**ALPHA ALPHA ALPHA (TRI-ALPHA)**

**NATIONAL FIRST-GENERATION HONOR SOCIETY**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**DO I HAVE TO MAINTAIN A CERTAIN GPA TO STAY A MEMBER OF TRI-ALPHA?**

No, your membership is determined by your cumulative GPA at the time you are invited. Tri-Alpha does not conduct GPA checks of general members once you have been inducted into the society.

**ARE THERE ANY TIME COMMITMENTS OR RESPONSIBILITES?**

There are no time commitments to being a member of Tri-Alpha. Like most honor societies, the purpose of membership is to simply honor your achievements. Once inducted, you have the choice as to whether you want to attend any chapter meetings or events/activities. Nothing is required.

**ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS BEYOND THE LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP FEE?**

No, there are no additional required costs to be a member. The chapter or national organization may, at times, offer opportunities for certain events which could include a cost however nothing is mandatory. The Salem State University chapter’s focus is holding events and activities which are free for members.

**WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF JOINING TRI-ALPHA (OR ANY OTHER HONOR SOCIETY FOR THAT MATTER?)**

Being asked to join any honor society is a privilege. Membership designates your achievements in relation to whatever area the honor society is focused on. Some honor societies focus solely on academic performance, while others honor a variety of factors, in addition to grades, which could also include major, community engagement, or like Tri-Alpha a particular identity that you hold.

* Putting your honor society membership on your resume/social media channels allows future employers or co-workers (who are also part of the organization) to understand immediately what your accomplishments may be without needing an explanation and connect with you
* Many honor societies provide cords or other forms of regalia to wear at commencement
* Many honor societies provide members exclusive access to scholarships, discounts with national companies, or fellowship/internship opportunities
* Many honor societies organize events that are exclusive to members, providing you an opportunity to make friends and connections while enhancing your college experience

**I HAVE A FRIEND WHO IS FIRST-GEN AND HAS THE GPA BUT WASN’T INVITED. WHY?**

The university pulls first-generation status from a student’s FAFSA application. If a student didn’t fully answer the questions regarding parent’s educational background, they may not be identified. If that is the case, students can contact **firstgen@salemstate.edu** to request that they be considered.

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**WHAT IF I CAN’T ATTEND THE CEREMONY?**

No worries. While we’d love to celebrate your success at an event and call

your name to be honored, you don’t have to attend. If you are unable to

join us, we will email you AFTER the ceremony with information on how to

pick up your certificate, membership pin, and other materials.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON’T ACCEPT THE INVITATION TO JOIN?**

Tri-Alpha invites students who meet the requirements for membership once a year. If you choose not to join in a particular year, and you still meet the GPA requirements the following year, you will receive a new invitation to join. Students are only able to join during the advertised period. Once the deadline has passed, students will need to wait until the following year to be invited/accept the invitation. We do NOT accept late applications past the deadline. (If you are graduating and change your mind in May, we will not be able to allow you to join at that time.)

**DO I HAVE TO TAKE A CLASS, WRITE A THESIS, OR ATTEND MEETINGS/EVENTS?**

No, there are no requirements. This is about recognizing how awesome you are and what you have accomplished so far in your college career. Once you are a member, you’re a member for life…you don’t have to do anything else.

**WHAT IF I WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED? ARE THERE ANY OPPORTUNITIES?**

Yes! We are working on establishing an executive board to help plan events, coordinate the induction ceremony, and represent our chapter with the national office. If you’re looking for a way to get involved, we’d love to have you join us in a leadership role. More information will be available after the induction ceremony.

**I APPLIED FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP TO COVER MEMBERSHIP DUES, WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON’T RECEIVE IT?**

We will notify you by the announced deadline whether you have received one of the limited scholarships to cover membership dues. If you do not receive one, you can choose whether to pay the membership dues or decline the offer to join.

**I’M NOT GRADUATING THIS YEAR, CAN I STILL JOIN?**

Of course! The guidelines for membership are set up to recognize students who have achieved a certain number of credits and GPA. Joining now allows you to get involved (if you want) and build your resume. Each year, we review who is qualified, so if your GPA dips next year, you may not be qualified to join when we send our next round of invitations.

**IS THIS FOR REAL OR IS IT A SCAM?**

We can assure you that Tri-Alpha is very real. You can find information about the national organization by searching for it online (<https://www.1stgenhonors.org/home>) or you can go to the Salem State University website and type in “Alpha Alpha Alpha” in the search bar and find the information about our chapter there.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF I TRANSFER TO ANOTHER UNIVERSITY?**

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Description automatically generatedWhile there are hundreds of Tri-Alpha chapters across the country, not every university hosts one. If you transfer to a university that has a chapter, you should contact the coordinators of the chapter there so you can be added to their membership roster.

**Still have questions?**

Contact [firstgen@salemstate.edu](mailto:firstgen@salemstate.edu)