

**Association of College Honor Societies
Membership Self-Assessment**

Petitioning Society: _____
Academic Field: _____
Classification for ACHS Membership: _____ Active Voting _____ Associate Nonvoting
Membership Type: _____ Reinstatement _____ New Member

Please evaluate your society using the below criteria by placing an 'x' if you meet each criteria

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:

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

General Honor Societies

Article IV, Section C

General Honors 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.

**Association of College Honor Societies
Membership Self-Assessment**

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 students who have completed or exceeded the number of graduate credits that constitute a full-time graduate academic load. [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

**Association of College Honor Societies
Membership Self-Assessment**

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 students who have completed no fewer than the number of credits that constitute a full-time graduate academic load.

Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:

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.

Specific reference 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, revised 2023.

Society Tax Status:

_____ Society must be a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

Comment:

Society Existence:

_____ Society shall have existed as a national organization for at least ten years before becoming an active voting member of the Association and for at least five years before becoming an associate nonvoting member of the Association.

Comment:

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

**Association of College Honor Societies
Membership Self-Assessment**

Comment:

Individual Members of Societies:

_____ Election of persons to membership shall be conferred solely on the basis of character and specified eligibility, and shall be irrespective of membership in or affiliation with other organizations and associations.

Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:

Comment:

_____ Invitation for membership must be from the official chapter (exceptions from the normal chapter must be specified).

Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:

Comment:

_____ No solicitation or propaganda, such as rushing or social pressure, shall be used to ensure invitation to or acceptance of membership.

Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:

Comment:

_____ Chapters shall not discriminate on any basis prohibited by law. (*non-discrimination clause*)

Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:

Comment:

Collegiate Chapters of Societies:

_____ Society shall have ten or more active collegiate chapters located in two or more geographic areas of the United States.

Comment:

_____ An active collegiate chapter shall be 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 in which no elections have been held for two or more consecutive years.

Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:

**Association of College Honor Societies
Membership Self-Assessment**

Comment:

_____ Formal chartering of campus chapters shall require approval by a petition from the institution and, if appropriate, the college/department.

Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:

Comment:

_____ Official action of the governing body of the honor society is required for charter approval.

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.

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.

Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:

Comment:

Governance of Societies (Article III, Section 8, F):

_____ Society is organized on a membership basis.

Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:

Comment:

_____ Individual members of each society shall have the right to elect all members of its governing board, either in an individual or representative capacity.

Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:

Comment:

**Association of College Honor Societies
Membership Self-Assessment**

_____ Individual members shall have the power to adopt, amend, or repeal policies of the society, either in an individual or representative capacity.

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; establish authority for control of the affairs of the society; and present a report of national finances covering the period since the immediately preceding financial report.

Specific reference in society bylaws or policy:

Comment:

Additional comments or notes: