**Petitioning Society:**

**Academic Field:**

**Membership Type:**  New Member Reinstatement

**Evaluate your society using the criteria below by placing an ‘x’ at each criterion you meet and providing the specific bylaw or policy to show how it is met. Feel free to explain further for clarity.**

# Article IV, Section A

A certified member society is an honor society that offers membership to undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in an institution who, as defined by the society, have achieved academic excellence across all their coursework or in a particular field, program, or major; and who may also have achieved excellence in leadership, research, service, or a collegiate activity or program.

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

Article IV, Section B

There are two classifications of certified member societies: general and specialized.

***General Honor Societies***

# Article IV, Section C

General Honor Society: A certified member society in the general classification is one that receives into membership students:

who are in any major or field of study or in an overarching discipline that may be subdivided into distinct fields; and

who have attained the scholastic and other requirements that the certified member society has established.

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

# Article IV, Section D

A certified member society in the general classification that bases eligibility:

primarily on scholarship, may receive into membership students who rank no lower than the highest 20 percent of their class, [See Article XVIII definitions of class and rank] or, if class rank is unavailable, a cumulative grade point of at least 3.5; and

additionally on leadership, may receive into membership students who rank no lower than the highest 35 percent of their class or, if class rank is unavailable, a cumulative grade point of at least 3.3.

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

Article IV, Section E

A certified member society in the general classification must fall into one of these categories: general lower, general upper, or general graduate.

A certified member society in the **general lower category** may receive into membership students:

who are enrolled in their first or second year and have completed or exceeded the number of undergraduate credits [See Article XVIII definition of credit] that constitute a full-time undergraduate academic load [See Article XVIII definition of full-time undergraduate academic load] ***or***

who have completed fewer than 50 percent of the credits required for an undergraduate degree.

A certified member society in the **general upper category** may receive into membership students who have completed at least 50 percent of the credits required for an undergraduate degree.

A certified member society in the **general graduate category** may receive into membership graduate students who have been unconditionally admitted to a degree-granting program and have completed or exceeded the number of graduate credits that constitute a full-time graduate academic load that an institution uses to define full-time status in one term and maintains a grade point average that, if continued, will make them eligible for a graduate degree. [See Article XVIII definition of full-time graduate academic load.]

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

***Specialized Honor Societies***

# Article IV, Section F

A certified member society in the specialized classification is one that receives into membership students:

who are in a particular major or field of study; and

who have attained the scholastic and other requirements that the certified member society has established.

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

# Article IV, Section G

A certified member society in the specialized classification may receive into membership students who rank no lower than the highest 35 percent of their class or, if class rank is unavailable, a cumulative grade point of at least 3.3.

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

# Article IV, Section H

A certified member society in the specialized classification must fall into one of these categories: specialized lower, specialized upper, or specialized graduate.

A certified member society in the **specialized lower category** may receive into membership students who have completed no fewer than the number of credits that constitute a full-time undergraduate academic load and, if applicable, fewer than 37.5 percent of the credits required for a baccalaureate degree.

A certified member society in the **specialized upper category** may receive into membership students who have completed at least 37.5 percent of the credits required for a baccalaureate degree.

A certified member society in the **specialized graduate category** may receive into membership graduate students who have been unconditionally admitted to a degree-granting program and have completed or exceeded the number of graduate credits that constitute a full-time graduate academic load that an institution uses to define full-time status in one term and maintains a grade point average that, if continued, will make them eligible for a graduate degree. [See Article XVIII definition of full-time graduate academic load.]

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

# Article IV, Section H (All Honor Societies)

A certified member society or a petitioning honor society may request to use a lower grade point than specified in these Bylaws when class rank is unavailable for some or all of its chapters. A request approved by the Board shall permit the society to use the requested grade point and be deemed not in violation of the provisions of these Bylaws provided the society reports the grade point used annually. A society that fails to report its use of grade point or wishes to change the grade point used must submit a new request. Such a request must: meet the requirements and procedure set by the Board; provide justification for the use of grade point when class rank is unavailable; and be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board.

**If your society permits the use of a GPA minimum that falls below that specified in the ACHS Bylaws for your classification, please list it and explain its use and where it is referenced in society bylaws or policy:**

**Standards and Requirements for Society Membership**

Each requirement should be met and addressed in the organizing instrument, bylaws, and/or policies where applicable. Make note of where these are fulfilled in the documents of the petitioning honor society or in some other resource. These ACHS standards are listed in the ACHS Bylaws.

**Society Tax Status**:

Society must be determined to be an exempt organization as set forth in United States Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c), be a charitable organization that is organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes, and allow none of its earnings to inure to a private shareholder or person. (Article V, Section A)

**Comment:**

**Society Existence**:

Society shall have existed as a national organization for at least five years before becoming an active voting member of the Association. (Article IX, Section A(2))

**Comment:**

Society shall have met all the standards for affiliation continuously for at least one full year.

**Comment (date by which they were met):**

**Individual Members of Societies**:

Invitations to collegiate membership may be issued only by a collegiate chapter duly chartered by the certified member society (exceptions from the normal chapter must be specified). (Article V, Section B(6))

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

**Comment:**

Membership may be conferred on the basis of eligibility alone, without regard for membership in or affiliation with other organizations. (Article V, Section B(7))

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

**Comment:**

No social pressure to accept membership may be exerted by it, its members, advisors, alumni, or by a chapter. (Article V, Section B(8))

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

**Comment:**

Neither the society nor any of its chapters may discriminate on the basis of any class protected by federal law *(non-discrimination clause).* (Article V, Section B(11))

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

**Comment:**

**Collegiate Chapters of Societies**:

Society may only charter or reactivate collegiate chapters at or with accredited institutions of higher education [see Article XVIII definition of accredited institutions of higher education] that grant the associate, baccalaureate, masters, or doctoral degree so long as the appropriate authority of the institution has approved the chartering. (Article VIII, Section A (1))

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

**Comment:**

Society shall maintain its collegiate chapters continuously so long as the institution holding the charter remains accredited and its authority continues to approve the chapter’s existence and the chapter meets the requirements of the society’s overarching governing document (Article VIII, Section A (2))

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

**Comment:**

A certified member society may claim that it has a collegiate chapter at an institution only if the institution holds a charter of the member society and that chapter remains active. (Article VIII, Section B)

An active collegiate chapter is defined as one which holds elections to membership at least annually, except in national emergencies, and includes active student members. An inactive chapter shall be one from which no new members have been elected for two or more consecutive years.

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

**Comment:**

U.S. collegiate chapters at colleges and universities that grant the associate, baccalaureate, or higher degrees and that are accredited by one of the regional accrediting agencies. (Note: 2025 bylaws define accredited institutions as those that meet the academic quality, improvement, and accountability expectations established by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or by the institutional and programmatic accreditors recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.) (Article VIII, Section A(1))

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

**Comment:**

Non-U.S. institutions of higher learning must meet and maintain the Association's standards and requirements with regard to the mission and quality of eligible institutions (standards equivalent to regional accrediting agencies) – the policies for establishing international chapters must be stated in society documents. (Article VIII, Section C)

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

**Comment:**

Society has ten or more active, chartered collegiate chapters. (Article IX, Section A(3))

**Year by which chapters were chartered in two or more geographic regions of the U.S.: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Does society also charter international chapters? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Comment:**

**Governance of Societies:**

Society circumscribes the set of students who may be members and sets forth and maintains the criteria for membership and selection methods that are observed by all collegiate chapters. (Article V, Section B (1, 3, 5))

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

**Comment:**

Society is organized on a membership basis. (Article V, Sections B(2-4, 6-8))

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

**Comment:**

If the society, on a limited basis, offers full or honorific membership to eminent, distinguished, or otherwise worthy individuals who exemplify the ideals and the purposes of the certified member society and are not presently eligible as collegiate members. (Article V, Section B (4))

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

**Comment:**

Society is governed democratically by collegiate members or chapters who have the right to elect the members of the overarching governing board, either in an individual or representative capacity. (Article V, Section B(9)(a))

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

**Comment:**

Society is governed democratically by collegiate members or chapters who have the power to adopt, amend, or repeal any part of the organization’s overarching organizing document (Article V, Section B(9)(b))

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

**Comment:**

At least once every four years, either at a national convention or through an equivalent democratic process, the society must conduct elections of members of its governing board. (Article V, Section B(10))

**Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:**

**Comment:**

**Additional comments or notes:**