



Mortar Board

Scholars...Chosen for Leadership...United to Serve

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER NEWS

Becoming a Mortar Board member

Mortar Board is an Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) certified national honor society for college seniors, annually selecting the best and brightest students on campus. Most commonly, members are selected during their junior year. Candidates must meet the university's requirements to hold junior standing. Beyond grade level, Mortar Board focuses on three key ideals: scholarship, leadership and service.



Scholarship – As a devotion to academia and learning is key, each chapter is advised to select only members that have a 3.0 GPA or are in the top 35 percent of their class, whichever is higher on that campus. To ensure that the most qualified candidates are selected, some chapters may choose to set an even higher grade requirement. Specific grade requirements at your institution's chapter can be learned by contacting that chapter.

Leadership – Mortar Board functions as an honor society rather than an honorary. The difference is that while an honorary exists solely for the purpose of honoring its members, an honor society, although composed of members who have already distinguished themselves and been recognized for such, continues to make significant contributions to college and community life. Belonging to an honor society carries a commitment of individual and group participation, as well as the quality of leadership. Whether members express this leadership in their personal, professional or academic lives, it is a characteristic Mortar Board holds in high regard.



Service – All chapters execute service projects to benefit their campus or community, and select members who are devoted to the same. Chapters choose projects that support Mortar Board's national "Reading is Leading" literacy initiative and align themselves with local causes.

Active participation – Each Mortar Board chapter implements a participation policy and asks that members abide by it. Additionally, candidates may only be selected if they can devote at least one full academic term (such as a semester or quarter) to Mortar Board.

Joining a local chapter

Mortar Board has active chapters in nearly every state in the U.S. Click [here](#) to find out if there is a chapter on your campus and apply to that chapter directly.

Starting a new chapter

Are you interested in joining Mortar Board, but your university doesn't have a chapter? If you attend a four-year, baccalaureate degree-granting institution, you may want to learn more about chartering a chapter on your campus. The process is outlined online [here](#), or you can get in touch with Executive Director Jon Cook at jcook@mortarboard.org to get started.



Defining Mortar Board

"Other honor societies often list service as being important to them, but none of them place as much emphasis on both group and individual service in the lives of their members as does Mortar Board. It is this factor that leads me to consider the members of Mortar Board to exemplify both outstanding scholarship and outstanding character. These are the kind of people I hope to see become leaders in our society. It is for these reasons that I chose to associate myself with Mortar Board."

*Cydne Wright
University of Utah
Class of 2007*

"Mortar Board is what happens when sharp, driven, and compassionate people get together on a college campus to make the world a better place. Through their leadership, scholarship, and service, Mortar Board members are dedicated to their projects and work to inspire similar zeal in others."

*Eleanor Krautmann
Stephens College
Class of 2008*

"Mortar Board has both reaffirmed my desire to make scholarship, leadership and service touchstones within my life, and reinforced the practical skills and strategic foresight needed to turn these ideals into reality."

*Chase Knowles
University of California, Los Angeles
Class of 2008*

Fees associated with membership

Members are required to pay a national lifetime membership fee of \$60. Local chapters may also charge additional dues. To assist members having difficulty with this fee, each chapter is permitted to grant one gift membership annually. The \$60 lifetime membership fee includes access to all of Mortar Board's benefits, as well as the following:

- Membership certificate
- Official pin
- One-year subscription to the *Mortar Board Forum* magazine

Benefits of membership include:

- Academic recognition by your college or university
- Alumni networking to connect other Mortar Board alumni in your area or across the world
- Thousands of dollars in fellowships available only to Mortar Board members
- Subscription to Mortar Board publications including the Mortar Board Forum magazine
- Access to the Mortar Board Scholarship-Assistant, a search engine with easy access to more than a million undergraduate, graduate and professional scholarship awards worth more than \$3 billion
- Career and graduate school networking and assistance
- Access to a career search engine sponsored by JobTarget
- Federal government employment entrance at the GS-7 ranking for members, which can mean an instant pay increase for certain jobs
- The chance to apply for RealAcad, a top-level venture management program has agreed to provide access for all Mortar Board members to an international network of top professionals across the world.
- Washington, D.C. internship and scholarship opportunities through The Fund for American Studies, Washington Internship Institute and The Washington Center for Internships & Academic Seminars
- The opportunity to apply for the NIH-Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program, a fully-funded Ph.D. program in biomedical research
- Access to the GEICO Privileges program, where your membership allows you to receive discounts at brand-name retailers, as well as money-saving tips
- Kaplan test preparation discounts (15 percent off all GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT, SAT, ACT, PSAT classroom and online courses for members and their families)
- Training and leadership opportunities, including an invitation to the annual national conference of Mortar Board

Members are eligible to receive discounts and services from Mortar Board's partners:

- GEICO auto insurance specials
- Bank of America credit cards
- Affordable student health insurance from UnitedHealthcare StudentResources

"I think the diversity is what makes Mortar Board such a strong organization. I have also loved the great opportunities afforded to me by being in Mortar Board. Through the many activities I have done in these last two years, I have been able to help and touch many different people that I never would have otherwise, including many area elementary schools and those people affected by the hurricanes."

*Donny Kakati
University of South Alabama
Class of 2008*

"Mortar Board Senior National Honor Society has become a treasured part of my undergraduate experience at Michigan State University. I joined the organization in 2006, eager for a group of peers who possessed the same passions for knowledge and service that I did. I found much more than that. Those in the Sphinx Chapter shared my passions and helped me develop them further. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity learn from and with each of the other people in our Mortar Board chapter."

*Melissa Elafros
Michigan State University
Class of 2008*

"Mortar Board has given me the opportunity to meet great people and has expanded my college experience. Participating in the service activities and getting to know the fellow members of my MB organization has inspired me to do more on my college campus and later on in life!"

*Lisa Carroll
Eastern Illinois University
Class of 2008*