

National Honor Society for Dance Arts (NHSDA)
Secondary Program (9th-12th grade)
2020-2021

- I. What is the NHSDA? It is a program of the National Dance Education Organization, whose mission it is to:**
- a. promote a desire for life-long learning in dance,
 - b. encourage an understanding of, and appreciation for, dance as an art form,
 - c. develop knowledgeable dance audiences for tomorrow, and
 - d. to identify honor students (11th and 12th grade) for nomination to the NDEO Artistic Merit, Leadership and Academic Achievement Award, one of the highest honor programs for dance in the United States.
 - 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 30 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 high school academic work.
 - 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.
- 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 an optional gold honor pin (\$8.50)
 - c. There are optional blue and white honor cords (for graduating students) for \$17.50.
 - d. By petitioning the student’s high school, 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 high school 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 30 points for induction at the high school 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 of 2019 and will add those 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, 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. 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 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 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: points earned for meritorious participation in a wide variety of dance activities. Sponsor uses their discretion in awarding points (from zero to maximum) according to the quality of the work performed in a given activity. At least 20 of the 30 points should be earned while participating in dance activities within the program of the chapter site.
- 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. Students applying for induction will turn in a copy of their report card to the Chapter Sponsor showing their cumulative GPA.

VII. What is the NDEO/NHSDA Award Program?

- a. Students who are in 12th grade (this year, and then 11th and 12th grade as of next school year) who have been inducted into their school's NHSDA chapter can apply for the annual NDEO Artistic Merit, Leadership and Academic Achievement Award.
- b. There are 2 levels of adjudication, State and National. At State level, the top applicants receive a state award and the top 2 per state are then forwarded for adjudication of the national award. National Winner receives a \$500 monetary award and an offer is extended to attend the national NDEO conference (free registration). All student award recipients will receive a letter of congratulations, a certificate, and mention on the NDEO website.
- c. Applicant is judged in 3 main categories with each one carrying equal weight:
 - i. Artistic Merit: Nominee must demonstrate artistic and technical excellence in dance.
 - 1. Technical excellence as seen in video

2. Artistic merit as seen in video
 3. Essay #1: Choreography
 - ii. Leadership: Nominee must demonstrate outstanding leadership in and outside of the field of dance at the school, community, state and/or national level.
 1. Recommendation Letter
 2. Resume
 3. Essay #2: Leadership
 - iii. Academic Achievement: Nominee must demonstrate an academic excellence with cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.
 1. Overall school GPA of 3.5 or higher
 2. Essay #3: Future Plans
 3. Essay #4: Impact of Dance on Life
- d. Application Process and Deadline
 - i. Award information packet is available online each December
 - ii. Applicant will complete online application via the www.getacceptd.com web platform and be required to upload several essays, a headshot, a video, a resume and a recommendation letter.
 - iii. There is a \$25 application fee
 - iv. Application deadline is typically during the third week of February with state level announcements by the end of March, and national announcements by the first week of May.

VIII. Important Dates

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

*****For the complete NHSDA Secondary Chapter Handbook, please visit:

[NHSDA Secondary Chapter Handbook](#)