

After a multi-year effort that included education professionals interviewing students at the 2012 Convention in Boston, and phone interviews with other students at their campuses, Theta Tau, working with RISE Partnerships, published the New Member Education Manual in Fall 2013. This Manual comes in three versions:

1. **Basic** – suggested for struggling chapters and new colonies. It also provides a basis for replacing a chapter’s problematic pledge education practices with a safe, creative, and supportive program.
2. **Non-traditional** – suggested for commuter campuses, or campuses with a number of part-time, night-time, and returning students. It also provides suggestions for organizing activities and events when campus space is not available to the chapter.
3. **Standard** – suggested for chapters that are relatively healthy, and on campuses that have an active, supportive, and that operate in a traditional manner with support of the IFC or Registered Student Organization office. It may also serve to filter potentially harmful pledging practices.

These Manuals can be found in the Manuals section of the Theta Tau website (www.thetatau.org). We are currently **seeking a number of pilot chapters to implement** a version of the manual of their choosing.

As you may know hazing, or alleged hazing, continues to lead to schools’ disciplining our chapters. In one extreme case, a school has **banned a Theta Tau chapter from campus for 5 years**. In other cases, suspension of chapter officers or other members from school and loss of scholarships and campus employment not uncommon. Students often think adding a new activity on the fly (**ad-libbing**) is an acceptable part of an education program. On the contrary, activities have to be planned, well thought-out, evaluated in the context of fraternity and university hazing policies, and deemed safe in advance of the start of pledging. The chapter or its officers decide the education program to follow, not an individual member. Any activities that are not consistent with our purpose and values as a professional engineering fraternity have no place in a chapter’s new member education process.

Over the past few years, Theta Tau chapters and members have repeatedly been harassed, investigated, and punished by school administrators even for activities that chapter members thought were innocent or fun. In some instances, disgruntled former pledges have raised accusations against chapters which later were proven false but still took a serious toll on the chapter’s time and morale. Following a well-documented program such as those contained in these manuals is key to avoiding such troubles and in being able to defend yourselves in the event that accusations do arise.

Finally, the national Fraternity will implement a **20% discount on annual liability insurance invoices** this school year for those chapters that are implementing one of these programs this year. To receive this discount, please complete the below and email or fax to the Central Office.

Chapter _____ Check which Manual version your chapter is using this school year:

___ Basic ___ Non-traditional ___ Standard

Regent Signature

Scribe Signature

Pledge Instructor Signature

Return **immediately** to central.office@thetatau.org, and your Regional Director.