

NHS Prospective Candidate FAQs:

What are the benefits of being a member of NHS?

Honor, glory and a fancy stole at graduation. Most importantly, 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 25 hours of community service (documented with verification letters)

****Please note upcoming changes to Service Hours Requirement for the class of 2028:**

- Of the 25 service hours, a **minimum of 5** must benefit the school district community (i.e., hours for PTO events for any of the schools such as the High School PTO Book Sale, Patton Carnival, Elementary events, etc.)
- **No more than 5 hours** may come from a school-sponsored club, activity, or team to which the NHS applicant/member belongs.
****Note on School Clubs and Activities:** Participation in activities that are a required or expected part of membership in a school club or organization does not qualify as community service for NHS purposes. While these activities may benefit others, they are considered part of your commitment to that club (e.g., attending club-sponsored events, setting up for performances, or volunteering as part of a team responsibility). Service hours must go above and beyond what is required by another organization and should not fulfill multiple obligations at once. To qualify as service, the activity must be voluntary, not tied to a grade or club membership, and intended primarily to benefit others outside of the group you represent.

- Exhibit outstanding character through their school discipline record
 - No candidate will be admitted to the Unionville chapter of NHS who has documented academic dishonesty, or Level 3 or Level 4 disciplinary referral at any time during high school
 - Any admitted student who incurs these sanctions will be immediately dismissed

How do I submit my application?

Applications will be submitted via the Google Form sent to potential candidates.

I'm not as comfortable with Google Forms--can I submit my application as an email or hard copy instead?

No—in order to prevent having any applications overlooked, the only applications that will be considered are the ones that are submitted via the Google Form. If you have difficulty or have any questions, I am happy to answer your questions via email or walk you through it during the first week of school.

How does the application process work?

The application process begins in July and ends with the induction ceremony in November.

Below is a rough timeline of what to expect:

- Mid-July - Grades are stored; invitations for NHS are sent out
- Beginning of September - Applications are due
- Late September - Applications are reviewed by the NHS Faculty Council
- Beginning of October - Decision letters are sent out
- Early-mid November - Selected candidates are inducted.

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 for profit business, may not be eligible to count for this requirement. **Any hours accrued during the school day do not count!** If you have questions about whether or not a specific opportunity counts, please email [Mrs. Haitz - hhaitz@ucfsd.net](mailto:hhaitz@ucfsd.net).

When can I start counting community service hours?

You can begin counting service hours two summers before you submit your application. Any hours from June of 2024 or after count.

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 and contact information of the adult who supervised (should not be a parent/relative) and signature!

I have more than 25 community 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. You cannot use hours that you submitted with your application.

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

You may add or delete spaces under each section of the application based on the information you wish to provide by right-clicking in the section and selecting “add item” or “delete item.”

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:

- 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 County
- 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.

Am I able to use digital crowdsourcing volunteer organizations like Zooniverse or Wakelet?

NO! These hours no longer count. The only exception was 2020 during the pandemic when it was difficult to get service hours. Now that the world has “opened up” again digital platforms can no longer be used for hours.

There are only four spaces to submit verification letters but I have more than four letters. What should I do?

If you have more verification letters than there are spaces in the quiz, you can scan them to be a single PDF. If you do not have access to a scanner, you can request assistance from Mrs. Hartz.

I got detention once. Does that mean that I won't get into the NHS?

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 surrounding a discipline infraction. Do not skip or delete the discipline section. You are more likely to be denied admission if you do not release your infraction than if you do.

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 May of 2026. 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. Several of these activities can also be counted toward your 25 community service hours. A list will be provided at the beginning of the year and will be available via the NHS Members Canvas under both “Modules” and the calendar.

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 [Mrs. Haitz - hhaitz@ucfsd.net](mailto:hhaitz@ucfsd.net). Because it is summer break and we are not in the district, please allow up to one week for a response.