



# Scholars Academy

## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



### Selection Rubric

The National Honor Society of the Scholars Academy is a duly chartered and affiliated chapter of this prestigious national organization. Its purpose shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of the Scholars Academy. **Selection to National Honor Society is a privilege bestowed upon students by the faculty of the school, and not considered a right inherent to all students.**

Membership is open to those students in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades who meet the required standards in four areas of evaluation: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Selection for membership is by a five member Faculty Council, appointed by the principal. The Faculty Council bestows this honor upon qualified students on behalf of the faculty of our school in the fall of each year. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities. Standards for selection are established by the national office of National Honor Society and have been revised to meet our local chapter needs.

In order to receive an invitation to seek membership, students must meet the minimum standard for the scholarship, community service, and character criteria:

- **Scholarship**
  - A student must have a cumulative WEIGHTED grade point average of **4.25** or better at the end of the sophomore and/or junior year based on the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy.
  - Students who have been placed on academic probation more than once are not eligible.
- **Community Service**
  - A student must have completed the Scholars Academy requirement of 24 hours each year.
- **Character** - A student with any of the following disciplinary offenses will not be admitted:
  - 3 or more documented Level 1 offenses (other than tardies)
  - a documented cheating offense or level 2 offense, within the last year
  - a documented level 3 offense

Those candidates who choose to accept the invitation to seek membership will be further evaluated on the character and leadership criteria using a student information form and faculty feedback. The student form must be submitted by the candidate and provide a thorough description of his/her leadership activities, which may include activities at the Scholars Academy, at other high schools, in church, and/or in the community. It is imperative that candidates understand that service is not the same as leadership. **For the leadership criterion, it means that the student led, organized, maintained, or created service/events/ projects, etc. for the Scholars Academy program, other high schools, church, or community.** All leadership activities must be verified by the Faculty Council before consideration. For faculty feedback, each Scholars Academy faculty member will be solicited for professional reflections on a candidate's character and leadership. The following descriptors are taken from the NHS Handbook to give further help in definitions of **leadership and character**. The Faculty Council will use these characteristics when evaluating whether a candidate fulfills the leadership and character criterion.

- **Character**
  - Consistently exemplifies positive and desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, poise, friendliness, stability)
  - Cooperates by complying with all school policies and regulations and codes of student conduct
  - Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
  - Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty, academic integrity, and reliability
  - Regularly exhibits courtesy, concern, and respect for others
  - Complies with instructions and rules, and displays personal responsibility

*A candidate must show strong evidence of exemplifying at least half of the above qualities on a daily basis. This will be determined by the Faculty Council based on personal observations and the professional reflections described in the faculty feedback. Specific comments referenced by the Faculty Council or faculty members regarding any incidence(s) of undesirable qualities of character displayed by the candidate will be considered.*

- **Leadership**

- Is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles and making suggestions
- Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities (or community 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
- 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, and in other school or community activities
- Is dependable in any responsibility accepted

*A candidate must be considered a leader by the Faculty Council in at least 2 of the activities they listed and were verified, or in 1 activity for more than one year, in order to meet the leadership criterion. Furthermore, in order for an activity to be regarded as a leadership role, it must fulfill at least half of the descriptors listed above as agreed upon by the Faculty Council.*

A majority vote of the Faculty Council is necessary for selection. To maintain the integrity of the voting process, the Faculty Council names will not be disclosed to eligible candidates, students, parents, other faculty and staff members, or to people in the community.

Candidates who meet the criteria for selection will be notified in writing. Following notification, a formal induction will be held at the school to recognize all new members. Induction will be held once each year. Once inducted, new members are required to maintain the same level of performance or better in all four criteria that led to their selection. This includes regular attendance at chapter meetings and participation in NHS activities. Members must maintain a cumulative 4.25 GPA, continue to exhibit leadership initiative, and complete an additional ten hours of community service each year that are dedicated toward NHS sponsored tutoring, fundraising, drives, or events. New members are required to read the NHS By-Laws and indicate with their signature that they understand the expectations for members.

National Honor Society is a national organization; therefore, a student may only have one secondary school opportunity for membership. Because the opportunity for membership is available at Scholars Academy, students may only apply to the Scholars Academy NHS; Scholars Academy students are not allowed to apply to their base school NHS.

Junior year candidates, who are invited to apply for selection, but fail to meet all four criteria, are strongly encouraged to seek membership during their senior year. Students who are dismissed from the Scholars Academy National Honor Society are never again eligible for membership at the Scholars Academy NHS.

\*For a copy of the complete By-Laws, please contact the chapter adviser.

Source: Appendix E, NHS Handbook- Pg. 84  
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**Please note that the chapter adviser shall be an ex officio, non-voting, sixth member of the Faculty Council. Moreover, no principal or assistant principal may be included on the Faculty Council. For questions regarding the selection rubric, please contact the chapter adviser.**