

# NHS Prospective Candidate FAQ

## 2020-2021 Application

### ***What are the benefits of being a member of NHS?***

Honor, glory, and a fancy stole at graduation. Most importantly, the National Honor Society provides resources and opportunities for students to continue to grow as leaders. Joining NHS allows students to network with classmates who not only share their rigorous academic achievements but also their dedication to serving their community. Our Student Executive Board is also working on developing new opportunities for members of NHS to access resources that will help them prepare for life after high school.

### ***What do I need for my application?***

The application addresses all four pillars of NHS (Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character). Candidates must:

- Be a rising junior or senior
- Attain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Participate in at least one UHS club/sport/activity
- Demonstrate leadership at school or within their community
- Earn at least 15 hours of verified community service, this requirement has been reduced from 25 service hours to accommodate for the 2020 social distancing guidelines
- Exhibit outstanding character through their school discipline record

### ***How do I submit my application?***

Applications will be due on October 7, 2020, by 11:59PM. Qualifying UHS juniors and seniors will be sent an invitation to apply via UCFSD.net email. The application details will be included with the NHS invitation. The NHS invitation will be sent out no earlier than Mid-July. Please do not attempt to submit your application before receiving the official invitation.

### ***How does the application process work?***

The application process begins no earlier than Mid-July and ends with the induction ceremony in the first semester. Below is a rough timeline of what to expect:

- Mid-July - Grades are stored; invitations for NHS applications are sent out via UCFSD.net email
- October 7, 2020 - Google Form Applications are due
- Mid/Late October - Applications are reviewed by the NHS Faculty Council
- Beginning of November - Decision letters are sent out
- Sometime after November (TBD) - Induction Ceremony

### ***Does all volunteering count as community service?***

Not necessarily—eligible community service must be volunteer work that has a direct benefit to the community. Some volunteer activities, such as family obligations or working with a for-profit business, may not be eligible to count for this requirement. If you have questions about whether or not a specific opportunity counts, please email [Mr. Kehan](#). The UHS Chapter of the NHS will not accept service hours for cash donations or items donated to organizations, nor will we provide service verifications for volunteer work completed. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain a service verification for all volunteer work.

### ***When can I start counting community service hours?***

You can begin counting service hours two summers before you submit your application. If you are a senior, you can submit service hours dated after June 1 of your Sophomore year. If you are a junior, you can submit service hours dated after June 1 of your Freshman year.

### ***I heard that there was a cap on the number of hours that you can do on a given day, is that true?***

In April of 2016, the by-laws were updated and this rule was revoked. While the goal of NHS is to promote sustained service and members are encouraged to make service an active part of their lives, there is no set “cap” for the number of hours a student can complete in one day.

### ***What information needs to be on my verification letters?***

Whenever possible, verification letters should be on the organization's letterhead. All verification letters must include the following information:

- Your name
- A brief description of what you did
- Where you completed the service
- The dates/hours you worked
- The name, contact information, and signature of the adult who supervised (this should not be a parent/relative).

Please note, a few digital crowdsourcing volunteer organizations do not provide service verifications for the work you complete. Instead, they provide their own metric for the work you complete or a log of hours you can access under your user profile. If you choose to earn service hours through a digital crowdsourcing volunteer organization that does not provide service verifications, you must capture a screenshot (your name must be visible) of your volunteer work in terms of their metric and a screenshot of the organization's conversion ratio for volunteer hours worked. You will use these screenshots as your service verification. Do not volunteer with an organization that does not provide a way for you to verify service hours worked.

- Wakelet Organization - Allows users to download a PDF of hours worked
- Zooniverse Organization - NHS will use the following conversion ratio:

40 Classifications to 1 Hour of Service

### ***I have more than 15 service hours. Should I submit them?***

Definitely. Remember, the application requirements are the minimum for membership but, if you have completed more than the minimum, it would benefit you to report that. Please keep in mind that, if selected for membership, you will be responsible for completing 25 additional hours of community service by the first week of May in 2021. You cannot resubmit hours that you previously submitted with your application so, if you have earned more than 15 service hours, you may want to save some of those hours to submit with your May 2021 NHS requirements. For example, if you earned 60 service hours before the application deadline and 10 of your service hours were earned after June 1, 2020, you can submit 50 service hours with your application and save the 10 service hours earned after June 1, 2020, for your May 2021 NHS requirements submission. Remember, once you submit service hours, you may not resubmit them for future NHS requirements.

***The application does not have enough room for me to put all of my activities/services. What should I do?***

Contact Mr. Kehan and he will provide you with another application.

***I am not sure where to get volunteer hours. Do you have any suggestions?***

There are a ton of organizations in the area that students have reported having a good experience with. Here are a few local organizations where UHS students have earned service hours in the past. Please note, UHS recommends that students do not break current social distancing guidelines.

- The West Chester Senior Center
- The Food Pantry (both in Kennett Square and West Chester)
- The Chester County Hospital
- The YMCA (both in Kennett Square and West Chester)
- La Comunidad Hispana
- The Garage in Kennett Square
- Pocopson Home
- Delaware Art Museum
- Land Conservancy for Southern Chester Country
- Habitat for Humanity
- La Mancha Animal Rescue

Community service is most meaningful if it is something you truly feel passionate about. If there is a specific field that you are interested in that isn't represented on this list, feel free to contact me and I will help you find something in that area.

***What do I do with my service verifications after I receive them?***

File them somewhere safe until you begin the application process. All NHS applicants and members are responsible for their own service verifications. Do not send your service verifications to your NHS advisor. When the time comes, the NHS application contains multiple sections for you to upload your service hour verifications.

***I have multiple service verifications with different dates for the same organization. What should I do?***

Scan all verifications in chronological order from the same organization and save as a single PDF file. Upload this file to the respective section on your application. If you do not have access to a scanner, you can take photos of your verifications, paste them onto a Google Doc and save as a single PDF file, or you can request assistance from Mr. Kehan.

***I received a detention once. Does that mean that I will receive an NHS membership?***

Not necessarily—all applications are considered individually. When discipline records are reviewed, both severity and frequency are taken into account. In addition, the NHS application requires all applicants with a discipline record to give an explanation about the circumstances and individual growth surrounding a discipline infraction. **The NHS Faculty Council reviews all NHS applicant discipline records. If you have a discipline history and you do not report it on your NHS application, you will not be considered for NHS membership.**

***If I am selected for membership, what do I need to do to stay in?***

The requirements for membership closely mirror those of your application. You will be required to complete 25 hours of community service by the first week of May 2020. In addition, you will be required to stay involved in at least one club, sport, or activity. You will be expected to demonstrate exemplary character by following school rules (a discipline that relates to academic dishonesty or that is a Level 2 or higher may result in dismissal from NHS). Finally, you will be required to participate in at least one “NHS Sponsored” activity throughout the course of the year. These activities can also be counted toward your 25 community service hours. These events will be provided after the induction ceremony and will be available under the “Announcements” section in the NHS Members Canvas page.

***I have a question that isn't on this list—what should I do?***

First, double-check to make sure it is not answered in one of the questions above. If it is not, feel free to email [Mr. Kehan](#). If we are on summer break, please allow up to one week for a response. There will also be an optional meeting for prospective candidates in September to answer any last-minute questions about the application process.