



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE

Phi Alpha Honor Society

Eta Mu Chapter

School of Social Work

Information Sheet

The purpose of Phi Alpha Honor Society is to provide a closer bond among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideals. Phi Alpha fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those that have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work.

Membership

Membership is available to students that meet the following national and local chapter requirements:

Undergraduate student requirements:

- Declared social work as a major
- Achieved sophomore status
- Successfully completed at least 8 undergraduate credits of social work courses
- Achieved an overall grade point average (GPA) of at least a 3.0
- Achieved at least a 3.25 grade point average (GPA) in required social work courses

Graduate student requirements:

- Successfully completed at least one semester of coursework with a minimum of 6 graduate credits in social work
- Achieved a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.5

Fees

The membership fee for is \$34.00.

This is a one-time payment for your lifetime membership to Phi Alpha. Along with your lifetime membership, you will receive an official membership certificate and a medallion given to you at the time of your graduation from USM.

Phi Alpha Honor Society History

The concept of a national social work honor society came from a group of undergraduate social work students at Michigan State University in 1960. Investigation revealed that local chapters existed at three schools. Those three schools along with a few other schools formed a National Honor Society Committee in November 1960. For more than a year, this committee worked on the constitution and other administrative matters. The name Phi Alpha and the keys were adopted from the local chapter, which existed at Florida State University.

The constitution and formal organization was completed in 1962, and six chapters qualified to become "charter chapters." There were Florida State University, Michigan State University, Ohio North University, Central State College, University of Dayton and the University of Tennessee. Over 380 chapters are now in existence, and the addition of new chapters is continuing.

University of Southern Maine Social Work undergraduate and graduate students are invited to apply and join our local chapter of Phi Alpha.

Benefits of Phi Alpha Membership

- Becoming a member of a nationally recognized organization that supports high standards in social work education
- Participation in scholarly activities and social action events
- Identification on your resume or vitae as a Phi Alpha Honor Society member, which adds acknowledgement of your academic excellence and opens doors to professional success
- Working alongside colleagues and professors to create a scholarly environment
- Individual scholarship opportunities on the national level
- Being honored with a certificate and medallion upon graduation from USM
- Potential recognition listed in *The New Social Worker* magazine
- Regularly scheduled gatherings on campus with your fellow social work students for networking and support
- Opportunities to serve as mentors to other social work students
- Opportunities to serve in leadership positions in the honor society

For more info, contact the Phi Alpha Honor Society USM Faculty Liaison, Dr. Dorothea Ivey, 207-780-4427, or email at dorothea.ivey@maine.edu



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Application Form

Date: _____ ID#: _____

Name: _____

(Name to be used on your membership certificate)

Address: _____

(Mailing address to send your certificate to)

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

University email address: _____

Personal email address: _____

(Email address for your lifetime membership contact information)

Phone number: (_____) _____

Standing: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Graduate student

Social Work GPA: _____ Overall GPA: _____

(Only social work courses completed to date)

(All courses completed to date)

Additional questions on next page

Membership Application Continued...

Check all that apply:

- I am interested in attending honor society gatherings.
- I am interested in serving as an officer in the honor society.
- I am interested in serving as a mentor to other USM social work students.

Please share any additional information or comments, if you like:

Please enclose a check for \$34.00 made out to “Phi Alpha”.

This is a one-time payment for your lifetime membership to Phi Alpha, a national honor society for social work undergraduate and graduate students. Along with your lifetime membership, you will receive an official membership certificate and a medallion given to you at the time of your graduation from USM.

You will receive a confirmation email when we receive your application.

Please submit your payment and this form to School of Social Work, Student Affairs Office, Room G39B, Masterton Hall, Portland Campus.

For more info, contact the Phi Alpha Honor Society USM Faculty Liaison Dr. Dorothea Ivey, 780-4427 or dorothea.ivey@maine.edu