

The Preble Shawnee Chapter of the National Honor Society

Selection Procedures

Selection to NHS is a privilege, not a right. Students do not apply for membership in the National Honor Society. Instead, they provide information to be used by the local selection committee to support their candidacy for membership. Membership is granted only to those students selected by the Faculty Council in each school on the condition of having met the standards for selection established at the local level and based on the provisions of the national constitution.

Prerequisite Conditions for Selection

Only those students who have attended the school the equivalent of one semester may be considered for membership. This period is necessary for students to establish themselves academically and involve themselves in various service and leadership activities, and for the faculty to get to know them and the quality of their character.

Membership is open to qualified sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Criteria for Membership

The Faculty Council of the chapter selects students who demonstrate outstanding performance in all four criteria of NHS – scholarship, leadership, service, and character. The Faculty Council will first identify students with the prerequisite GPA (3.4) and then evaluate the candidates' performance in the areas of leadership, service, and character.

Scholarship

The scholarship requirement set by the National Council is based on a student's cumulative GPA. Cumulative GPA refers to the total academic performance as demonstrated by the grades received by the student while in attendance at the school where the chapter is found.

Only those students who have a cumulative GPA of 3.4 meet the scholarship requirement for membership in the National Honor Society.

Leadership

The leadership criterion is considered highly important for membership selection. Leadership may be interpreted in terms of the number of offices a student has held in school or community organizations; however, it is important to recognize that leadership also exists outside elected positions including effective participation in positions of responsibility in other

activities offered on campus such as athletic team captains, section leaders in band and choir, committee chairs in student groups, etc. Leadership may also be defined in less objective terms. The following list of descriptors is for consideration purposed only and should not be thought of as a checklist for this criterion. The student who exercises leadership:

- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions
- Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities
- Exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals and spirit
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
- Is able to delegate responsibilities
- Exemplifies positive attitudes
- Inspires positive behavior in others
- Demonstrates academic initiative
- Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility
- Conducts business effectively and efficiently
- Demonstrates reliability and dependability
- Is a leader in the classroom, at work, or in other school or community activities
- Is dependable in any responsibility accepted.

Service

Service is generally considered to be those actions undertaken by the student which are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation. In considering service, the contributions a candidate has made to school, classmates, and community as well as the student's attitude toward service can be reviewed.

This list is for consideration purposes only and should not be thought of as a checklist for this criterion. The student who serves:

- Volunteers and provides dependable and well-organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance
- Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
- Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school
- Is willing to represent the class or school in interclass and interscholastic competition
- Does committee and staff work without complaint
- Participates in some activity outside of school (e.g., Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, religious groups, volunteer services for the elderly, poor, or disadvantaged)
- Mentors persons in the community or students at other schools
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students.

Character

Character is probably the most difficult criterion to define. The Faculty Council will consider the positive as well as the negative aspects of character. All judgments in this and other selection criteria will be free of speculation and rumor.

National Honor Society is a member of the Character Counts!™ Coalition. Through this activity, the Honor Society supports and recommends the use of a multifaceted definition of character known as the Six Pillars of Character. A person of character demonstrates the following six qualities: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

This list is for consideration purposes only and should not be thought of as a checklist for this criterion. The student of character:

- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
- Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (e.g., cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability)
- Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, halls, etc.
- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability
- Regularly shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- Observes instructions and rules, is punctual, and faithful both inside and outside the classroom
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing an unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others
- Actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environment.

Selection Process

1. Students' academic records are reviewed to determine students who are scholastically eligible for membership, i.e., students who meet the required 3.4 cumulative GPA.
2. Students who are eligible scholastically (i.e., "candidates") are notified and informed that for further consideration for selection to the chapter, they may complete the Candidate Form. This form outlines the candidate's accomplishments in the areas of Service and Leadership. Care should be taken to follow the established guidelines and time schedule for completing and submitting the forms. Both students and parents/guardians must sign these forms when submitting them, indicating that the content is both complete and accurate.
3. All faculty members are invited to make comments on candidates, done on a faculty evaluation form in the most professional manner. All input from the faculty must be signed, but will remain confidential.

4. The Candidate Form will be reviewed by the five-member Faculty Council*, along with any other verifiable information about the candidates relevant to their candidacy. The leadership, service, and character of all candidates will be reviewed carefully. Faculty members will deliberate in order to guarantee that their decisions are based on accurate and complete understandings of all information presented for review.
5. The Faculty Council will vote on each candidate, and those candidates receiving a majority vote will be invited to be inducted into the chapter. Those who do not receive the majority vote of the Faculty Council will be considered non-selected candidates.
6. Prior to notification of any candidates, the NHS adviser will report to the principal the results of the Faculty Council's deliberations for approval. Lists of selected and non-selected students will be included in this report in order to ensure the support of the administration prior to any notification.
7. Selected candidates and their parents/guardians will receive formal written notification to inform them about selection and the timing of the induction ceremony. Non-selected candidates will receive formal written notification to inform them about their non-selection.
8. Selected candidates who choose to accept the invitation for membership must attend the induction ceremony. Prospective members are not full members until they have been properly inducted.

*The NHS adviser serves as a **non-voting** facilitator of the Faculty Council.