek course with a grade of B or higher. An advanced Greek course in New Testament or Septuagint will suffice. Students must petition with proof from their transcript to be considered for admission.

c. 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 high level Greek courses during her/his graduate program or prove proficiency to the local ΓPK chapter's Executive Committee (see Article II).

i. Asbury Theological Seminary postgraduate students may be admitted having met the postgraduate student requirements described above.

d. 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 II) may consider honorary membership (see Article I.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 taught by T. Michael W. Halcomb [<http://www.conversationalkoine.com>]. Upon the completion of 2 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 Article I.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 be around \$10.00 to 20.00/year.

a. The Asbury Theological Seminary Chapter has chosen Kappa dues to be \$20 yearly. Dues will be required at initiation for that year, and collected each subsequent year the student remains enrolled at the seminary. After graduation, the student is not required to pay dues (but they may still donate), but will still be an Honor Society member of Asbury Theological Seminary's ΓPK Chapter.

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 II.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. **Faculty Advisor:** The society shall normally have a faculty advisor from the departmental staff of the educational institution. The faculty advisor 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 II.A.1.

a. The Current Faculty Advisor for Asbury Theological Seminary is Dr. Fredrick J. Long.

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 II) by any ΓPK member. The Secretary (see Article II.A.4.) will notify the members about the proposed amendment before the meeting at which the amendment will be discussed. The votes of two-thirds of the voting members of the chapter are required for ratification of an amendment. If two-thirds of the voting members are in agreement of the amendment, written documentation must be provided to the Coordinator of ΓPK for approval of final ratification.

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 disapproved by the International Coordinator of ΓPK, the local ΓPK chapter may reassess the proposed amendment after three months time.

- 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. Visit [www.glossahouse.com](http://www.glossahouse.com) for more information.

## ARTICLE II — EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. **Committee Members.** In addition to the faculty adviser (or equivalent), each local ΓPK chapter should have an Executive Committee that consists of, at a minimum, a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 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 31<sup>st</sup>.
1. Faculty Adviser, or Sponsor. Each chapter should have a faculty Adviser, or other person functioning as Sponsor (e.g., pastor, educator). The role of the faculty adviser or sponsor 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 I.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 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 I.C.), this report may be included in these.
  5. The Treasurer shall be in charge of the finances for the chapter—see Article I.B.

6. The Editor shall be in charge of coordinating the newsletter, blog, or website for the chapter—see Article I.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:
1. Sponsor lectures, conversational Greek courses, and other cultural events.
  2. Encourage the expansion of Ancient Greek studies.
  3. Offer tutoring projects and Ancient Greek reading groups.
  4. Publish a ΓPK newsletter and/or magazine—print and/or electronic.
  5. Start a chapter blog or website.
  6. Provide information on scholarships and advanced studies.
  7. Offer placement assistance in part-time and full-time positions, if possible.
  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.
  10. Promote *Gamma* membership through local organizations or churches.
  11. Attend conferences and meet with other ΓPK chapters.