

Delta Omega- Theta Chapter

Delta Omega is the national honorary society for graduate studies in public health. (It is equivalent to Phi Beta Kappa for undergraduate studies in letters and sciences or Alpha Omega Alpha in medicine.) The society was founded in 1924, when only a few graduate schools of public health existed in the United States, and now has chapters at the majority of such schools providing advanced public health degrees.

The Constitution and By-Laws were adopted in 1927. The National Council, composed of elected officers and representatives of each chapter, meets annually to make policies. The annual meeting includes a scientific and a business program. It is usually held in conjunction with the American Public Health Association annual meeting.

Each chapter conducts the principal Delta Omega activities. The chapter elects new members each year from three groups:

- Students who are candidates for a graduate degree in public health,
- Faculty members at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, and
- Alumni actively engaged in public health work.

Election from all three groups is based on outstanding performance – scholarship in students, teaching and research in faculty members, and community service in alumni. Election to membership in Delta Omega is intended not only to recognize merit, but also to encourage further excellence and devotion in public health work.

Since Delta Omega was established in 1924, the meaning and scope of public health have broadened tremendously. While public health is still very concerned with environmental sanitation and communicable disease control, it now embraces all aspects of health and disease in populations. These aspects include planning, organization, and support of health promotion, as well as disease prevention and medical care. Modern public health now spans the social sciences and the natural sciences, in the United States and internationally.

Membership in Delta Omega reflects individual dedication to quality in the field of public health as well as to the protection and advancement of the health of all people.

For additional information, please contact [Dr. Lewis Margolis](#), faculty advisor to Delta Omega, Theta Chapter.