

What We Do

Since 1925, ACHS has set standards for organizational excellence and scholastic eligibility, ensuring that member societies are structured to advance the interests of their individual members. ACHS also serves as a resource to protect consumers from disreputable organizations.

The mission of ACHS is to build a visibly cohesive community of national and international honor societies that promotes the values of higher education; fosters excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, and research; and adheres to the standards of honor society excellence.



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Association of College Honor Societies



HONOR SOCIETIES AND ACHS



Promote
academic
excellence
and research



Support
members
through
scholarships
and grants



Encourage
leadership
development



Offer
community
service
opportunities



Provide a rich
tradition of
collegiate
history

ACHS—the nation's only
certifying agency for
college and university
honor societies

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Certified Honor Societies Are Committed to Excellence

Membership in a reputable honor society does not come easily. An invitation to membership should reflect exceptional academic achievement and sometimes, additionally, outstanding campus leadership and service.

Some honor societies include all academic fields, while others focus on specialized areas such as political science or music. All ACHS-certified societies bestow honor, recognition, and lifetime distinction.

Despite the Greek names, college honor societies are not social clubs or fraternal organizations. Honor society members are among your school's most promising young prospective professionals, eager to advance scholarship, ethics, and professionalism in their academic disciplines.

Benefits to Joining a Certified College Honor Society

Enrich Your Education

Honor societies play a vital role in keeping members current in their fields through publications, online communities, and chapter and national events. This service begins during the college years and often extends into the alumni programs that many of our societies offer for a lifetime of networking and learning. Additionally, many honor societies provide access to exclusive scholarships, internships, and leadership and service opportunities.

Recognize Your Achievement

While achievement is an intrinsic reward, receiving your honor society key or pin signifies a noteworthy accomplishment that distinguishes you within your field. Listing an ACHS-certified honor society on your resume serves as a tangible testament to your academic and leadership success.

Assist in Career Choices

Reputable honor societies offer members a deeper understanding of their disciplines that transcends classroom learning. Active participation in honor societies allows students to explore and refine their interests, unveiling new career possibilities through engaging activities.

Advance Your Career

Whether pursuing graduate studies or entering the workforce, a college honor society can facilitate numerous opportunities. Membership is recognized within your field as a mark of excellence, identifying you as a standout candidate. An invitation to join a certified honor society is not merely a recognition of your achievements; it serves as a widely acknowledged hallmark of distinction.

Know the Indicators of Credibility

Not every honor society is what it appears to be.

How to Evaluate Credibility

To be an informed consumer, here are identifiers of a credible honor society:

- Minimum scholastic criteria such as ranking in at least the upper 20-35% of your class
- Membership participation in governance (national boards elected by membership, full financial disclosure, 501(c) non-profit status)
- Formal charter on your college campus
- Website with national officers and headquarters staff, contact information, bylaws, and transparent eligibility requirements and membership benefits

Exercise Caution

If an honor society is not certified by ACHS, look for these red flags before accepting an invitation for membership:

- No academic criteria (or too low) for membership
- No chartered chapter on your campus
- Society is not a 501(c) nonprofit
- Constitution and/or Bylaws are not on the website
- Website does not provide detailed eligibility requirements
- Society does not provide chief executive officer contact information
- Website offers an application without an invitation or approval from a campus chapter

For more tips on judging honor society credibility, visit www.ACHShonor.org

