



# SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

## Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Proposal

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<b>Project Proposal Title</b>	UCF Sigma Pi Sigma Induction Ceremony
<b>Name of School</b>	University of Central Florida
<b>Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Number</b>	505
<b>Total Amount Requested</b>	\$600.00

### Abstract

The University of Central Florida (UCF) Society of Physics Students and Sigma Pi Sigma chapter will host an induction ceremony. We will hold a joint ceremony between the Physics and Mathematics Honor Societies, where attendees will hear from a distinguished speaker and enjoy a catered lunch.

# Proposal Statement

## Overview of Proposed Project

UCF's SPS chapter hopes to induct a group of accomplished undergraduate physics students into the Sigma Pi Sigma ( $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$ ) national honor society. In March or April of 2024, we will hold a joint ceremony with the Pi Mu Epsilon (PIME) Mathematics honor society that will be open to inductees, SPS members, and faculty who wish to show their support. This will provide high-achieving students with recognition as well as increase awareness of  $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$  in our department and community.

The ceremony will begin with our chapter advisor, Dr. Costas Efthimiou, providing an overview of the history of SPS and  $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$ . We will also invite a guest speaker, probably a mathematical physicist, who will speak about their research and broader career path. This will be followed by a Question-and-Answer session where attendees can further interact with our speaker. The attendees will then be provided with lunch, and if funds allow, the chance to participate in a textbook raffle.

## How Proposed Project Meets the Purpose of the Award

This event will raise awareness of  $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$  in our campus community by bringing together a broad audience to celebrate our accomplished inductees, and spread information about the honors society through Dr. Efthimiou's presentation. Moreover, the planned ceremony activities, including the guest speaker and complementary lunch, give students a sense of the prestige and distinction that a  $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$  membership signifies. Connection with the PIME honor society exposes mathematics students to  $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$ , further increasing the society's visibility and providing those who are interested in physics an opportunity to learn about SPS and  $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$ . The funding provided by the award will help us provide our guest speaker with an honorarium, reserve a favorable location on campus, and give our attendees a nice meal.

## Plan for Carrying Out Proposed Project

- Personnel - Olivia Bitcon, our chapter's President, will be the primary party responsible for organizing the event. Additionally, the other members of our officer board have the proper authorizations to reserve locations across campus on behalf of UCF SPS. The officers will continue to coordinate with our chapter's advisor, Dr. Efthimiou, to ensure that sufficient preparations are made.
- Marketing - At each SPS meeting during the Spring semester (held every two weeks), we will advertise the induction ceremony to our members and invite qualified students to join. We will also use our chapter's email list, social media (our Discord server and Instagram page), and our physics department email list to advertise the ceremony.
- Sigma Pi Sigma member participation - Based on previous induction ceremonies and our lack of inductions last year, we expect to induct 5-10 new members to Sigma Pi Sigma. There will be existing members in the audience who were previously inducted, as well as the PIME inductees.
- Location - a portion of UCF's '63 South hall has been reserved to accommodate up to 50 attendees. Reservation of this location also provides a catered lunch for each attendee. At this time, we plan to host the

ceremony on April 12 from 11:00-1:00, which aligns favorably with UCF's academic calendar as well as religious observations.

## Project Timeline

Already completed	Reserve a suitable location for a favorable time and date.
Early January	Confirm that venue and date work for the mathematics department. Reach out to potential guest speakers.
January 17	Biweekly SPS meetings resume. Members are informed of the ceremony and encouraged to apply for induction, if eligible. There will be biweekly reminders until our application deadline and the ceremony itself.
March 1	Payment for the venue is submitted. Textbooks are ordered with any remaining funds.
March 18.	Preparations complete. Confirm with the guest speaker.
April 12	Induction ceremony is held.
May	Complete and submit the final report.

The precise dates are tentative, but are generally representative of our plans.

## Project Evaluation Plan

The success of the project will be evaluated based on two main factors:

1. Attendance, and
2. Post-attendance survey.

At the end of the ceremony, attendees will be provided with a Google Form to provide feedback about their likes/dislikes of the induction ceremony. These responses will also be useful in planning future events.

## Budget Justification

The venue we reserved quoted us at \$220 (\$11 for 20 people). We may reevaluate the number of people based on the number of applications we receive and the level of interest expressed by existing members. Remaining funds will first be used towards an honorarium for our guest speaker, so we can invite someone distinguished in the field which will increase awareness in our department and physics community. Additional costs for the ceremony will be managed by fundraising that our SPS chapter will do in the Spring semester. We also plan to ask our university's Physics department for additional funding. Altogether, the funds aim at creating and promoting a memorable experience for our inductees and members which will highlight Sigma Pi Sigma within our local community and convey the distinguished status of Sigma Pi Sigma membership.