



## The History of Sigil Prep

# *A History of Sigil Prep*

*(Excerpts from a history by Dora do'Urden)*

The beginnings of Sigil Prep date back to before the founding of the school, when the warrior Robilar opened a small training academy for warriors called the Chainmail Academy near the Great City of Greyhawk. It was a straightforward, if clumsily worded, curriculum of strategy and tactical thinking, intended to train fighting men for the rigors of warfare.

## **THE ORIGINAL CURRICULUM ERA**

Over time, the wizard Mordenkainen saw what Robilar was doing, and was very impressed with this initiative and effort. He declared himself Robilar's partner, and sought to include wizardry in the school's curriculum. After some discussion (or none, if you take Robilar's word for it), Mordenkainen renamed the school The Sigil Preparatory Academy, because the Wizard students (who, frankly, have the larger workload) had to learn to prepare sigils, among other things.

Robilar, in coming up with new methods of teaching tactics, invented a game he dubbed "football," which eventually led to Sigil Prep forming a league with other schools from the Greyhawk area (and eventually from Blackmoor) to play the game intercollegiately. The success of these games spurred the encouragement of more sporting competitions between schools, and College sports were born. A fledgling governing body for collegiate athletics arose, dividing member schools into two Conferences: the Greyhawk Conference and the Blackmoor Conference. Around this same time, the campus newspaper, The Strategic Review, began publication.

After a while, with the introduction of new faculty members, the school began work on a new, more organized curriculum.

## **THE ADVANCED CURRICULUM ERA**

Strangely, Mordenkainen began constructing the new "Advanced" curriculum by making a list of all the monsters he could think of. However, it wasn't long before he and the faculty had created new standards for all the most popular majors. Along with the renovation, the school was moved, in its entirety, to the city of Sigil as Mordenkainen discovered the Outer Planes, making the Advanced Curriculum the first curriculum to be taught at the school's permanent location. The school was rechristened, "Sigil Preparatory University", the name it still holds today.

Meanwhile, a simplified but still organized "Basic" curriculum was created for use by various schools, notably those in the Known World and Sigil Prep's satellite school, Sigil Community College. (The history of the Basic curriculum will be detailed further in the Basic Curriculum document.)

As the school began to grow, Mordenkainen extended administration duties to a council he dubbed "The Circle of Deans." The initial membership of the Circle included Mordenkainen himself

(Dean of Administration), Bigby (Dean of Wizardry), Robilar (Dean of Fighters), Riggby (Dean of Education), Serten (Dean of Academic Affairs), Tenser (Dean of Arts & Sciences), Ceatitle Trodar Northman (Dean of Student Affairs), and Rary (Dean of Villainy).

The proper formation of the PCAA began when Sigil Prep began talks with not only Greyhawk schools, but also schools in the worlds of Krynn and the Forgotten Realms. As those talks solidified, the first change in administration came when Raistlin Majere of Krynn replaced Bigby as Dean of Wizardry (a change Bigby cordially accepted), and Tanis Half-Elven supplanted Robilar as Dean of Fighters (a change Robilar most certainly did not accept.)

Although majors were added periodically, few of these became emphasized by the school, until the introduction of the Barbarian, Cavalier, and Thief-Acrobat majors, which were introduced along with a heavy expansion to the Druid program. Shortly after, Mordenkainen watched a bunch of samurai movies while on vacation, and returned with a large number of new majors, including the Samurai, Ninja, Wu Jen, and Bushi, most of which could have been handled just as well with flavor rather than new mechanics. But Mordenkainen doesn't know from flavor.

Eventually, as Faerun's presence in the Realms became stronger, Elminster was asked to step up as Dean of Administration, and Mordenkainen, as his last act as Headmaster, made himself Dean of Education, removing Riggby from the Circle of Deans, to his resentment. At the same time, Ceatitle Trodar Northman voluntarily stepped down to alleviate her own workload and allow more time for frivolity, and was replaced by Storm Silverhand.

The Planescape Collegiate Athletic Association had solidified as a governing body for interplanar athletics between schools. It did not yet have a permanent location, but its directorial board was now arranging all games for all member schools.

Eventually, the so-called Time of Troubles on Faerun shook up the Forgotten Realms so much, the whole multiverse shivered. The Circle of Deans decided maybe it's time to rework the curriculum.

## **SECOND (ADVANCED) CURRICULUM ERA**

The first major revision to the curriculum occurred, and all of Sigil Prep's adventuring courses underwent a huge overhaul. Most other PCAA member schools followed suit, as would be standard from then on.

Strahd von Zarovich was invited into faculty and immediately unseated Rary as Dean of Villainy. Unlike other former Circle of Dean members to this point, Rary actually quit faculty as a result.

Shortly after, the desert world of Athas came to the attention of the PCAA and many of its schools were invited in. At the same time, Agis of Asticles, a hero of that world, was invited into the Circle of Deans to replace Serten, recently stepped down as Dean of Academic Affairs. He had no qualifications for this position, but then, neither did Serten.

The PCAA finally made its permanent offices in Sigil, at the behest of Shemeshka the Marauder. At the same time, Shemeshka made a power play that put her in the office of Dean of Administration, unseating Elminster. Elminster, for his part, was tired of teaching anyway, and retired on good terms.

Mystaran schools finally abandoned the Basic Curriculum they had been using through several iterations and adapted to the Advanced Curriculum. When Tanis Half-Elven decided to retire briefly from teaching, Mystaran lord Stefan Karameikos took the position.

The second curriculum underwent a slight reorganization about midway through its era, with several new options implemented.

Cerilia schools were invited into the PCAA, just as Krynnish schools were pulling out to form their own athletic association, the Fifth Age Sports Conference. Krynnish members of Sigil Prep's faculty, including Dean Raistlin, remained however.

After the mad god Vecna forced his way into Sigil and destroyed much of it, the Sigil Prep campus required rebuilding. While they were at it, the administration decided they might as well rework the curriculum as well.

### **THIRD CURRICULUM ERA**

A much greater overhaul of the curriculum occurred between the second and third as had between the first and second. However, streamlining made students who wished to take classes from other programs much easier.

The curriculum was still pretty new when it was revised slightly yet again, resulting in what some students (especially Rangers, who had the biggest alterations) called the "Third-point-five Curriculum."

When Eberron came to the attention of the PCAA, artificer Merrix d'Cannith was eyed to head up Sigil Prep's new Artificer program. Shortly, he was asked to take over as Dean of Arts & Sciences from Tenser, who realized after all these years he didn't know much about arts or sciences.

During one fateful summer vacation, 100 years passed suddenly on Faerun during which it suffered an upheaval called the Spellplague. Again, the multiverse felt repercussions because the Forgotten Realms is just that important, and Sigil Prep, again, decided to rewrite the curriculum because why not?

### **FOURTH CURRICULUM ERA**

The greatest change in the way adventuring was taught yet, the Fourth Curriculum taught nearly every program the same way, from magic to combat.

And again, very shortly, there was a major rewrite of some programs, in what is often called the "Essential Curriculum." It wasn't that Essential, though.

Nobody was really very satisfied with the Fourth Curriculum except the Circle of Deans, but they eventually gave up and started working on yet another revision. Unprecedentedly, students were allowed to take classes under this “Next Curriculum” for several months while it was being worked on, and student feedback helped shape what would follow.

### **FIFTH CURRICULUM ERA**

The faculty finally released the Fifth Curriculum, with a fair amount of pomp and a little bit of circumstance.

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