



Universal School

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National Honor Society Requirements and Policies

About:

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to recognize those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of **scholarship, service, leadership, and character.**

Membership Renewal and First Time Application:

The NHS application process is open to current members and 10th - 12th grade students who qualify. The application must be submitted in full by **January 18, 2019**. No extensions will be granted under any circumstances.

Scholarship:

A minimum cumulative **GPA of 3.75** starting the first semester of sophomore year (10th grade: one semester, 11th grade: three semesters, 12th grade: five semesters).

Service:

A **minimum of 30 services hours** must be completed between the dates of **January 20, 2018 – January 18, 2019**.

Hours are qualified in different ways:

- Only up to half of the service hours (15) can be done at Universal School.
- All other hours must be done at non-profit organizations, showing a strong commitment to the virtue of volunteering.
- Students may not include hours for any activity for which pay is received.
- Volunteer hours will not be accepted from immediate or extended family members.
- Students may not count hours worked for student organizations or athletics program where they are a member.
- Documentation must be detailed, including an explanation of services provided and verified from volunteer coordinator.
- **Current members** are also required to complete **two in-school activities** outside of their 30 original hours.

Community Service Options		In-School Activities	
local libraries	youth centers	Fall Fest	All-School Program
food pantries	mosques	Fundraising Dinner	Spring Fun Fair
hospitals	weekend schools	Graduation Ceremony	Graduation Dinner
nursing homes	shelters		

*Forms for community service are available at www.universalschool.org. Completed forms should be written in ink.

Leadership:*

Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, and idea contributors. They demonstrate responsibility, dependability, creativity, and efficiency in conducting business. This category is separate from your service hours.

Leadership is qualified in different ways:

- Holding an executive role or position within an extracurricular activity (including captain of an athletic team).
- *Independently* hosting a halaqah (25+ minutes) outside of school hours.
- Preparing and giving a khutbah.
- Giving a minimum of **four** khateras after salat.
- Holding a teaching position outside of school (ex: with Sheikh Ahmed).
- MUNUC membership + Halaqa / Khutbah, or 10 extra service hours by May 10.

*After this year, MUNUC will be transitioned out of this category and can only count as an extracurricular. Our expectations for other Leadership options will increase (especially for returning members/upperclassmen).

*A leadership position must be held over an extensive period of time before the application deadline.

Character:

The Society supports the use of a multi-faceted definition of character: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Student disciplinary record will be regarded, specifically the types of infractions (tardies, uniform, level 1-4 student policy violations) and the types of penalties. Here are some guidelines:

- Three Student Conduct Reports (SCRs) equal an after-school detention.
- NHS members and inductees cannot have more than two detentions per school year. An appeal process is granted for current members (see below for further details).
- Behavioral-based Saturday detentions are equal to two regular detentions, while Saturday detentions due to tardiness are equal to one regular detention.

Citizenship:

An NHS member is active within their school's community by joining different extracurriculars offered. To maintain your membership, you must be active in two clubs. If your activity is outside of Universal School, such as a hifz program, your supervisor must be able to sign off for it.

The Application Process Includes:

- Community Service Form
- Extracurricular Activities Form
- A Personal Statement between 250-400 words explaining what the NHS pillars mean to the applicant. This will be checked for plagiarism.
- Teachers recommendations in the form of an anonymous survey administered by the NHS Committee.

The Application will be open to the public in December. Students are encouraged to put their best foot forward and be detailed with the work they have accomplished. Remember, the application is the way in which students make their case and provide evidence that they deserve this honor. It is meant to be a space to celebrate hard work, dedication, and integrity, inside and outside the Universal School community.

Probation and the Appeal Process:

- New applicants with two first semester detentions in the 2018 – 2019 academic schoolyear can still be inducted but will be put on probationary status. One more detention results in their dismissal.
- Current members with two first semester detentions in the 2018 – 2019 academic schoolyear will be put on probationary status. One more detention could result in their dismissal but only after an appeal process has been granted.*
- Students with suspensions will not be inducted into the NHS. A suspension is an automatic dismissal for members.

*Note: Appeals are a privilege for current NHS members only. An appeal does not grant automatic readmission into the NHS and is under the discretion of the Committee.

Other Obligations:

- Any unacceptable behavior during the NHS Induction Ceremony will result in automatic dismissal without an appeal.
- Academic performance, discipline records, and tardiness will be checked on a quarterly basis and can result in probation, dismissal, and/or removal of any member.
- NHS meetings are mandatory for all members. As per school policy, no more than two meetings or service days can be missed. Please be sure to act responsibly and give the Committee a heads-up.
- It is the responsibility of the NHS member to follow up with their status.

Note of importance:

All formal concerns in regard to NHS must be done respectfully and in compliance with the rules and regulations through students only. No phone calls are accepted regarding any misunderstanding about NHS rules and regulations and decisions made by the council.

Mrs. Nathira Khudeira
NHS Advisor