

# National Business Honor Society – Collegiate Chapter Start-Up Kit

Revised January 2025

# Excellence in Business





#### NATIONAL BUSINESS HONOR SOCIETY - COLLEGIATE

A subsidiary of the National Business Education Association

Congratulations on your decision to implement a local collegiate chapter of the National Business Honor Society. This chapter start-up kit is designed to assist you in your chapter's initial planning and organization.

We offer the ideal opportunity for you to provide recognition to your business students and your school. By reviewing the information included in this kit, you will discover how easy it is to start a chapter.

#### Materials included:

- Top Reasons to Start a Chapter
- Steps for Organizing a Local Chapter
- Purposes of the National Business Honor Society Collegiate
- Eligibility
- Chapter Requirements
- Student Membership Qualifications
- Charter Application Sample
- Sample Chapter Bylaws

New chapter applications must be received by October 1 or February 1. Please allow up to two months from these deadline dates for the completion of the review of your charter application.

After you have reviewed the enclosed materials, please contact NBEA Headquarters with any questions or for assistance in completing the start-up procedures.

E-mail: NBHSC@NBEA.org

Website: NBHSC.org



# **Top Reasons to Start a Chapter**

The National Business Honor Society - Collegiate is:

- ★ the premier National Business Honor Society sponsored by the National Business Education Association (NBEA)
- ★ a subsidiary of a national organization NBEA
- ★ an opportunity for local and national recognition of your outstanding students
- ★ an opportunity to promote and recognize service learning
- ★ an opportunity to promote and recognize academic achievement
- ★ an opportunity to promote and recognize leadership and character development
- ★ an opportunity to increase the visibility of your business-related curriculum
- ★ open to all collegiate-level schools that have business-related programs
- ★ open to all eligible students
- ★ a positive addition to every student's portfolio and résumé
- ★ a way for students to enhance their college, scholarship, and employment applications
- ★ a way for NBEA members to recognize your outstanding students
- ★ a way to bring national recognition to your school
- ★ a way to enhance an interest in the study of business-related subjects



# **Steps for Organizing a Local Chapter**

- 1. Review the materials in this start-up kit. Pay close attention to the "Charter Application Frequent Mistakes" section. This will help prevent delays in reviewing your application.
- **2. Meet with appropriate school officials** to determine the steps needed for approval and support.
- **3.** Recruit or become the lead adviser(s). At least one educator at the institution where the chapter is located must be a current NBEA professional member affiliated with the Council for Business Teaching and Research (CBTR). CBTR serves as NBEA's means to serve the post-secondary, business teaching and research audience. One educator will be the lead adviser for the honor society chapter and the primary contact for correspondence. Business educators who help sponsor a chapter could include business, technology, educators/administrators, or any individual (regardless of job title) teaching courses that reflect the *National Standards for Business Education* published by NBEA. NBEA requires that any educator actively involved in the chapter activities be an NBEA professional member.
- 4. Formulate and approve your chapter's bylaws adapted from the sample found in this kit.
- 5. Identify members who meet the eligibility requirements.
- 6. Submit the completed chapter application, chapter bylaws, course descriptions, and charter fee to the National Business Honor Society.
- 7. Establish the local chapter board.
- 8. Induct new members and plan service activities as desired by the student members.
- 9. Have fun!



# Purposes of the National Business Honor Society – Collegiate

The purposes of the National Business Honor Society - Collegiate are to:

- promote and recognize academic achievement in business excellence at the post-secondary level;
- foster and recognize leadership skills and character development;
- help members grow ethically and socially by promoting and encouraging an interest in business and
- encourage member involvement in service learning initiatives.

# **Chapter Eligibility**

Public or independent post-secondary institutions offering business-related curriculum reflective of the *National Standards for Business Education* shall be eligible to apply for a charter. Topics such as accounting, business law, career development communication, economics/personal finance, entrepreneurship, information technology, international business, management, and marketing are included in the standards. The school must be located in the United States of America, its territories, Canada, or other jurisdictions approved by the NBHSC governing council. All advisors must maintain current and continuous professional membership in NBEA. Failure to do so will result in charter revocation.

# **Chapter Requirements**

- Each chapter must write bylaws to amplify sections of the National Business Honor Society Collegiate national bylaws and clarify the local chapter's operating procedures.
- Each chapter must pay a chartering fee determined by the national governing council. The application fee will be refunded if the chapter application is not approved. The one-time chartering fee is \$400.00; this fee is subject to change without notice. Purchase orders are accepted as a form of payment for the chartering fee. However, final approval will not be provided until all fees are paid.
- Each chapter must have a local chapter board comprised of five adult professionals such as business teachers, school counselors, principals/assistant principals, administrators, other academic teachers, or advisory board members. Students are not allowed to serve on this local chapter board. Local chapter board members who are not active advisors are not required to be NBEA members to participate. Board members who actively participate in chapter activities are required to be NBEA members.
- Each school with a chapter must pay an annual renewal fee determined by the national governing council. Currently, the fee is \$200.00, but it is subject to change without notice. Purchase orders are NOT accepted as payment for the annual renewal fee.
- Each chapter student member must join NBEA as an NBHSC student member through a unique web link provided by NBEA that will attach that student's



membership to your chapter. This will enable every chapter sponsor to track its local chapter members. National Chapter fees are \$49.00US for the first year and \$25.00 for each year afterward. Students accepting the invitation to join the chapter and paying applicable dues will receive a beautiful NBHS pendant, keychain, and certificate.

Any educator actively sponsoring, advising, or participating in the honor society activities must be a current NBEA professional member affiliated with CBTR <u>at all times</u>. This requirement is justified because NBEA provides documentable evidence, through membership, of the educators' professional development, chapter management activities, and other benefits befitting service to exemplary students.

# **Student Membership Qualifications**

A student must be a collegiate level who has completed one semester and achieved applicable academic standing. The student must have a minimum standard GPA, on a 4.0 scale, as follows: business courses average-3.5; overall average-3.0. Local chapters may require a higher GPA for membership, but the GPA requirements may not be lowered.

After the NBHSC Governing Council approves a chapter, a unique website link will be provided to each chapter through its primary advisor, allowing member students to pay the applicable fees, which are \$49 for the first year and \$25 for years 2+. Students are provided with professional-grade certificates, lapel pins, and admission to specific nationally sponsored NBHSC events. Sponsors are not expected to collect dues or do financial transactions other than what may be required for the local chapter initiatives.

# **Chapter Approval Process**

New charter applications must be received by October 1 or February 1. Please allow up to two months from these deadline dates to complete the review of your charter application.

You will be notified if there are any discrepancies with the charter application. All discrepancies must be resolved within 30 days of the first contact with the national governing council, or the application will not be approved.

Approved chapters will receive an official welcome letter, charter, and other materials.

#### Incomplete applications will not be processed and will delay the approval process.

Make sure each item listed below is complete with your application or your application will not be approved.

Charter Application (Microsoft Word Format)
Chapter Bylaws (Microsoft Word Format)
List of at least five (5) business related courses offered in your department
Chapter Charter Fee (Invoiced after the application is received.)
Participating business educators in the NBHSC chapter activities must be current NBEA members. New NBEA membership
applications and payments must be included with this application or



# **Chapter Revocation**

The chapter will be considered inactive, and the charter of a chapter may be revoked by the national governing council for failure to do one or more of the following:

- 1. maintain an active status;
- 2. comply with the objectives of the National Business Honor Society Collegiate;
- 3. bring its bylaws into compliance with National Business Honor Society Collegiate Bylaws;
- **4.** provide a copy of the current bylaws to NBEA;
- **5.** renew the chapter by paying the annual renewal fee and providing a relevant update on activities to NBEA by October 1 of each year;
- **6.** maintain NBEA professional membership for all participating chapter sponsors and advisors.

If a chapter does not respond to any written inquiry from the national governing council regarding chapter status, a chapter will be considered inactive for failure to do the following:

- 1. submit the annual renewal fee each year by October 1;
- 2. maintain current professional NBEA membership status with CBTR affiliation for all business advisers;
- 3. submit an annual update; or

If a chapter becomes inactive and its charter is revoked, the school must immediately remove reference to the National Business Honor Society - Collegiate from its school website and any other media outlets. A chapter whose charter has been revoked must submit a new charter application if reinstatement is desired.

# **Charter Application Frequent Mistakes**

Please make sure you avoid these frequent mistakes when processing your application:

- 1. Complete the sample chapter bylaws. The sample bylaws are clearly labeled as such inside this document and are available on the NBHSC website in Word format. The bylaws must be typewritten, and an electronic copy must be maintained at the local chapter level.
- 2. If your chapter does not charge local chapter dues, indicate \$0.00 as the dues amount in your chapter bylaws. If your chapter decides to charge local chapter dues, the dues amount must be at most \$40.00 and must be collected separately from NBHSC's dues. The Chapter advisor is responsible for all finances and associated reporting associated with the local chapter dues.



- 3. The local chapter board must be comprised of five adult members. This board is NOT your local student officers. The local chapter board handles the approval of new members and disciplinary matters. These individuals can be business educators, advisory board members, business professionals, school administrators, etc. Do not list the exact names of these individuals in the bylaws; you may refer to them by titles of the positions they hold.
- **4.** Membership cannot be restricted to career/technical student organizations students.
- 5. Although your officer elections can be held at a set time each year, be advised that you may have to appoint your first set of local chapter officers to get your chapter off to a quick start.
- **6.** Make sure all the necessary documents (charter application form, chapter bylaws, course descriptions, and charter fee) are mailed in together in one package.

# **Additional National Business Honor Society Rules**

The NBHSC Governing Council uses the bylaws for the entire National Business Honor Society to manage the honor society's operations.

In addition to the information published elsewhere in this start-up kit, chapters should be aware of the following, as indicated in the NBHSC bylaws:

- Neither the national governing council nor NBEA shall review the judgment of a local chapter board regarding the selection of individual members to local chapters.
- One educator in each local chapter shall be designated as the lead chapter adviser. The lead chapter adviser is responsible for ensuring chapter contacts are maintained.
- The lead chapter adviser shall:
  - A. be responsible for the direct supervision of the chapter and act as a liaison between school staff members, students, and the community;
  - B. maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions;
  - C. submit the annual chapter renewal fee to the NBHSC as required by the deadline date established by the NBHSC Governing Council;
  - D. review, regularly, each member's compliance with honor society standards and obligations;
  - E. help chapter officers understand and carry out their duties and
  - F. be responsible for ensuring that all business teachers remain current, professional members of NBEA.
- Each chapter shall have a local executive committee consisting of the officers and adviser of the local chapter.
- The local chapter shall have regular meetings and designate the times of those meetings in their bylaws.
- Each local chapter shall identify one or more service-learning projects each year. All



members shall complete a locally determined number of hours-of-service learning participation through the National Business Honor Society or other local chapter board-approved organizations.

- The local chapter shall prescribe discipline and dismissal procedures in their local chapter bylaws. Neither the National Governing Council nor NBEA shall hear any appeals in dismissal cases.
- The official emblem of the National Business Honor Society shall be uniform on all honor society materials and used with pride, integrity, and professionalism. The distribution of the emblem and the rules for its use shall be under the exclusive control of the national governing council.
- Each member in good standing with the chapter shall be entitled to wear this emblem. Any member who resigns or is dismissed shall return the emblem to the chapter adviser.
- The local chapter cannot order NBHS insignia items if the charter application/renewal fee has not been paid, the annual update form has not been received, and all business teachers are not current dues-paying NBEA members.
- The motto of the National Business Honor Society Collegiate shall be "Excellence in Business."
- The official colors of the National Business Honor Society shall be silver and hunter green.



# **Sample Chapter Bylaws**

These are sample bylaws for your local chapter to use. Chapter applicants are welcome to copy and modify these bylaws befitting your local chapter within the scope of the NBHSC program bylaws. Spaces have been left blank for you to insert specific information concerning the operations of your particular chapter. Consider the following when completing these sample bylaws for your chapter:

- Footnote references indicate what information should be provided in various sections. Remove all footnote references and underlining before printing and/or submitting your official copy.
- The full name of your college/university name should be used when referring to the name of your "chapter."
- The administration of your chapter is officially vested in your chapter's school district and thus requires a school administrator's approval.
- The chapter may want to consider requiring chapter members to attend a certain number of meetings.
- Refer to the "Charter Application Frequent Mistakes" in the chapter start-up kit to avoid delays in processing your application.
- An electronic copy of the bylaws must be maintained at the local chapter level.
- An electronic copy of these sample bylaws in Word format is available online on the NBHSC website at NBHSC.org.



National	<b>Business</b>	Honor	Society	- Collegiate
			1	Chapter

### ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be NBEA National Business Honor Society - Collegiate

1 Chapter.

## ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The object and purposes of the organization, organized as a chapter of the NBEA National Business Honor Society Collegiate (hereinafter referred to as NBHSC), are to:

- Promote and recognize academic achievement in business education at
- foster and recognize leadership skills and character development;
- help members grow ethically and socially by promoting and encouraging an interest in business; and
- encourage member involvement in service learning initiatives.

**Section 2.** The administration of the chapter will be vested in

# ARTICLE III ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The National Business Honor Society - Collegiate

<sup>1</sup> Chapter (hereinafter referred to as "chapter") is an organization operating in accordance with a
charter granted by the National Business Honor Society Collegiate Governing Council.

**Section 3.** The chapter will have officers who will be elected annually by the membership.



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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Complete institutional name used throughout the bylaws where required.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The official name of the chapter's school district.

## ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1. Active Members.** A student must be a post-secondary student that has completed at least one semester to qualify for active membership. The student must have completed or be currently enrolled in their third business course. The student must have a minimum standard GPA, on a 4.0 scale, as follows: business courses average-3.5; overall average-3.0.<sup>3</sup>

**Section 2. Selection.** Membership in the chapter is attained through a selection process coordinated by the local chapter board. Selection for membership is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Members are expected to continue to demonstrate these qualities throughout their membership in the society. The local chapter board shall determine the selection procedure and shall be consistent with the bylaws of the NBHSC. Per the NBHSC national bylaws, membership in the society cannot be restricted to students who are members of a career/technical student organization.

**Section 3. Induction.** Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

**Section 5. Resignation and Dismissal.** Members who resign or are dismissed are not eligible for future membership or its benefits.

### ARTICLE V CHAPTER

**Section 1. Advisers.** Business educators sponsoring the chapter must be current NBEA members at the time of chapter application and remain paid, continuous NBEA members.

**Section 2. Chapter Bylaws.** The chapter shall maintain bylaws which are consistent, but not in conflict, with the NBHSC national bylaws.

**Section 3. Annual Renewal.** The chapter shall pay an annual renewal fee determined by the national governing council.

**Section 4. Dues.** The annual individual member dues paid to the chapter shall be

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Excellence in Business

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Local chapters may raise, but not lower, these GPA requirements.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Insert dues amount, if any. A local chapter is not required to have local chapter dues. However, if there is a decision to charge dues, the dues amount cannot exceed forty dollars (\$40.00) inclusively.

**Section 5. Annual Update.** The chapter shall submit the annual chapter renewal fee and an annual update form developed by the national governing council providing all information requested by a deadline date established by the national governing council.

### ARTICLE VI CHAPTER BOARD

Section 2. Duties. The local chapter board shall handle all matters related to:

- **A.** Membership selection;
- **B.** Service learning approval and participation; and
- C. Discipline and dismissal issues.

#### ARTICLE VII CHAPTER ADVISER

**Section 1. Chapter Adviser.** One business educator in the chapter shall be designated as the lead chapter adviser.

**Section 2. Duties.** The lead chapter adviser shall:

- **A.** be responsible for the direct supervision of the chapter and act as a liaison between school staff members, students, and the community;
- **B.** maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions;
- C. submit the annual chapter renewal fee to the NBHSC national association as required by the deadline date established by the NBHSC Governing Council;
- **D.** send the annual update form to the NBHSC Governing Council as required by the deadline date established by the NBHSC Governing Council;
- **E.** review, on a regular basis, each member's compliance with National Business Honor Society standards and obligations;
- F. help chapter officers understand and carry out their duties; and
- **G.** ensure that applicable educators remain current, professional members of NBEA.

**Section 3. Term.** The lead chapter adviser may serve consecutive terms.



#### ARTICLE VIII CHAPTER OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers. Officers of the chapter shall be a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.5

#### Section 2. Duties.<sup>6</sup>

- **A. President.** It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all chapter meetings; to preside over officer meetings; to make all necessary committee appointments including the designation of committee chairmen; and to be available, as necessary, in promoting the general welfare of the National Business Honor Society - Collegiate.
- B. Vice-President. It shall be the duty of the vice-president to serve in any capacity as directed by the president or chapter adviser; to assist the chairmen of the committees; to accept the responsibilities of the office of president as occasions may demand; and to be available, as necessary, in promoting the general welfare of the National Business Honor Society.
- C. Secretary. It shall be the duty of the secretary to serve in any capacity as directed by the president or chapter adviser; to record the proceedings of all chapter and officer meetings; and to be available, as necessary, in promoting the general welfare of the National Business Honor Society - Collegiate.
- **D.** Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to serve in any capacity as directed by the president or chapter adviser; to present any financial membership reports necessary for the chapter; and to be available, as necessary, in promoting the general welfare of the National Business Honor Society - Collegiate.

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Section 3. Eligibility. In order to serve as an officer, a member shall	7
<b>Section 4. Election.</b> Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership at a chapter meeting held in8	
Section 5. Term. Officers shall serve for a term of one year or until a successor is elected	d



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Additional officer positions may be included. If additional officers are added, their duties must be indicated in Article VIII, Section 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> These officer duties may be changed to reflect the needs of the chapter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Insert officer eligibility requirements. If you wish to allow any NBHSC member to be eligible for office, we recommend the following as the sentence in this section: Any member in good standing shall be eligible to be elected to an officer position.

<sup>8</sup> Indicate the month when chapter officer elections will be held. Be advised that the first set of officers may need to be appointed by the local chapter board until the first official election can be held.

# ARTICLE IX CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Section 1.** Composition. The local executive committee shall consist of the officers of the local chapter and the chapter adviser.

**Section 2. Power and Authority.** The executive committee shall exercise general supervision of the affairs of the chapter between its regular meetings, make recommendations to the chapter, and determine and perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws. All actions and recommendations of the executive committee shall be subject to the review of the chapter membership.

**Section 3. Duties.** The executive committee shall have the responsibility for ensuring that chapter activities and procedures follow school policy and regulations.

# ARTICLE X CHAPTER MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings. The chapter sh	nall have regular meetings during the school year or
days designated by the executive committee a	nd in accordance with school policy and regulations
The meetings shall be held on a	9 basis during the school year.

**Section 2. Special Meetings.** The chapter president, chapter adviser, or other designated student leader may call special meetings approved by the executive committee.

#### ARTICLE XI CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

**Section 1. Events.** The chapter shall identify one or more service learning projects for each year. **Section 2. Participation.** All members shall complete a locally determined number of hours of service learning participation through the National Business Honor Society Collegiate, or other local chapter board-approved organizations.

#### ARTICLE XII DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL

- **Section 1.** Decisions about discipline and dismissal issues will be made in accordance with local school policies.
- **Section 2.** The local chapter board, in compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Business Honor Society Collegiate and local school policies, shall determine the procedure for dismissal. A written description of the dismissal procedure shall be available to interested parties.
- **Section 3.** Members who fall below the standards that were the basis for their selection shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter adviser and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency. In the case of flagrant violations of school rules or the law, a member may not necessarily need to be warned.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Indicate frequency of meetings (i.e., biweekly, monthly, bimonthly)



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**Section 4.** The local membership committee shall determine when an individual has exceeded a reasonable number of warnings.

**Section 5.** The national governing council and NBEA shall hear no appeals in dismissal cases.

# ARTICLE XIII PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the proceedings of the chapter in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws, any special rules of order that the society may adopt, any rules of the National Business Education Association, the National Business Honor Society - Collegiate national bylaws, and any statutes applicable to this organization that do not authorize the provision of these bylaws to take precedence.

## ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS

To amend these bylaws, the proposed amendment must be presented in writing by the member proposing the amendment to the chapter president and chapter adviser at least ten days prior to the next regularly scheduled chapter meeting. The proposed amendment may be adopted by a two-thirds approval of the voting members.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> This is the date these bylaws have been approved or amended by your local chapter. Please type this date into the document so it is included in the electronic version you keep on file.



# NATIONAL BUSINESS HONOR SOCIETY-COLLEGIATE CHAPTER APPLICATION \*\*SAMPLE ONLY\*\* The application is an online form.

Institution Nan	ne
Address	
City, State, ZII	
School Phone	
Website	
Current School	Enrollment
Projected Num	ber of Charter Members
	e your chapter sponsor/educators to be billed separately for membership, or would you like ive invoice for all chapter fees and membership fees? (Choose one)
	Send a single collective invoice for all educator NBEA membership dues and chapter fees.
	Send an individual invoice to each person listed below.
Lead Adviser	Contact Information
Name	Email on file w/NBEA
Phone	Fax
E-mail	
Each business-	le Chapter Sponsoring Educators related educator listed below must be an active member of NBEA-CBTR. If the educators members, please indicate such on the form below.  Name  Email Address on File with NBEA
	pplications will not be processed and will delay the approval process.  In item listed below is complete with your application or your application will not be approved.
	<ul> <li>□ Charter Application (Microsoft Word Format)</li> <li>□ Chapter Bylaws (Microsoft Word Format)</li> <li>□ List of Business Courses with Descriptions</li> <li>□ Chapter Charter Fee (Payment—Purchase orders are NOT accepted.)</li> <li>□ All business teachers serving as official advisers for a chapter must be NBEA members.</li> </ul>



I have read the establish a loc	e National Business Honor Society bylaws al chapter.	and approve the application to
Applicant's rights in that name, inc	Tational Business Honor Society," Applicational Business Honor Society, Applicational Republicant's galage, it has been using the name since	goodwill associated with the name.
in the business department, inclu	listed on this application is a complete light ading but not limited to the business tead y individual who teaches courses that re	chers, business department
Department	Department	
Head	Head Signature*	
Department		
Head's E-mail		
Lead Adviser's Signature*		
Date		
Applicants must use the online a	pplication form at https://NBEA.org/NB	BHSCapp An invoice will be sent

to the lead advisor within two business days of receiving a chapter application. The invoice will include chapter application and membership dues for participating educator advisors.

Purchase orders are accepted. Credit card payments can be submitted online at NBEA.org.

#### **Chapter Charter Fee:** \$400.00

New charter applications must be received by October 1 or February 1. Please allow up to two months from these deadline dates for the completion of the review of your charter application. You will be notified if there are any discrepancies with the charter application. All discrepancies must be resolved within 30 days of first contact from the governing council or the application will not be approved.

Upon a majority vote of the members of the national governing council, the chapter application will be approved. Furthermore, NBEA hereby grants to the chapter the non-exclusive license to use the trademark NBEA NATIONAL BUSINESS HONOR SOCIETY and any related logo (the "Marks") to show that the chapter is part of a division operated by NBEA, and for other uses permitted from time to time by policies of NBEA. At such time that the chapter is no longer affiliated with NBEA, the chapter and school shall stop using the Marks. NBEA may from time to time request samples of how chapter uses the Marks and may make suggestions on chapter's compliance with NBEA guidelines. All rights from chapter's use of the Marks shall inure to the benefit of NBEA.

