

**National Honor Society for Dance Arts (NHSDA)  
Collegiate Program (Undergraduate)  
Informational Meeting for MCA Chapter 2020-2021**

- I. **What is the NHSDA? It is a program of the National Dance Education Organization, whose mission it is to:**
  - a. To encourage exploration of dance education pedagogy, choreography, performance, research, community outreach and advocacy in the context of a broad dance program.
  - b. To stimulate dialogue and networking between students, faculty and experts in the field.
  - c. To promote use of standards in dance education curriculum and teaching methods
  - d. To develop future leaders in the field of dance arts education and performance.
  - e. The MCA Chapter will be a “NHSDA Honor Only Model”, which means that it is managed by the Chapter Sponsor and exists primarily to induct students who have met the criteria for induction. Any chapter activities are run by the Sponsor as part of the curriculum and program, but the focus is on “earning the honor” and the induction ceremony.
  
- II. **How do students get inducted?**
  - a. Induction is earned through accumulation of 45 points awarded for meritorious work in dance that meet standardized guidelines (see National Induction Point System).
  - b. Students must meet a minimum cumulative GPA requirement of a 3.5 for their collegiate academic work (dance courses for credit also included).
  - c. Students must demonstrate strong character, manifested through collaborative teamwork, motivation, and leadership in many aspects of dance that may include choreography, performance, teaching and production.
  - d. **Prior to induction, candidates must become members of NDEO (National Dance Education Organization). Student memberships are \$50/year.**
  
- III. **What does it cost?**
  - a. There is a one-time induction fee of \$8 per student (studio prints your certificate on copy paper), **or \$12, (if you would like NDEO to print and emboss your certificate)**. This fee is paid directly to the Chapter Sponsor, who will then send in one payment for all inductees. This fee covers the cost of the formal certificate received at the induction, and processing fees.
  - b. There is a \$50/year membership to NDEO
  - c. To Graduate with Honors, there is a \$22.50 fee
  - d. There is an optional gold honor pin (\$8.50)
  - e. There are optional blue and white honor cords (for graduating students) for \$17.50.
  - f. By petitioning the student’s university, the dancer may be able to wear the cords and/or pin on their robe for graduation, and may also be able to have the honor noted in their transcript. (It is the individual student’s responsibility to petition their school with assistance from the Sponsor.)
  
- IV. **How long does it take a student to earn the appropriate number of points for induction?**
  - a. On average, it takes about one full year to earn the 45 points for induction at the collegiate level, for a serious, dedicated dance student.

- b. Due to the COVID-19 quarantine of the country in March - May of 2020, students can start counting points accrued beginning the Summer 2019 and will add these points retroactively.
- c. **Those students that will be seniors this fall, can retroactively count points for activities going back as far as Fall of their sophomore year.**
- d. Students are personally responsible for documenting their own points. They can do this using the Points Tracking Form available at [www.nhsda-ndeo.org](http://www.nhsda-ndeo.org), or by creating their own spreadsheet. This documentation will then be submitted to the Chapter Sponsor by the requested deadline. The student will then apply for induction at [www.nhsda-ndeo.org](http://www.nhsda-ndeo.org). They will create a username and password of their own for the site. Sponsor will verify points and fill out an Induction Rubric for each applicant.

**V. When are inductions held?**

- a. Generally chapters induct students two times per year. Due to COVID, there will not be a fall/winter induction in 2020.
- b. MCA's next induction will take place in late-April/early-May of 2021. At this time, we are not sure if it will be virtual or in-person, but the hope is to celebrate together with social distancing, possibly outside.
- c. Students will need to have all proof of points earned and turned in and their free account at [www.nhsda-ndeo.org](http://www.nhsda-ndeo.org) created well before the induction date. This ensures that induction certificates are printed and delivered before the ceremony. **The point submission deadline for spring induction is Friday, March 1, 2021.**

**VI. What is the criteria for induction?**

- a. Earned participation points come from each of the three major strands of the NHSDA National Collegiate Point System: Artistic Merit, Leadership, and Academic Achievement. Sponsor uses their discretion in awarding points (from zero to maximum) according to the quality of the work performed in a given activity.
  - i. Artistic Merit points come from 3 areas:
    - 1. Dance Technique and Dance Education Classes (studio technique classes, anatomy and kinesiology courses, dance pedagogy course, and dance history)
    - 2. Choreography (original choreographic works for classes, festivals, productions, for written reviews of dance performances, and composition classes)
    - 3. Performances (points awarded for on-site and off-site performances and for participation in dance festivals such as ACDF, ADF and Bates Dance Festival.)
    - 4. Dance Production (encourages students to participate in some of the many aspects of dance production outside of artistic realm, including direction, lighting, sound, costumes, makeup, videography and photography, documentation and publicity)
  - ii. Leadership points come from 3 areas:
    - 1. Awards (points received for winning awards from NHSDA or other organization associated with the institution or studio at the local, state or national level)

2. Teaching and Mentoring (Awards for community outreach, which may involve teaching or apprenticing classes, supporting dance activities, and mentoring others off and on-site)
  3. Charity and Fundraising (Points awarded for volunteer assistance and fundraising for community events, helping with conferences and working in administrative capacities at studio at the local, state or national level)
- iii. Academic Achievement points from 3 areas:
1. Research and Scholarship (awards points for independent or collective engaging in dance research, writing grants to secure research funding and participation in online NDEO forums)
  2. Advocacy (Raising awareness in quality dance, art and education related causes, participation in peaceful rallies or walks, and Arts Advocacy Day participation)
  3. NDEO and State Affiliate Meetings and Conferences (awards points for students becoming actively involved in NDEO at State and National levels)
- b. Demonstration of character: reflects the student’s demonstration of collaborative teamwork, motivation and leadership. Sponsor evaluates this through the observation of classes, rehearsals and other dance program activities. Community services may include teaching or assisting dance classes, as well as participation in sponsored fundraisers. A minimum of “Above Average” rating in this category is required for induction.
- c. Grade point average: Students must earn a GPA of at least a 3.5 for NHSDA induction, and for Graduation with Honors. Students applying for induction will turn in a copy of their grades to the Chapter Sponsor showing their cumulative GPA.

**VII. Graduating with Honors**

- a. Student need to be an inducted member of NHSDA
- b. Student needs an additional 15 points (for a total of 60)
- c. Student fee of \$22.50 for graduation with honors (optional \$17.50 for chords)
- d. Student must submit a 500-1,000 maximum word essay to their Chapter Sponsor that describes their career goals and how NHSDA and NDEO have impacted their career and life choices, OR an equivalent essay written in senior thesis project, Capstone paper, etc.
- e. Must be a Student Member of NDEO (\$50/year)

**VIII. Important Dates**

- a. Points and Grade Submission Due for NHSDA Induction - Friday, March 1, 2021
- b. NHSDA Induction - Date TBA, Late April/Early May 2021

\*\*\*\*\*For the complete NHSDA Collegiate Chapter Handbook, please visit:

[NHSDA Collegiate Chapter Handbook](#)