



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Can a chapter or at-large chapter be established in a state, region or country, or must it be formed at an institution of higher education?**

A: According to Sigma Theta Tau International Bylaws Article IV, Section 2.a: “A chapter may be established in an educational unit which is an integral part of an institution of higher education and that grants a baccalaureate or equivalent degree, which leads to the first professional nursing degree.” However, schools and/or institutions of higher education from various states, regions or countries can collaborate to form one at-large chapter.

**Q: The highest degree granted at my school of nursing is an associate’s degree. Can we still have a chapter?**

A: No. According to the bylaws, only universities and institutions of higher education that grant a minimum of a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent are eligible to establish a chapter or at large chapter, or to join an existing chapter or at-large chapter.

**Q: How do I know if the institution of higher education where I want to start a chapter or at-large chapter is properly accredited?**

A: According to Sigma Theta Tau International Bylaws Article IV, Section 2.a: “The baccalaureate or equivalent degree nursing program within the institution of higher education shall be accredited by a recognized accrediting body. In the event there is no nursing accreditation system in place in the potential chapter’s country, the program shall provide evidence of its quality.” Please note that it is the actual degree program, not the overall institution, that must be accredited. In the United States, recognized accrediting bodies generally include the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

**Q: There is so much to do! Where do I start?**

A: A good place to start is to determine whether or not there is interest and support at your institution of higher education for a chapter or at-large chapter. If adequate support is found, identification of potential membership candidates that meet the membership eligibility criteria is the next step. Please find membership eligibility criteria on the international Web site at <http://www.nursingsociety.org/membership/pages/default.aspx>.

**Q: Do we pay any money to Sigma Theta Tau International before we apply to become a chapter or at-large chapter?**

A: No. You owe no money to Sigma Theta Tau International until the actual chartering ceremony. At that time, the chapter or at-large chapter will be expected to pay a US\$300 chartering fee and all members that join the chapter or at-large chapter in a high income country will be responsible for paying a US\$65 international induction fee; for countries outside the United States, please refer to the International Sliding Scale of Fees found at [http://www.nursingsociety.org/aboutus/PositionPapers/Pages/sliding\\_scale.aspx](http://www.nursingsociety.org/aboutus/PositionPapers/Pages/sliding_scale.aspx).

**Q: According to the guidelines, we need to have functioned for one year before applying to become a chapter or at-large chapter. How do we determine what is one year?**

A: One year is marked from the day of your first induction ceremony. Also note that honor societies need to have charged renewal fees at least once prior to applying for chapter charter.



## Frequently Asked Questions, continued

**Q: May our inductees purchase and wear Sigma Theta Tau International honor cords?**

A: The privilege of wearing an honor cord is a benefit of Sigma Theta Tau International membership and is a symbol of that recognition. Therefore, we ask that honor society inductees not be allowed to purchase or wear honor cords.

**Q: Do Sigma Theta Tau members have to be inducted into our honor society?**

A: No. Any Sigma Theta Tau International member that wishes to become part of an honor society may simply pay the regular honor society renewal fee and join as a regular member. There is no need for these individuals to submit an application or go through the induction ceremony.

**Q: Can alumni of our nursing program that would not have qualified for membership as a student be considered as candidates for nurse leader membership?**

A: Yes. As long as the alumni meet the requirements stated in the bylaws for a nurse leader. Please find nurse leader candidate criteria on the international Web site at [http://www.nursingsociety.org/Membership/ApplyNow/Pages/nl\\_memcriteria.aspx](http://www.nursingsociety.org/Membership/ApplyNow/Pages/nl_memcriteria.aspx).

**Q: There is a nurse in the community that does not have a baccalaureate or equivalent degree, but has done some state and nationally recognized leadership initiatives to influence health care. Is a baccalaureate or equivalent degree an absolute requirement for membership?**

A: Yes, nurse leader candidates are required to have a minimum of a baccalaureate or equivalent degree. The degree does not necessarily have to be a degree in nursing as long as the potential member is a registered nurse and has made achievements in the field of nursing.

**Q: Can students be elected as members of the honor society's board of directors?**

A: Students do occasionally serve on the honor society board of directors. There is nothing in the bylaws that prohibits it.

**Q: Can we keep our finances in a university bank account?**

A: Many honor societies find that it is beneficial to keep their finances in an institution of higher education's bank account. Once an honor society becomes a chapter or at-large chapter, it is encouraged to investigate opening its own bank account outside the institution.

**Q: Are we required to send representatives to the biennial convention?**

A: All chapters and at-large chapters are required to have representation at the House of Delegates during each biennial convention. Honor societies that are still in the development stages are welcomed and encouraged to attend, but are not required to attend.