

## WHY ACCEPT OUR INVITATION?

Congratulations! If you have been invited to accept membership in a collegiate honor society, it means that you have been recognized for your accomplishments and character. But did you know that the meaning of the invitation depends on the purpose and stature of the society?

The purpose of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, and Omicron Delta Kappa as honor societies is to celebrate excellence in academics and integrity of character. Our societies exist because those who founded them believed, as we believe still, that there are achievements worthy of celebration: academic work of extraordinary quality, exemplary leadership, and research that advances human knowledge.

Our invitations recognize distinguished performance in study, research, or leadership, sustained over a period of years. So our invitations are typically extended late in the undergraduate career or even after graduation, marking the transition from accomplished work of high merit to further exceptional attainment.

Honorifics vary in value, so it is important to find out which ones matter the most. Our societies do not aim to supply a mere credential: belonging to our societies means more than simply a certification of your grade point average or your resume. In the wider world, membership in one of our organizations is understood as an honor that is neither cheaply won nor widely bestowed. And we offer opportunities to continue to learn and grow in the company of other members of our societies across the country and across generations.

Ask your advisors, mentors, or faculty members about us. We are confident they will tell you what we stand for. We also encourage you to visit our websites and examine our histories, governance, and programs. Contact our individual national headquarters if you have any questions. If you have been honored with an invitation, congratulations; you are in excellent company. We look forward to welcoming you as a member.



**THE PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY**  
Founded at the College of William and Mary, 1776  
[www.pbk.org](http://www.pbk.org)



**THE HONOR SOCIETY OF PHI KAPPA PHI**  
Founded at the University of Maine, 1897  
[www.phikappaphi.org](http://www.phikappaphi.org)



**SIGMA XI**  
**THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SOCIETY**  
Founded at Cornell University, 1886  
[www.sigmaxi.org](http://www.sigmaxi.org)



**OMICRON DELTA KAPPA**  
**THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP HONOR SOCIETY**  
Founded at Washington & Lee University, 1914  
[www.odk.org](http://www.odk.org)