



Psi Lambda Sigma
National Honor Society
Franklin Academy High School Chapter
Chapter By-Laws

Article I: Name and Purpose

Section 1. The Franklin Academy High School chapter of the National Honor Society is designated as the Psi Lambda Sigma chapter.

Section 2. The Franklin Academy High School chapter strives to inspire its members to the highest levels of leadership, service, character and scholarship. We seek to build student leaders within our membership, as well as without, who demonstrate strong character, who offer service to their school and community and stimulate a desire to render service to others, who show enthusiasm toward learning, scholarship and school. We also strive to be the role models for our peers in all areas never asking more of others than we ask of ourselves. Finally, we strive to build each other up and hold each other accountable; seeing and encouraging the best in each other.

Article II: Membership

Section 1. Membership in this chapter shall be known as active, honorary, and graduate. Active members become graduate members at graduation. Graduate and honorary members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 2. Membership in this chapter is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty, and shall be based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Section 3. Eligibility

- a. Candidates eligible for election to this chapter must be members of the sophomore, junior, or senior class.
- b. The candidate must have been in attendance for a period of one semester at Franklin Academy.
- c. Candidates must have a minimum un-weighted, cumulative GPA of 3.5. This scholastic level of achievement shall remain fixed and shall be the minimum level of scholastic achievement for admission to candidacy. All students who can rise in scholarship to or above such standard may be admitted to candidacy for selection to membership.
- d. Upon meeting the aforementioned requirements, candidates shall be considered based on service, leadership, and character.

Article III. Selection of Members

Section 1. The selection of members to this chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Faculty Council consisting of five faculty members appointed by the principal. The chapter advisor shall be the sixth, nonvoting, ex-officio member of the Faculty Council.

Section 2. Prior to selection, the following shall occur:

- a. Students' academic records shall be reviewed to determine scholastic eligibility.
- b. Eligible students (candidates) shall be notified in writing and asked to complete and submit an application form for further consideration.
- c. The faculty shall be requested to evaluate candidates using the official evaluation form provided by the chapter advisor.
- d. The Faculty Council shall review the applications and faculty evaluations in order to determine membership.

Section 3. The selection of new active members shall be held once a year during the second semester of the school year. (Alternative or additional selection periods may be added.)

Section 4. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 5. Once selected and inducted, members are expected to maintain the standards by which they were selected and maintain all obligations of membership.

Section 6. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers from this school will be given a letter indicating the status of his or her membership and signed by the principal or chapter advisor.

Section 7. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to this school will be automatically accepted for membership in this chapter. The Faculty Council shall grant to the transferring member one semester to attain the membership requirements and, thereafter, this member must maintain those requirements for this chapter in order to retain his/her membership. Note: The selection process used at the local level may vary from the procedure outlined above; however such variations must still conform to the national constitution.

Article IV: Discipline and Dismissal

Section 1. Any member who falls below the standards for scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be considered for dismissal from the Psi Lambda Sigma chapter of the National Honor Society. A member of the National Honor Society is expected to maintain his/her academic standing and take an active role in service and leadership to his/her school and community.

Section 2. If a member's cumulative GPA falls below the standard in effect when he/she was selected (3.5 un-weighted), he/she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the cumulative GPA remains below standard at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Faculty Council, which may include consideration for dismissal.

Section 3. If a member fails to perform any of the published obligations of membership, he/she will be given a written warning and a time period for improvement. If the student does not make necessary improvements at the end of the warning period, the student will be subject to further disciplinary actions by the Faculty Council, which may include consideration for dismissal.

Section 4. Violation of criminal law or school regulations can result in dismissal of a member. These violations include, but are not limited to DWI, stealing, destruction of property, cheating, truancy, or possession, selling, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Section 5. Offenders of the school conduct code (such as unexcused absences, excessive tardy, use of profanity, etc.) will receive written warning notification. A conference may be requested by either party (Faculty Council or student/parent). If the member is involved in another violation of the school conduct code, the member may be dismissed.

Section 6. Members may opt to resign from the organization at any time.

Section 7. In case of pending dismissal:

- a. The member will receive written notification of the reason for possible dismissal from the advisor/Faculty Council. The member and advisor will discuss the written notification in a conference.
- b. The member will be offered a hearing with the Faculty Council prior to dismissal in accordance with due process identified in the National Constitution. The member has the opportunity to present his/her defense. The Faculty Council will then vote on whether to dismiss.
- c. A letter of dismissal will be sent to the principal, student, and parents if the student is dismissed. Dismissed members must surrender any membership emblems to the advisor.
- d. Members who resign or are dismissed from the organization are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

Section 8. In lieu of dismissal, the Faculty Council may impose disciplinary sanctions upon a member as deemed appropriate.

Article V: Chapter Officers

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be president, vice president, secretary, service officer, publicity coordinator, and historian.

Section 2. Student officers shall be elected in the fourth quarter of each school year. All members are eligible to run for a position as an officer.

Section 3. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect any officer of this chapter. If the first vote does not yield a majority, a second vote shall be taken of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes. The following duties should reflect the responsibilities developed for officers in the local chapter.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at the meetings for this chapter.

Section 5. The vice-president shall preside in the absence of the president and shall be the committee chairperson for the annual Freshman Camp.

Section 6. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings and be responsible for all official chapter correspondence.

Section 7. The service officer shall keep records of members' contributions of service.

Section 8. The publicity coordinator shall disseminate information about chapter meetings/events dates and times.

Section 9. The historian shall keep written and photographic records of chapter events and be responsible for a chapter scrapbook webpage.

Article VI: Executive Committee

Section 1. The executive committee shall consist of the faculty advisor and the chapter officers.

Section 2. The executive committee shall have general charge of the meetings and the business of the chapter, but any action by the executive committee is subject to the review of chapter members.

Section 3. The executive committee shall meet during lunch on the days of the chapter meetings.

Article VII: Meetings

Section 1. Chapter meetings shall be on every other Tuesday of each month when school is in session. The meetings shall be after school, immediately following carpool.

Section 2. This chapter shall conduct its meetings according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Section 3. Members of the Franklin Academy chapter of the National Honor Society are expected to be present at all chapter meetings and active in chapter business. If a member knows that he/she will not be able to attend a meeting he/she should send an email to the chapter advisor in advance. After three (3) absences from a meeting or activity the member will appear before the chapter advisor and officers to explain him/herself. After five (5) absences the member will appear before the Faculty Council. The Faculty Council may consider dismissal at this time. Excused absences are considered for the following:

1. Student illness (Medical verification may be required if deemed necessary due to circumstances or excessive absences.)
2. Regular medical and dental appointments. (These appointments should be scheduled with discretion)
3. Serious illness or death in the immediate family.
4. Absence resulting from acts of nature which cause serious problems to the family.
5. Special and reasonable circumstances with the Advisor's approval in advance of the absence.
6. Absences due to participation in school-sponsored activity. Sports practices are not considered excused, although athletic games are excused.

Article VIII: Activities

Section 1. The chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each quarter.

Section 2. All members shall participate in at least 75% of these projects.

Section 3. The service projects shall have the following characteristics: fulfill a need within the school or community; have the support of the administration and the faculty; be appropriate and educationally defensible. They will be well planned, organized, and executed.

Section 4. Each member will perform 20 hours of community service each year of membership outside of the school requirements. Time spent on NHS service project and the Individual Service Project may count toward the 20 hours. These hours must be officially documented by the Service Officer and initialed by the NHS Advisor.

Section 5. Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in an Individual Service Project (ISP) that reflects his/her talents and interests and as approved by the chapter advisor. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

Section 6. Each member with the help of the advisor shall identify one major goal at the beginning of the school year to work on. Assessments shall be made at the end of each semester.

Section 7. The chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

Article IX: Emblem

Section 1. Each member of the chapter who is in good standing will have the privilege of wearing the emblem adopted by the National Honor Society. (Note: the content of this section parallels Article XV, Section 3 of the National Constitution, revised 2000)

Section 2. Any member who withdraws, resigns, or is dismissed from the chapter shall return the emblem to the chapter. (Note: If members purchased such emblems, the chapter is obligated to reimburse the student for said expense.)

Section 3. Chapter members who are seniors and in good standing shall be granted the privilege of wearing the honor cords or other insignia adopted at the local level at graduation.

Article X: Dues

Section 1. Annual dues for this chapter shall be \$5.00

Section 2. Dues shall be payable to the chapter advisor within a reasonable period of time after notification of membership.

Article XI: Powers

Section 1. The chapter advisor is given the authority to supervise the administration of chapter activities, as delegated by the school principal

Section 2. The principal shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 3. These bylaws are designed to amplify provisions of the National Constitution and cannot contradict the components thereof. The chapter is obligated to adhere to the provisions of the National Constitution in all activities it undertakes.

Article XII: Amendments

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given to members at least one month prior to the vote. The exceptions are Articles III and IV (Selection and Discipline), which are developed by the Faculty Council with the approval of the principal.

Section 2. Bylaws and amendments must be consistent with the National Constitution of the National Honor Society. Additional articles may be added as needed.

Date: _____

Principal



Chapter Advisor