

Step 1 - Contact Regent in your geographical area.

Step 2 - Complete the online application and mail 2 copies of supporting materials to the central office in Louisville, KY.

It is important to understand at the outset that the sole purpose of the Cum Laude Society is to honor scholarly achievement, not participation in activities, in the secondary school. Likewise, potential new chapters should know that the Officers and Regents collect considerable information from applicant schools and weigh many aspects of school strength, and make their decisions with great care.

The Board feels that their major responsibility is to be certain that the academic performance of students in schools granted charters is similar to that of current members of the Society, and that as members their level of performance will continue, year after year. The Officers and Regents are particularly interested in the academic strength of the top 20% of the senior class (in the college preparatory curriculum).

A school may apply by completing the "Charter Application" form, available from the central office, after speaking with the Regent in their geographic area. If a school has been in existence continually for at least five years and has graduated three or more classes in a college preparatory course, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational or admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school administered programs, and is incorporated as a non-profit institution, it is eligible for consideration.

Annual elections are limited to 20% of the Senior Class and new chapter applicants are judged, along with other criteria, on whether in most years 20% would be eligible. This is not to suggest that each chapter does in fact elect 20%, but rather that close to the number are eligible as true scholars.

1. The first step in a consideration of membership is a conversation with the Regent that represents your geographic area. (To see a list of Regents, please click on the Officers and Regents link.)

2. With positive feedback from your area's Regent, the school considering membership should complete the Charter Application, and submit it online by September 1.

3. The Regent (or delegate) will visit your school - prior to the Annual Meeting - which is the third week in November. School is responsible for all expenses incurred for travel, lodging and meals pertaining to regent visit.

4. After the meeting, the school will be notified of the decision of the Officers and Regents.

5. If the school is approved for membership, a letter will be sent by the end of January outlining the steps to be taken for:

a. selecting charter members

b. a chartering ceremony

c. electing a first class.

FEES: When approved for membership, a Chartering fee of \$1000 is required.

ANNUAL FEES: Dues @ \$150, Certificates (for all new members) @\$5 each, Pins for new members @ \$10.

In addition, Chapters are to register each new local inductee (\$10 each) so they become official members of the Society.