



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Selection Criteria & Membership in NHS

The NHS chapter establishes rules for membership that are based upon a student's outstanding performance in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. These four criteria for selection form the foundation upon which the organization and its activities are built.

Scholarship: Students who have a cumulative unweighted unrounded GPA of 3.6 or higher meet the scholarship requirement for membership. These students are then eligible for consideration on the basis of service, leadership, and character.

Service: This quality is defined through the voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation and with a positive, courteous, and enthusiastic spirit.

Leadership: Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, promoters of school activities, idea contributors, dependable, and persons who exemplify positive attitudes about life. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activity while working with or for others.

Character: The student of good character upholds principles of morality and ethics, is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability, shows courtesy concern, and respect for others and generally maintains a good clean lifestyle.

Selection Procedures for Selection into NHS

For many students selection as a member of NHS is the pinnacle of their achievement in school. This honor, recognized throughout the nation, is both the public recognition of accomplishment and the private commitment to continued excellence on the part of the new member. Because of the importance placed upon this aspect of secondary school life, local chapters are charged with creating a selection process that conforms to national guidelines, is applied fairly and consistently to all candidates, and provides a meaningful recognition of deserving students.

Selection to NHS is a privilege not a right. Students do not apply for membership to NHS, instead that are invited to apply by meeting the local scholarship requirements of an unweighted, unrounded cumulative 3.6 GPA. Students then 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. This is not an election, nor is membership

automatically conveyed simply because a student has achieved a specified level of academic performance. NHS is more than just an honor roll.

The following selection process is used at Franklin Academy High School:

Section 1: To be eligible for membership the candidate must be a member of the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade class for the subsequent year designated as eligible by the chapter bylaw. As per the bylaws, a candidate must be enrolled as a full time student at Franklin Academy High School for at least one (1) full school year. As the first step in the process, students' academic records are reviewed to determine students who are scholastically eligible for membership, i.e., students who meet the required 3.6 cumulative grade point average.

Section 2: Students who are eligible scholastically, (i.e., "candidates") will be notified and informed that for further consideration for selection to the chapter, they must complete an application as set forth by the selection committee for that year. The application will include the following components:

a. Professional Resume

The professional resume is an important component that students will use to inform teachers and selection committee members of their scholarship, leadership, service, and character in both academic and extracurricular activities.

b. Teacher Evaluations

Students will seek out and request, in person, evaluations from six teachers at the high school. Teacher evaluations are kept in the highest confidence and considered confidential information. To maintain the integrity of teacher evaluations, no information disclosed within the evaluations will be discussed with anyone outside of persons involved in the selection process.

c. Honor Code

Students will submit a signed copy of the Franklin Academy High School Honor Code. In addition to signing the honor code, there will be a line for them to initial with how many hours of community service they have on file with the front office and another line indicating that they have not had any disciplinary issues inside or outside of school.

d. Personal Statement

Students are invited to also demonstrate their communication skills that are so important to leadership through a form of personal statement. This component varies from year to year and has previously taken the form of panel interviews, video recorded personal statements, or essays that answer a prompt. This can of course take different forms in the future as well.

e. Service Requirement

Sophomores should have a minimum of 37.5 service hours; Juniors should have a minimum of 62.5 hours when the application period closes.

Section 3: The selection committee will gather the aggregate information and use it to score students in the categories of leadership, character, and service. Each category will have a set passing score as determined by the selection committee. In order to be selected to the NHS a student must earn a passing score in all three categories. Failure to earn a passing score in any single category will result in non-selection.

Section 4: A final list of selected and non-selected students will be submitted to administration. Administration will check the list of selected students to look for previous suspension (which leads to automatic disqualification), or other disciplinary issues we should be made aware of. At this time they can also inquire as to why some of the non-selected students were not selected. This process will assure the support of the administration prior to any notification of acceptance.

Appeals

Appeals will only be considered in instances where a procedural error may have occurred. Appeals of the Selection Committee's decision will not be considered. The process to file an appeal for procedural error is as follows:

1. Contact the NHS advisor to share your specific concern and procedural error.
2. If resolution is not found with the NHS advisor, the matter will then be referred to an administrator.
3. An administrator will review all documents and information and make a determination.

Timeline

At the end of first semester, student records are reviewed. Invitation for membership will go out no later than the end of the third quarter and the selection process will begin. Those selected will be inducted before the end of the school year.

Expectation

NHS is a society that emphasizes service. Each member will be required to acquire four (4) NHS specific service hours and sixteen (16) general service hours for a total of 20 hours each year. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action and may include consideration for dismissal.