

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY FAQs



ST. JOHNS CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Prior to induction, prospective members are invited to submit an application, personal statement, and two letters of recommendation. Each application is reviewed, and a decision on membership is made by the NHS Chapter Adviser and the Faculty Council. Scholars whose membership is accepted to NHS are installed at an induction. Here are some frequently asked questions that may help you understand what is required of prospective members and the application process.

1. Who may apply for membership in NHS?

Any SJCA scholar in his/her sophomore, junior, or senior year is invited to apply for membership in NHS provided she/he first meets the minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) requirement. Other criteria for membership include: demonstration of good character, participation in co-curricular and community activities, and a commitment to community service. Junior or Senior scholars who have previously applied but were not accepted for membership in NHS are encouraged to submit a new application the following school year. Current Seniors applying must complete an individual service project and meet the minimum service hour requirements to graduate with NHS membership status. The Faculty Council shall reserve the right to award honorary membership to foreign exchange scholars or scholars who receive accommodations for a disability in recognition of achievement and/or outstanding service rendered to the school in keeping with the pillars of the National Honor Society. These honorary members must possess three of the four pillars.

2. What is the minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) requirement for membership in NHS?

Prospective members must have a minimum unweighted GPA of 3.5 to receive an invitation to apply. Current members must maintain an unweighted 3.5 GPA to retain membership in NHS. Current members whose unweighted GPA falls below 3.5 will be put on probation for one semester, ending with a review of the student's GPA after the probationary period.

3. How do I apply for membership in NHS?

Scholars meeting the minimum GPA are invited to apply. Scholars who apply for membership in NHS are not automatically invited to join NHS. The application is used by the Faculty Council as one of the criteria for membership alongside the student's GPA and disciplinary record.

4. When do I apply for membership in NHS?

Invitations to apply are hand delivered to all students meeting the minimum GPA. A specific and final deadline date for applying is listed on the application. This deadline will NOT be extended; therefore, all applications must be turned in on or before this deadline date, or the application will not be accepted. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.**

5. When will I know if I've been accepted for membership in NHS?

Invitations to join the National Honor Society will be hand delivered to qualifying students. Those scholars who are not offered membership will receive a letter or conference explaining the reason(s) their application was not accepted.

6. Besides scholarship, what are the other criteria for membership in NHS?

The National Honor Society requires members to demonstrate leadership in and outside of school, perform service to their school and community, possess a character of high morals and ethics, and demonstrate citizenship by their membership in school and community organizations. NHS requires prospective members to list and describe their co-curricular activities, their leadership positions in these activities, their involvement in school and community activities, and the types and number of service hours performed throughout their high school career.

7. What are co-curricular activities?

Co-curricular activities include membership in school or club sports teams, band, chorus, orchestra, clubs, internships, part-time jobs, etc.

8. What is considered a leadership position?

A leadership position is any position in which the student had to manage, motivate, and oversee other people. These leadership positions can be elected or appointed positions in student government, clubs, or community organizations. Leadership positions can be associated with a particular service or community project. Workrelated leadership positions (such as store manager, assistant manager, team leader, etc.) are acceptable.

9. What are community activities?

Membership in NHS requires active participation in the community outside of school. Community organizations include Boy and Girl Scouts, service organizations like Rotary, fundraising events like Relay for Life, environmental groups or activities, charity organizations such as the American Cancer Society or the American Red Cross, religious organizations, such as church/synagogue/mosque, youth or mission groups, etc.

10. What are service hours?

Service hours are the amount of time a scholar volunteers in activities for which he/she receives no compensation. Service hours that are performed in order to receive or boost a class grade or to satisfy the requirements of a class may not be used as part of a student's application to NHS. In addition, service hours performed so a scholar may be rewarded with a trip, prize, or other non-monetary reward may not be included in the student's application. The exception to this is any service activity associated with the Boy/Girl Scouts or similar organization whereby the student is recognized with a badge or similar type of award.

11. What part does character play in the application process?

NHS holds in high esteem the character of its members. While scholars who have violated St. John Classical Academy's Honor Code or have been subject to disciplinary measures, may not be accepted for membership in NHS, they may still decide to submit an application. Scholars who choose to do so are highly encouraged to also submit a detailed explanation of the circumstances of the infraction as well as what the student learned from the experience.

12. What should I include on my application?

Typically, the Faculty Council is looking for a well-rounded scholar who is not only focused on academic success, but who also has a deep commitment to serving their community. Leaving important areas on the application blank will only diminish the chances of admission. This is not to say, however, that if you don't have any leadership positions listed you will not get into NHS, but it certainly means the rest of your activities have to be that much stronger. All volunteer activities listed on the scholar's application must also include a contact name and telephone number or email address in order to verify the applicant's service hours and activities.

13. Does it cost anything to be a member of NHS?

Annual dues for this chapter shall be determined annually.

14. Who should I speak to if I need more information on NHS membership and requirements?

The NHS Chapter Adviser is Mrs. Ana Maria Cosme. She can be reached via email at anamaria.cosme@stjca.org.