Kappa Sigma Kappa (ΚΣΚ) fraternity was present on the Alfred campus from March 28, 1953 to October 11, 1954.

Kappa Sigma Kappa was originally founded on Sept. 28, 1867 by four cadets at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, VA. By 1885, ten chapters had been chartered. After several chapter closings, the remaining chapters merged into Phi Delta Theta in 1886.

In 1935, almost fifty years after the original ΚΣΚ fraternity had dissolved, a group of four students at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA resurrected the fraternity with the assistance of one of the original founders. In September 1935, the second incarnation of Kappa Sigma Kappa was officially established. Seven chapters of the revived ΚΣΚ were then chartered prior to World War II.

After the war, the fraternity placed great emphasis on expansion, with many new chapters being established across the country. It is during this time period that Kappa Sigma Kappa was established at the State University Agricultural and Technical Institute at Alfred, NY.

In January 1953, a group of WWII and Korean War veterans attending the Agricultural and Technical Institute at Alfred formed a new fraternity on campus, known as ‘Alpha Tau’ (AT). The fraternity was open to all men of the Ag-Tech Institute.
Soon after, Alpha Tau petitioned the national fraternity Kappa Sigma Kappa for a chapter. The national fraternity responded. On March 28, 1953, Alpha Tau fraternity at Alfred became the ‘New York Epsilon chapter’ of Kappa Sigma Kappa. The installment ceremony was held in Wellsville, NY, conducted by Earl Wolfe and other members of Beta chapter from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

At this time, along with the new Epsilon chapter at Alfred, Kappa Sigma Kappa was represented in New York State by Alpha chapter at the University of Buffalo (est. 1948), Beta chapter at the Rochester Institute of Technology (est. 1949), Gamma chapter at Buffalo Tech (est. 1950), and Delta chapter at the Russell Sage Institute (est. 1952).

By May 1, 1953, the New York Epsilon chapter at Alfred had 25 members. The first president of the chapter was Walter J. Rohde of Elmira, NY. Advisors were Mr. Milo Van Hall – Head of Student Personnel, Mr. Kenneth Kolstad – Electrical Theory professor, and Mr. Philip Smith – Farm Power professor.

The following school year, beginning in September 1953, the KΣK house was located “at the bottom of the hill” at the address of 273 N. Main Street. The part-time House Mother was Myrtie Ferry of Almond, NY. Allen L. Capwell of Dale, NY was the second president of the chapter.

Kappa Sigma Kappa was on the Alfred State Tech campus for just over a year and a half. Due to a State University of New York (SUNY) mandate, all National fraternities and sororities were to be banned from its campuses. On October 11, 1954, the New York Epsilon chapter of Kappa Sigma Kappa became the local fraternity ‘Kappa Sigma Epsilon’ (KΣE). All affiliation with the national organization was severed.

The first president of the new Kappa Sigma Epsilon fraternity was William K. Tate of Bradford, PA. The former KΣK house at 273 N. Main Street became the KΣE house.

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