

Reactivating a Mortar Board chapter



WHAT IS MORTAR BOARD?

Mortar Board is the premier national honor society recognizing college seniors for superior achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. The select students who are invited to join this esteemed society are among the most amazing college scholar-leaders in the U.S.

Membership in Mortar Board is synonymous with dedication and success. Mortar Board members have successful careers, win prestigious awards and contribute unmatched service to their communities. Mortar Board provides its members with opportunities for continued leadership development, promotes service to colleges and universities and encourages lifelong contributions to the global community. Additionally, Mortar Board offers many benefits to members, including career networking, fellowships and awards.

Mortar Board is a member of The Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS), the nation's only certifying agency for college and university honor societies.



WHY START A CHAPTER?

- Mortar Board chapters provide leadership to their campus and contribute to their alma mater.
- Mortar Board members are presented with the unique opportunity to join a diverse group of students from vastly different disciplines and interests. Members are keenly aware that they are in league with intelligent and insightful students they may not have otherwise known.
- Mortar Board promotes lifelong service and encourages chapters to participate in projects that better their communities. Annually, members devote thousands of hours of service.
- Mortar Board members are first-rate seniors who are given the opportunity to join, hone their leadership skills and collectively affect campus life.
- Mortar Board is known as one of the few active honor societies that celebrates scholarship, leadership and service – traits that are highly attractive to future employers and graduate schools.
- Mortar Board is committed to the success of individual students, giving them opportunities to participate in national governance, as well as providing fellowship opportunities for postgraduate education.



Longwood University student Erica Storey proudly displays her Mortar Board certificate at her initiation ceremony.

MORTAR BOARD FACTS

Founding date

February 15, 1918

Founding chapters

Cornell University, The University of Michigan, The Ohio State University and Swarthmore College

Mission

Mortar Board, Inc., a national honor society that recognizes college seniors for their achievements in scholarship, leadership and service, provides opportunities for continued leadership development, promotes service to colleges and universities and encourages lifelong contributions to the global community. (Adopted July 1994)

Motto

Pi Sigma Alpha (ΠΣΑ), letters that correspond to three Greek words representing the ideals of Mortar Board: scholarship, leadership, service.

Symbol

A mortarboard, an ancient symbol of honor and distinction, represents the organization. Many early scholars also adopted the clerical or monastic robes as a symbol, illustrating their devotion to the profession of learning.

Colors

Gold (representing achievement) and silver (symbolizing opportunity)

Official publication

The *Mortar Board Forum* is a semi-annual publication featuring stories about alumni, articles about chapter activities and accomplishments, current issues and trends, messages from Mortar Board national leaders and more. It is distributed in print and electronically to collegiate and alumni members across the nation.

Pin

Shaped like a black mortarboard with the Greek letters representing the motto engraved in gold

Membership

Nearly a quarter of a million members have been initiated at 229 chartered collegiate chapters.

National project

"Reading is Leading," which strives to promote literacy across the world for people of all ages, is the permanent national project.

Illinois Wesleyan University member Travis Williams proudly receives his Mortar Board pin from advisor Sue Stroyan during the chapter's 2009 installation.



UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS*

- The institution is baccalaureate degree-granting.
- The institution must be accredited by its regional accreditation association.
- There must be support of the institution's administration, particularly its president and chief student affairs officer. Essential components for successful chapters are at least two advisors and an administrative liaison (may be faculty, staff, administrators) to work actively with the chapter. The institution must be able to demonstrate that it will welcome the leadership the Mortar Board chapter will provide to enhance campus life.
- Mortar Board will function 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, continues to make significant contributions to college and community life.

**Requirements were met when university was originally granted a charter.*

OVERVIEW OF THE REACTIVATION PROCESS

- 1** Convene a group of interested students, alumni, faculty and staff to meet to consider reforming the Mortar Board chapter. At this meeting, you should first ascertain if there would be both the quantity and quality of students eligible and interested.
- 2** File the reactivation application form along with the appropriate supporting documents.
- 3** After receiving approval from the National Office, proceed with your selection plans as indicated on your reactivation application.
- 4** Following the selection of new members, plan a new member initiation ceremony to coincide with a chapter reactivation ceremony. Invite parents, friends, faculty and staff of the institution to attend the ceremony and reception.

MORTAR BOARD MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Mortar Board chapters add to the vitality of campus life through a combination of solid leadership and ever-present concern for a successful collegiate experience for all students. Mortar Board members are known for innovative and dedicated leadership and loyalty to their alma mater; and they have an impact on campus through rich leadership programming and significant campuswide events.



The Black Masque chapter of Mortar Board at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln promotes school spirit and traditions at the annual gavel exchange with the Friars chapter of Mortar Board at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Transcending football rivalry, Mortar Board's ideals of scholarship, leadership and service unite the two chapters for the benefit of both universities.

APPLICABLE FEES

National dues are \$75 per initiate. The initiation fee for an honorary member is paid by Mortar Board, Inc. Local chapters may charge an additional fee, which is retained by the chapter. There is an annual chapter conference fee of \$225, payable along with national dues, which allows for the chapter president to attend the Mortar Board National Conference (including travel, meals, materials and hotel accommodations).

APPLY OR LEARN MORE

If you have any questions, or would like to start the reactivation process, call Executive Director Jane Hamblin at 1-800-989-6266 ext. 101 or e-mail her at jhamblin@mortarboard.org.



*Jane A. Hamblin, J.D., CAE
Executive Director*



NATIONAL COLLEGE SENIOR HONOR SOCIETY

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