

Introduction

The National Honor Society for Dance Arts (NHSDA) is a program of the National Dance Education Organization. It is one of the most exciting benefits that NDEO offers its Institutional Members. The Secondary Program (grades 6-8 and grades 9-12) was implemented in 2005 while the Collegiate Program was implemented in 2012. To date, there are 400 chapters in the United States and almost 3000 students inducted over the past 3 years.

NHSDA Vision, Mission and Goals

Vision: We envision a nation in which all students have equal opportunity and access to quality dance arts education and are recognized for their outstanding artistic merit, leadership and academic achievement in the field of dance.

Mission:

1. To recognize outstanding artistic merit, leadership and academic achievement in students studying dance in public and private schools in K-12 education, dance studios, cultural/community centers, performing arts organizations, and colleges/universities.
2. To foster an appreciation for dance as a true art form and one worthy of recognition and prestige.
3. To promote a desire for life-long learning in the field of dance.
4. To identify honor students (grades 11-12) for nomination to the NDEO for nomination to the NDEO Artistic Merit, Leadership and Academic Achievement Award, one of the highest honor programs for dance in the United States.

What are benefits of the NHSDA and induction?

Students deserve the honor and prestige that comes from their achievement in dance. Many students are working hard on academics and leadership while perfecting their dance craft not only at school but also outside of school. The personal gratification that students receive from being inducted into the NHSDA is a boost to their self esteem. It is a win-win for all; the student, the school, and the field.

How do students get inducted?

Induction into NHSDA is earned through the accumulation of points awarded for meritorious work in dance that meets the honor society's general guidelines (see National Point System) and on the basis of grade point average. In addition, another factor in the determination of eligibility for induction is the prospective inductee's demonstration of collaborative teamwork, motivation, and leadership in the many aspects of dance that may include choreography, performance, teaching, and production. A student in grades 6-8 need only 15 points for

induction and their induction certificate will read “National Junior Honor Society for Dance Arts,” while a student in grades 9-12 will need 30 points for induction and their certificate will read “National Honor Society for Dance Arts.” Technically, a student can be inducted twice in to the NHSDA as long as the school they attend while in grades 6-8 has a chapter, and as long as as the school they attend while in grades 9-12 has a chapter.

How long does it take a student to earn the appropriate number of points for induction?

On average it takes about one full year to earn enough points (30 points) for induction at the high school level for a serious student. A student who approaches dance on a more part-time basis may take up to two years to qualify for induction. A middle school age student who only needs to earn 15 points can typically accomplish their task in less than a year.

What are the roles of the students and the Chapter Sponsors during the induction process?

Students are responsible for documenting all of their activities worthy of points. This documentation may be in the form of notebooks or portfolios along with charts or spreadsheets. Chapter Sponsors will be responsible for approving/verifying points earned and determining whether a student has met the criteria for becoming an official inductee o the local chapter.

What do students get when they are inducted?

All students who are inducted will receive a certificate. Gold honor pins and blue/white honor cords (seniors only.) Please note all schools do not permit students to wear the cords in their graduation programs. (If interested in wearing the cords, please petition school officials far in advance of graduation.)

What are the induction criteria for the NHSDA?

Participation Points:

This category reflects points earned for meritorious participation in a wide variety of dance activities. The NHSDA National Induction Point System provides a wide variety of activities worth of points. (It is at the discretion of the Chapter Sponsors to award points from the minimum of zero to the maximum for each category, according to the work performed in a given activity.) Students accumulate points until they have the number required for induction.

*To qualify for induction at the middle school level 15 points are needed. (10 points should be earned participating in dance activities with the program of the chapter site.) 5 points may be earned while participating in community dance activities or other activities in the performing arts outside of the chapter program.

(For every 10 extra points earned at the middle school level, the student may earn 1 point to apply toward high school induction. No more than 5 points carried over from middle to high school.) Students who do not earn extra points over and above those required for middle school, must start anew when accumulating points in high school.

*To qualify for membership at the high school level, a student must earn 30 points, at least 20 of which should be earned while participating in dance activities within the program of the chapter site. At the sponsor's discretion, a student may earn up to 10 points while participating in community dance activities or other activities in the performing arts outside of the chapter program.

Documentation of all activities is required. (Portfolio, letters, pictures, programs, charts or other.)

Demonstration of Character:

This category reflects the student's demonstration of collaborative teamwork, motivation, and leadership. The Chapter Sponsors or others designated by the Chapter Sponsors will evaluate the student's demonstration of the above qualities through observations during classes, rehearsals, and other dance program activities, as well as leadership (leading groups, setting examples, participation in activities or service projects.) Community service activities might include unpaid performances, teaching or assisting dance classes, as well as participation in sponsored fundraisers. A minimum "Above Average" rating is required for NHSDA induction.

Grade Point Average:

Minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Students turn most recent report cards to the Chapter Sponsors showing their cumulative GPA in a sealed envelope. All records to be maintained by the Chapter Sponsors and handled in a way that respects the privacy of the student. In this case, provide records to Julia in the appropriate sealed envelope marked with student name and "GRADES ENCLOSED." All records will be viewed by and kept in Ms. Valerie Madonia's office.

Records for active and prospective can be available for student perusal. There will be a calendar with deadlines for submitting documentation each month.

Do inducted students have to continue to earn points or maintain a GPA to stay in the NHSDA?

Induction into the NHSDA is irreversible. Once a student has earned all appropriate points and met the character and GPA requirements, they are inducted into NHSDA. This honor is the student's for life. No student will be stripped of his or her NHSDA status. Chapter Sponsors may bar an inductee from participating in local activities if the student's safety or conduct warrants exclusion.

Induction fee \$8.00 to be paid by inductee before induction ceremony.
First induction ceremony TBA

For information about the NDEO/NHSDA Award Program see back page.