

Bringing a **Mortar Board chapter** to your campus

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 campus 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?

- A Mortar Board chapter serves its 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.



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* features alumni, chapter activities and accomplishments, current issues and trends, and messages from Mortar Board national leaders, and 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, or 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.

OVERVIEW OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- 1** A group representing administration, faculty and students should meet to consider formation of a Mortar Board chapter. At this meeting, you should first ascertain if there would be both the quantity and quality of students eligible and interested to form a chapter. You may also consider a chapter name, constitution, selection procedures for new members, and possible programs and projects.
- 2** File the application form (www.mortarboard.org/publications/expansionapp.doc) with the appropriate supporting documents.
- 3** Prepare for an onsite official visit by a national representative. When a visitor is assigned to an institution, he or she will spend time on campus talking with students, faculty and administrators to acquire information about the institution.
- 4** Following the official visit, the National Council will evaluate the application materials and make a decision on whether to grant a charter. If the vote of the council is affirmative, then the petitioning group may proceed with plans for installation. In the unlikely event of an unsatisfactory report, the issues will be discussed with the petitioning group and a second visitor may be assigned to visit the campus.
- 5** Solicit application and nomination forms to select a charter class of senior members and junior class of members for the following academic year. The installation of the new chapter may take place alongside a new member initiation.
- 6** Select an honorary member to be initiated.

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.



Selection to Mortar Board is one of the highest honors college seniors can attain. The tapping and initiation of new members are among the most time-honored Mortar Board traditions. Tapping is often done publicly to emphasize the honor of selection. Above, members of the Jane K. Smith Cap & Gown chapter at San Diego State University are pictured on tapping day.

CHAPTER INSTALLATION

Once the affirmative vote is received, your new chapter of Mortar Board and the national installing officers work together to set a chapter installation date.

The formal chapter installation ceremony is followed immediately by the initiation of new members. Parents, friends, faculty and staff of the institution are invited to attend the ceremony and reception. The charter for the chapter is presented by a national representative, along with Mortar Board pins and certificates. If the chapter was formed from an existing local honor society, the alumni of this group are eligible for initiation at this time, as well as anytime in the future.

APPLICABLE FEES

There is a one-time chapter installation fee of \$2,500, payable to Mortar Board. Currently, 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, payable along with national dues, which allows for the chapter president to attend the Mortar Board National Conference (including meals, materials and hotel accommodations).

APPLY OR LEARN MORE

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



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

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