



Membership Eligibility Guidelines

I. Purposes of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International

- A. Recognize superior achievement and scholarship.
- B. Recognize the development of leadership qualities.
- C. Foster high professional standards.
- D. Encourage creative work.
- E. Strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the profession.

II. Requirements for Selecting Members

A. Chapters and honor societies are required to select and induct eligible members a minimum of one time annually. (*International Bylaws*)

B. Chapters and honor societies are required to follow the bylaws, including the eligibility criteria. (*International Bylaws*)

III. Membership Eligibility

Regular membership can be conferred in one of the following categories:

- A. Student
 - 1) Undergraduate students
 - 2) Master's degree students
 - 3) Doctoral degree students
- B. Professional
 - 1) Nurse leaders

IV. Membership Criteria Details

A. Student candidates shall have demonstrated: **superior academic achievement** (see the "Academic Achievement Criteria" chart below), **academic integrity**, **professional leadership potential**.

B. **Student enrollment:** Candidates for membership at the undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels must be enrolled in institution of higher education where the chapter is located to be considered for membership in that category. If there is no chapter at the institution of higher education in which the student attends, student member candidates may be considered for membership in another chapter.

C. **Time limit for invitation:** Graduates of baccalaureate, master's and doctoral nursing programs may be considered for membership under the student criteria for up to one year following graduation, provided they met the specific membership criteria while they were students.

D. Membership **eligibility criteria shall not be altered or modified by chapters or honor societies** from stated criteria in the international bylaws.



Academic Achievement Criteria

Criteria	Bylaws Wording	Interpretation
Undergraduate Student	1. Complete at least ½ of the nursing curriculum.	Refers to courses with a nursing prefix.
	2. Students in basic programs shall be eligible for membership if they have achieved excellence according to the standards approved by the Society.	For universities/institutions of higher education that use a 4.0 grade point average (GPA) system to measure academic achievement, undergraduate students must have a GPA of at least 3.0. GPAs should be computed according to the policies of the university. For universities/institutions of higher education that do not use a 4.0 grade point average system, the honor society will need to define how excellence is determined using its school's measure of academic achievement. This definition will need to be approved by the international governance committee. Examples of equivalencies to the 3.0 GPA that have been approved are available from HQ.
	3. Rank in the upper 35 percent of the graduating class.	Class means the group anticipated to graduate within a given academic or calendar year or semester. If the lowest grade point average in the upper 35 percent falls below 3.0, only those students with a 3.0 and above are eligible, if grade point averages are used.
Registered Nurses Continuing Their Studies to Earn a Baccalaureate Degree or the Equivalent	1. Complete at least ½ of the nursing curriculum.	Refers to courses with a nursing prefix
	2. Students in baccalaureate programs shall be eligible for membership if they have achieved excellence according to the standards approved by the society.	For universities/institutions of higher education that use a 4.0 grade point average (GPA) system to measure academic achievement, baccalaureate students must have a GPA of at least 3.0. GPAs should be computed according to the policies of the university. For universities/institutions of higher education that do not use a 4.0 grade point average system, the honor society will need to define how excellence is determined using its school's measure of academic achievement. This definition will need to be approved by the international governance committee. Examples of equivalencies to the 3.0



Criteria	Bylaws Wording	Interpretation
		<p>GPA that have been approved are available from HQ.</p> <p>In the case where a student has challenged courses or is a transfer student, the grade point average is required to be based on a minimum of 12 earned nursing or non-nursing credits completed at the college or university where currently enrolled.</p>
	3. Rank in the upper 35 percent of the graduating class.	<p>Class means the group anticipated to graduate within a given academic or calendar year or semester.</p> <p>Registered nurses can be considered as a separate group when a generic program also has a Registered Nurse track.</p> <p>If the lowest grade point average in the upper 35 percent falls below 3.0, only those students with a 3.0 and above are eligible. In the US, the standard is a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 grading scale.</p>
Master's and Doctoral Students	1. Students in graduate programs shall be eligible for membership if they have achieved excellence according to the standards approved by the society.	<p>For universities/institutions of higher education that use a 4.0 grade point average (GPA) system to measure academic achievement, graduate students must have a GPA of at least 3.5. GPAs should be computed according to the policies of the university. For universities/institutions of higher education that do not use a 4.0 GPA system, the honor society will need to define how excellence is determined using its school's measure of academic achievement. This definition will need to be approved by the international governance committee. Examples of equivalencies to the 3.5 GPA that have been approved are available from HQ.</p>
	2. Complete at least ¼ of the program of study.	Refers to the total number of semester hours, not limited to nursing courses only.
Nurse Leader	1. Hold a minimum of a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent in any field.	Registered Nurses with a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent in nursing are eligible.



Criteria	Bylaws Wording	Interpretation
		Registered nurses with a baccalaureate degree in fields other than nursing are also eligible for membership.
	2. Demonstrated achievement in nursing.	Common examples of achievement are found at http://www.nursingsociety.org/membership/nl_criteria.html
	3. Be registered as a nurse, legally recognized to practice in his/her country.	

V. Academic Integrity and Leadership Potential

A. Each candidate is required to meet criteria for the respective category of membership and the expectation of academic integrity and professional leadership potential.

B. **Breaches of academic integrity** include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism and falsifying data.

C. Behaviors inconsistent with the purposes of the honor society **violate the expectation of professional leadership potential** and include, but are not limited to, unlawful, unethical or unprofessional conduct.

VI. Rescinding an Invitation and Membership Revocation

A. “Rescinding an Invitation Guidelines” are available on the international Web site.

B. “Revocation of Membership Guidelines” may be requested from headquarters when chapters or honor societies feel they have just cause for revocation.