

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE BETA CHAPTER OF THE PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY IN THE STATE OF INDIANA

Constitution

- I. This Chapter is a constituent member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, an incorporated organization (hereinafter, "Phi Beta Kappa Society"), or its successor-in-interest, and shall be called the Beta Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Society in the State of Indiana.
- II. This Chapter is under the general supervision and control of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. The purpose of Phi Beta Kappa is to recognize and encourage scholarship, friendship, and cultural interests, and to support excellence and integrity in the pursuit of the arts and sciences. Chapter activities encourage liberal education, scholarship, and concern for the responsible uses of knowledge. Individuals elected to membership commit themselves to advancing the goals of Phi Beta Kappa.
- III. The members of the Chapter shall be elected primarily from the best scholars of the graduating classes of the college, secondly from those graduates of said college whose postgraduate work entitles them to such honor, and lastly from any persons distinguished in letters, science or education; provided however that the selection from each graduating class shall not exceed one-fourth of the number graduated. The Chapter may make further limitations or restrictions.
- IV. In addition to scholarship, good moral character will be a qualification for membership, and any member who is found to have lost this qualification may be expelled from the Society by a four-fifths vote of the members present at a regular meeting of the Chapter.
- V. This Chapter shall send a delegation to represent it at each National Council of the United Chapters, shall contribute its part to the financial support of the United Chapters, and shall conform to the constitution of the United Chapters and all lawful requirements of the National Council.
- VI. This Chapter shall, by the enactment of suitable by-laws, provide for the election of officers, the initiation of members, the conduct of its meetings, and such other matters as it may be deem wise so to regulate.

(This constitution can be amended only with the consent of the United Chapters.)

By-Laws

- I. Officers
 1. The officers of this Chapter shall be a President, a Vice President, and a Secretary-Treasurer, whose duties shall be those usually appertaining to such officers.
 2. The officers of the Chapter and the delegates to the Triennial Council shall be elected at the Spring Meeting by a majority vote of the members present.
 3. The President and the Secretary-Treasurer must be resident members.
- II. Voting
 1. Voting privileges in the Chapter shall be confined to members of Phi Beta Kappa who are: Full or part-time members of the faculty, members of the college staff, professors emeriti of Wabash College, and current Wabash students.
 2. The members present at any regular or called meeting shall constitute a quorum.
- III. Meetings

The Spring Meeting shall be held on the last Thursday of March at 4:15 PM at a place to be determined by the Chapter. *(Amended March 29, 2012 to change the date from Commencement week-end to the last week of March. Amended March 25, 2021 to specify the date and time.)*
- IV. Election of Members
 1. The votes of four-fifth of members present and voting at the Spring Meeting shall be required to elect all members, undergraduates, graduates, and others. *(Amended April 6, 1989 to add "and voting".)*
 2. Not more than one-eighth of the graduating class, including those elected in their junior year, shall be elected to membership. *(Amended October 20, 1948. The original by-laws permitted one-fourth.)*
 3. In evaluating grade averages of candidates, the college's graduated four-point scale shall be used.

4. In evaluating rankings on comprehensive examinations, one and a half courses shall be added to each student's total, and assigned grades as follows: Distinction A, High Pass B, Pass C. In the case of multiple comprehensive examination results, the grades shall be averaged. *(Amended March 29, 2012 to average multiple comprehensive exams.)*
5. Stipulations Concerning Eligibility for Membership *(Added March 27, 2014)*

Eligibility for election to membership shall be contingent upon fulfillment of the following minimum requirements. These stipulations concerning eligibility for membership were approved by the Chapter on March 31, 2011 and were adopted by vote of the United Chapters and certified by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Senate of Phi Beta Kappa on June 1, 2011. *[The Wabash Chapter will apply these stipulations starting with the class of 2016.]*

Stipulation 1. Eligible students shall be candidates for a bachelor's degree. The liberal arts encompass the traditional disciplines of the natural sciences, mathematics, social sciences, and humanities. Select courses in other programs of study may be included only if they unambiguously embody the liberal arts. Because Phi Beta Kappa honors excellence in the liberal arts, applied or pre-professional coursework shall not be considered in determining eligibility. This stipulation excludes professionally focused courses and courses devoted to the acquisition of practical skills. *[Accounting courses will not be considered in determining eligibility.]*

Stipulation 2. Weight shall be given to the breadth and depth of study in liberal arts, taking into account the number, variety, and level of courses taken outside the requirements of the major, and the proportion of the candidate's overall program those courses constitute. Consideration shall also be given to the number of elective courses taken above the introductory, or general education, level. *[Completion of a Wabash degree satisfies this stipulation.]*

Stipulation 3. Candidates shall have demonstrated, by successful work in high school or college, or in the two together, a knowledge of a second or non-native language at least minimally appropriate for a liberal education. In no case shall this mean less than the completion of the intermediate college level in a second, or non-native, language, or its equivalent. *[Earning a passing grade in Chinese 202, French 202, German 202, Greek 201, Latin 201 or Spanish 202 at Wabash (including passing the course via the Credit/No Credit or Conversion to Credit/No Credit options) or via approved transfer credit satisfies this stipulation. Concurrent enrollment will be considered for membership, but initiation is contingent upon passing the relevant course. Students who are exempt from or test out of the Wabash language requirement will be considered to have fulfilled this stipulation. Placement in an advanced language course (e.g., 301 or 321) alone does not satisfy this stipulation; students must pass the course. Revised November 15, 2017.]*

Addendum: International students who graduate from a foreign high school and primarily speak a language other than English are automatically exempt from the Wabash language requirement. Students who graduate from a high school in the US but believe themselves to be fluent in a second language can test out of the language requirement. Either exemption from or testing out of the Wabash language requirement fulfills the language stipulation. *[An international student with only an English language experience would not receive the automatic waiver from the Registrar's Office. We honor the Registrar's exemption as fulfilling the language stipulation, so such students would need to take the full set of language courses. Added April 2, 2015.]*

Stipulation 4. The candidate's undergraduate record shall include at least one course in college-level mathematics, logic, or statistics, with content appropriate to a liberal arts curriculum. The course should introduce the student to mathematical ideas, abstract thinking, proofs, and the axiomatic method. *[Effective for the Wabash Classes of 2023-2026: Completion of the Quantitative Skills requirement satisfies this stipulation.]*

[Effective for the Wabash Class of 2027 and beyond: Earning a passing grade in one full credit of Computer Science 211, Division 3 252, Economics 241, Economics 253, Philosophy 270, Physics 111, Psychology 201, Political Science 300, or any Mathematics course satisfies this stipulation. AP Credit for one of the above (for example MAT 111) would satisfy the requirement. Placement alone would not satisfy the requirement. Concurrent enrollment will be considered for membership, but initiation is contingent upon passing the relevant course. Amended March 30, 2023.]

Stipulation 5. In keeping with the Founders' interest in fostering not only academic excellence but also friendship and morality, invitation to Phi Beta Kappa should be extended only to persons of good moral character. *[We have usually interpreted issues of moral character to concern specific accusations of plagiarism or other impropriety.]*

6. Student academic performance shall be judged solely on the basis of paragraphs 3, 4, and 5.
7. To be eligible for election, a senior must have at the time of election a minimum of 20 graded courses at Wabash College. A junior must have at the time of election a minimum of 16 graded courses at Wabash College. *(Amended April 16, 2005 to lower the junior requirement to 16.)*
8. To be eligible for Phi Beta Kappa membership, students should have Incompletes removed from their records by mid-semester of the spring semester of their election year. *(Added March 29, 2012.)*
9. As a recognition of special merit as many as up to one-half of the top one-eighth of the junior class may be elected, and if so elected they shall be counted as part of the number to be elected as seniors from the same class the following year. *(Amended May 11, 1967 from "two" to "three". Amended September 13, 2018 from "three" to "up to one-half of the top one-eighth of the junior class.")*
10. Graduates of Wabash College of not less than ten years' standing, who by contributions in the fields of the humane sciences and letters or by works of pure literature, have since graduation given clear evidence of the possession of distinguished scholarly capacities, may be elected to alumni membership.
11. Men and women, not graduates of Wabash College, who by contributions in the fields of the humane sciences and letters, have given evidence of the possession of distinguished scholarly capacities, may be elected to honorary membership. No graduate of another institution having a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa shall be so elected unless the consent of that chapter has been obtained.
12. The names of all persons proposed for alumni or honorary membership must be presented to the chapter at least six months before they are voted upon.
13. Members of other chapters of Phi Beta Kappa who become officers of the teaching staff of this institution shall thereby become associate members with full voting privileges.

V. Fees

1. The initiation fee shall be fixed from time to time by the Chapter on recommendation of the Secretary-Treasurer and the accordance with the requirements of the United Chapters.
2. The Secretary-Treasurer may, as that officer deems necessary, levy dues on the members of the Chapter. *(Amended November 2, 1978 to eliminate the additional clause "Not to exceed one dollar in any one year.")*
3. Given the intent of the Day of Giving Affinity Challenge to "meet the financial needs of our students and support ΦBK programming", the Chapter will use these funds to pay the national dues for each new member as well as the Visiting Scholar hosting fee and Triennial travel costs." *(Added September 8, 2016.)*

VI. Amendments

These by-laws may be suspended, altered, or amended at any meeting of the Chapter by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting. *(Amended April 6, 1989 to add "and voting".)*