

## Obligation Policy for New York DeMolay

NY DeMolay recognizes that people learn and process information differently than others.

With that in mind, and in accordance with Section 315.13 of the DeMolay International Rules and Regulations which allows an Executive Officer to specify the requirement for an Obligations Card, and in an effort to strive to be all inclusive, members with a documented learning challenge will now have an opportunity to earn an Obligations Card through a modified examination process.

The following policies shall be observed in **all** New York DeMolay Chapters. :

An Obligations Card shall be issued in one of the two following methods:

1. Any active DeMolay who, by standing examination in an open Chapter or by an examination of at least three advisors of his chapter or by the determination of The State Ritual Director or his designee, demonstrates that he has committed to memory the obligations and examination queries of both degrees in order to vote or hold elected office. The presentation format of open chapter or by advisors shall be at the discretion of the DeMolay.
2. Any active DeMolay with a documented learning or cognitive challenge who can demonstrate a working knowledge of the Obligations and Examination Queries of the Order will be entitled to receive an Obligations Card. A piece of working knowledge is defined as the ability to name the important concepts in each Degree Obligation, to prove an understanding of the promises made, and to demonstrate the Step, Signs, Password and Token of the Order. The method followed should be consistent with accommodations provided in academic settings, such as an IEP or a 504 Plan. New York DeMolay can provide expertise in learning accommodation plans at the request to the executive officer by an advisory council, a parent, or an active DeMolay. This policy cannot be changed by an Advisory Council or by amendment to the Chapter's bylaws. A DeMolay or his parent/guardians who feel that proper accommodations have not been given may appeal directly to the Executive Officer.

When a member has demonstrated his proficiency using either of these examination formats, he will be issued a proficiency card by the Chapter. Proficiency Cards cannot be issued to any member by any other form of examination other than those set forth above unless approved in writing by New York DeMolay. The Chapter, through its chairman or chapter advisor, shall notify the Director of Ritual upon the issuance of an obligation card.

This policy is made to encourage all members to strive to earn their Obligations Card.

In the Jurisdiction of New York, it shall **NOT** be necessary to hold an Obligations Card in order to vote or hold appointed office within a chapter. Members shall NOT be denied the right to vote on applications for membership, motions, or election of officers. In particular, members should first be encouraged to learn the ritual work assigned to their office, to ensure that the Chapter can properly open and close its meetings and confer degrees. An obligation card is required to hold elective office within the Chapter as of June 1, 2020.

In the case of a newly constituted chapter first set of officers need not hold an obligation card. A chapter designated by the Executive Officer as a “re-forming” may have a variance granted for their officers during the re-forming process at the sole discretion of the Executive Officer. The Executive Officer has the right to extend these privileges at his discretion.

An Obligation Card is required to run for elective state office or to vote in the election of state officers.

Once an obligation card has been earned in any chapter of DeMolay International, it shall be accepted by any chapter within the State of New York.

The denial of an obligation card may be immediately appealed to the State Ritual Director or the Executive Officer.

**Sent to the SAC and SEC: 11/19/2019**  
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