



Delta Gamma

Social Media Policy FAQ

What about my first amendment rights?

The First Amendment is one of the fundamental principles of our society. The law is still evolving in this area. Technically, the First Amendment applies to government action and not the actions of private parties or private groups. The First Amendment does not give individuals the right to say whatever they want whenever they want.

How does this apply to staff that are not DG members? Is Delta Gamma going to be monitoring the social media activity of EO employees?

Staff that are not DG members are bound by the Employment Handbook and the Social Media policy therein. We encourage you to use good judgment when communicating via social media sites. Do not disclose confidential or proprietary information. Yes.

Does this policy apply to House Corporation Staff (i.e., House Directors, Chefs, house boys)?

Yes. Additionally, Fraternity Housing Corporation (FHC) staff is bound by the Employee Handbook, their individual contracts, and the Internet Agreements at each house.

What if my profile is set to private? Is it still an issue if no one can see what I post?

Nothing is truly private on the Internet. Once you hit send and post something others can access it and see it and forward it to another, despite privacy settings. No privacy setting is truly going to protect your privacy. Your privacy is never ensured when you used the Internet.

What if I am just tagged in something that violates the policy, but I wasn't the one who posted it?

You can untag yourself once you are made aware of it. You will want to ask the person who posted it to remove it. Please use your common sense in keeping posts in your account.

What about my 1st Amendment rights? I am legally allowed to say whatever I want. It is my right.

Not true. Certain speech whose content -- for example, threats, libel, and shouting "fire" in a crowded theater - are legitimately constrained by the government and private groups. Nothing that is actionable in a civil court, or a criminal court should be posted. Sending e-mail is an action, and an individual who knowingly persists in sending unwanted e-mail to another person may well be subject to charges of harassment. It is less clear that repeated unwanted postings to a Usenet newsgroup or to a mailing list can constitute harassment, since the action of sending these messages is not targeted at a specific individual (regardless of the content). Similarly, unwanted or unflattering references to an individual on a web page are unlikely to constitute harassment, although they may be actionable as defamation.

The First Amendment does not give individuals the right to say whatever they want whenever they want. The First Amendment directly specifies what the government may not do, not what individual citizens may do, and therefore private groups may regulate what is said.

Example: Many private institutions with religious affiliations prohibit blasphemy on campus. These institutions may apply the same restrictions in cyberspace, limiting expression in Web pages, e-mail, Usenet postings, chat rooms and any other Internet communication.

What if I remove my affiliation with Delta Gamma off of my social media platforms? Is it still an issue if no one can see I'm a Delta Gamma?

You may disclose yourself as a DG online and be proud to do so. You may also post using DG marks on the official DG website and on your own email if you choose.

However, remember, nothing is truly private. A sister may recognize you as a Delta Gamma and may report your post if it is offensive, violates someone else's rights, discusses immoral or illegal conduct or violates your Statement of Obligation or Membership Responsibilities. Harassing, obscene, defamatory, threatening or other offensive content must be avoided and may be deemed inappropriate even if the Fraternity name is not mentioned.

What if I create a second profile/account? One where I can be myself (set to private), and the other that follows the policy?

Again, nothing is truly private. A sister may recognize you as a Delta Gamma and may report your post if it is offensive, violates someone else's rights, discusses immoral or illegal conduct or violates the Statement of Obligation or Membership Responsibilities.

The policy mentions that we cannot post about Initiation or Founders Day. We've always posted that we're excited about Initiation and posted pictures from Founders Day. Why is that an issue?

Of course, you may post about those items in general so long as they do not reveal confidential rituals or procedures or violate the Oath of Secrecy.

We have a fake George Banta account, and if "he" likes your post/picture, that means you have to take it down. Does this policy mean we have to stop doing that? Do we have to delete the George Banta account?

Delta Gamma appreciates and understands that these accounts are used for the chapter to self-police social media. However, out of respect for our history, we must ask that you not use the name George Banta or any of the Delta Gamma Founders in this way. If you'd like to have an account that monitors members' social media, please rename it. In order to fall in line with the policy, the chapter must be told who is running the account, it cannot be anonymous and the questionable behavior in the photos must still be dealt with through the proper Honor Board channels.

The policy confuses me. Which parts apply to me as an individual, and which parts apply to the chapter's social media?

All.

Is there an issue if I post pictures with alcohol in them if I'm 21 and the photos are appropriate, like at a wine tasting, for example? Is that a policy violation?

No.

What if there are pictures with alcohol in them but it is not a DG event, like at a gala or public fundraising event, for example? Is that a policy violation?

No.

What if I did not post anything inappropriate, but I just shared it or liked it. Is that a policy violation?

Yes, it could be it depends on the content.

What if my job requires me to promote events with alcohol on social media, like a club promoter? Is that a policy violation?

This is not a violation as long as the post is not promoting a Delta Gamma sponsored event (as that would have other policy implications), does not promote underage drinking or alcohol abuse.

So, what can I post? It seems like everything is off limits.

You can continue to post whatever you like, but keep in mind that anything that violates member responsibilities, or your Statement of Obligation may come to the attention of leadership. The policy is designed to protect our members, branding, trademarks and the Fraternity's integrity; not punish or limit members. We want to encourage creativity, sharing, and the fostering of new ideas. Bottom line: if it is not positive; don't post it.