



# NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

## WHAT IT TAKES TO BE INVITED

### and How to Complete Candidacy Successfully

AVERAGE  
SCORE  
REQUIRED  
FOR INDUCTION:  
**11**

#### LEADERSHIP • SERVICE • CHARACTER • SCHOLARSHIP

NHS membership is an honor earned through your daily choices.

Use this rubric to understand what it takes to be invited to the NHS candidacy process and how to complete candidacy successfully.

| PILLAR                                                                                                                                                                | 4 EXCEPTIONAL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 3 PROFICIENT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 2 DEVELOPING                                                                                                                                                                                 | 1 LIMITED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>LEADERSHIP</b><br>Be a leader in school and beyond.                              | Shows strong, effective leadership in formal and informal situations. Takes initiative in setting, and asserting direction towards goals. Also seen as a positive leader in the classroom.                                                                 | Shows effective leadership in formal situations. Holds/has held office in a number of organizations, and has moved the organization forward in his/her role.                                                                                                    | Shows or has shown some tentative leadership activity; may be holding office(s) in organization(s), OR displays leadership informally in class and other situations.                         | How the candidate has been a leader is unclear. Little evidence of leadership.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|  <b>SERVICE</b><br>Serve others and improve our school and community.                | Consistent, sustained, outstanding service and involvement to better or improve our school and community.                                                                                                                                                  | Candidate evidences service performed on an ongoing basis through participation in organized school and community activities.                                                                                                                                   | School and community service involvement is spotty. More one-time events than dedicated involvement.                                                                                         | How activities impact school or community is unclear, OR activities are simply listed but verifications are missing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|  <b>CHARACTER</b><br>Demonstrate integrity, respect, and responsibility every day. | Strong evidence of exemplifying all seven desirable qualities of character. No visits to ISS, no discipline referrals, no conduct grades below S, no tardies, & attendance is above 90%. Is never rude or disrespectful to staff.                          | Good evidence of exemplifying most of the seven desirable qualities of character. No visits to ISS, no discipline referrals, no conduct grades below S, few tardies (no more than 5 total), & attendance is above 90%. Is never rude or disrespectful to staff. | Moderate evidence of exemplifying most of the desirable qualities of character or has had one minor discipline referral or one visit to ISS.<br><br>Minor = tardies, skipping, ID violations | Candidate has had discipline problems and/or referral(s), has been rude, disrespectful to staff, has excessive tardies, or has had one visit to ISS for a major offense or more than one visit to ISS for minor offenses.<br><br>Major = fighting, vaping, personal device law violations, anything requiring multiple days of ISS or OCI |
|  <b>SCHOLARSHIP</b><br>Commit to learning and academic excellence.                 | Candidate demonstrates academic excellence with high grades and advanced coursework. Shows evidence of strong commitment to learning through participation in academic clubs, competitions, or independent study and/or is ranked in the top 10% of class. | Candidate shows a commitment to learning through participation in academic clubs or academic service such as peer tutoring and and/or is ranked in the top 25% of class.                                                                                        | Candidate has challenged him/herself by taking multiple rigorous/advanced courses each semester and meets the cumulative GPA requirement of 3.75 for initial consideration.                  | Candidate meets the minimum cumulative GPA requirement of 3.75 for initial consideration.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

#### HOW TO EARN YOUR INVITATION & SUCCEED AS A CANDIDATE



##### LEAD EVERY DAY

Take initiative. Be a positive influence in class, activities, and organizations.



##### SERVE WITH PURPOSE

Commit to service that makes a meaningful impact—consistently, not just for a requirement.



##### CHOOSE CHARACTER

Be honest, respectful, and responsible. Your actions reflect who you are, even when no one is watching.



##### FOCUS ON LEARNING

Challenge yourself academically. Participate, ask questions, and seek opportunities to grow.



##### KEEP RECORDS

Track your leadership, service, and awards. Provide verification when required.



##### BE A ROLE MODEL

Your reputation matters. Treat others with kindness and respect.



#### IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER

The Faculty Council reserves the right to change the requirements for NHS candidacy and induction with each incoming freshman class.



**REMEMBER:** NHS is not just about getting in—it's about who you are every day.  
**Start today. Strive for growth. Inspire others. Leave a legacy.**