

THE FOUNDERS COLLECTIVE FAQs

Who can participate?

The Founders Collective is open to initiated members of Alpha Omicron Pi who are in good standing, who are ready to invest in their leadership, and who consider how they can contribute to AOII's future.

What makes a strong Founders Collective applicant?

We are looking for women who have demonstrated leadership, take their careers and continued growth seriously, think strategically, bring meaningful perspectives and experiences, and are genuinely interested in contributing to AOII's future. We are less interested in titles or the number of AOII positions someone has held than in the leadership, perspective, curiosity, and potential they bring.

How are participants selected?

The Founders Collective is a selective experience designed to bring together a small group of participants with meaningful leadership experience, diverse perspectives, and strong potential to contribute to AOII's future.

Applications will be reviewed based on demonstrated leadership and accomplishment, strategic perspective, potential contribution to AOII, self-awareness and commitment to growth, and collaborative leadership.

The final cohort will be intentionally selected not only based on individual applicants, but also on the strength and diversity of the group as a whole.

What is the application process?

The application includes:

- A brief professional and leadership background
- Professional résumé
- AOII or leadership/volunteer résumé
- Three short written responses
- A brief video submission

Applications are due November 9.

Is The Founders Collective a credential or certification?

Not at this time. The Founders Collective is designed as an immersive leadership experience rather than a credentialing or certification program. The value of the experience comes through the learning, relationships, reflection, and leadership development participants gain throughout the Collective.



What is the time commitment?

The Founders Collective is an approximately eight-month leadership experience that combines three in-person gatherings, virtual experiences, individual reflection, and preparation between sessions.

Participants should expect to dedicate approximately 10–15 hours per month on average, with additional time required during the in-person gatherings. Some months will require more time than others depending on the assigned preparation and activities.

Participants are expected to attend all scheduled experiences, complete assigned readings and preparation, actively participate in discussions and activities, and make the Collective a meaningful priority throughout the experience.

Where will the experiences take place?

The three in-person experiences will take place at locations selected to support an immersive, focused experience. Locations will be shared with selected participants prior to the program. Virtual experiences will take place between each in-person gathering.

Participants may apply from anywhere. AOII will cover participant travel, lodging, and meals associated with the in-person experiences.

Is there a cost to participate?

Yes. Tuition for The Founders Collective is \$500.

The tuition represents an investment in the participant's leadership development and helps support the immersive experience offered through the Collective. In addition to the participant's \$500 tuition, AOII is making a significant investment in each participant by covering travel, lodging, and meals for the in-person experiences.

Can my employer pay my tuition?

Yes. Participants may pay tuition personally or use employer-sponsored professional development funds, if available through their employer.

What if I cannot attend one of the in-person experiences?

Because the Collective is intentionally designed as a cohort experience, attendance at all three in-person experiences is required. The relationships, conversations, and learning build from one experience to the next, making full participation an important part of the commitment. If an unexpected circumstance arises that affects your ability to attend, participants should communicate with the program team as soon as possible.



Is The Founders Collective a pathway to AOII board or volunteer leadership?

The Founders Collective is not a guaranteed pathway to a specific AOII volunteer role. It is an opportunity to develop leadership capacity, build relationships across AOII, and explore how participants may contribute to the organization in the future.

What will we actually do during the experiences?

The Collective will combine facilitated learning, discussion, case-based exploration, reflection, and opportunities to apply ideas to real leadership challenges. Participants will engage with content individually and collectively and will learn from program facilitators as well as from the experiences and perspectives of their fellow participants.

What will I gain from participating?

Participants will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of themselves as leaders, expand their ability to lead and influence others, strengthen strategic and organizational thinking, and build meaningful relationships with other accomplished AOII members. Participants will also have opportunities to apply what they learn to their professional, volunteer, community, and personal lives.

KEY DATES

Date	Milestone
October 12, 2026	Applications open
November 9, 2026	Application deadline
December 2, 2026	Selected participants notified
December 16, 2026	Participation confirmation deadline
February 12-14, 2027	Gathering 1: Know Yourself
May 14–16, 2027	Gathering 2: Lead Others
September 10–12, 2027	Gathering 3: Shape What's Next

