

National Office: 111 N Magnolia Ave, Suite 1650 - Orlando, FL 32801

# Constitution for the National Society of Leadership & Success

Revised 10/25/2025

# Article I - Name of Organization

## National Society of Leadership & Success

The NSLS is a national honor society committed to building leaders who make a better world. This is achieved through leadership workshops, networking and goal-setting activities, and speaker broadcasts. The NSLS is officially known as Sigma Alpha Pi.

## Article II - Statement of Purpose

The Ohio State chapter has been established as a community of members on campus to interact and collaborate. The NSLS as an organization was created to build leaders for the betterment of the world. The mission statement of the NSLS is "Building leaders who make a better world."

# Article III - University Regulations

## Section A - Harassment and Discrimination, including Sexual Misconduct

The National Society of Leadership & Success agrees that it will not engage in sexual misconduct nor any harassment or discrimination on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status or any other basis in accordance with these guidelines.

## Section B - Hazing

National Society of Leadership & Success at The Ohio State University agrees to maintain a zero-tolerance policy for hazing, in compliance with Ohio State University and Collin's Law. All members must conduct themselves in a manner that supports an environment free from hazing. Hazing includes any activity, regardless of consent, that causes or creates a substantial risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm or humiliation to any individual as part of membership or affiliation with the student organization. If found responsible for hazing, members and/or the organization may face disciplinary actions.

## Section C - Bylaws

National Society of Leadership & Success at The Ohio State University retains the right to maintain separate bylaws to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included in the previous articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements set forth by local, state, and federal laws, The Ohio State University's regulations, policies, and procedures, and the Council on Student Affairs (CSA) Student Organization Registration Guidelines. Organizations may make amendments and changes to the bylaws without consulting the Ohio Union & Student Activities department, and changes to bylaws do not require approval. All elements of organizational bylaws shall be consistent with the organization's currently approved constitution on file and CSA constitution requirements.

# Article IV - Membership, Qualifications, and Categories Section A - Membership Eligibility

You must be a current college student to become a member of NSLS. In order to become a member of the NSLS, one must either be nominated by their institution or apply for a nomination. Nominations are sent out at the beginning of each fall & spring semester with an acceptance deadline 3-4 weeks into the respective semester of which the invite was received. In order to be nominated by your institution, there are two GPA qualifications

• sophomore, junior, or senior status with a cumulative GPA of 2.5-3.29

• sophomore, junior, or senior status with a GPA of 3.0 or higher

The application for nomination has its own requirements, as it is an application. This application includes at least one faculty nomination request and a statement of purpose as to your desire to join NSLS and what makes you a good candidate. The application can be found here: <a href="https://members.nsls.org/nomination/application">https://members.nsls.org/nomination/application</a>.

## Section B - Membership Selection

In order to become a member of the NSLS, one must either be nominated by their institution or apply for a nomination. Nominations will be sent every fall and spring semester. Applications for nominations can be submitted at <a href="https://members.nsls.org/nomination/application">https://members.nsls.org/nomination/application</a>. There is a one-time membership fee of \$95 upon accepting your nomination and joining. After paying the one-time fee, one is a lifetime member.

## Section C - Membership Timeline

As stated above, there are two ways non-members can become members. The organization sends out nominations at the beginning of each fall & spring semester with an acceptance deadline 3-4 weeks into the respective semester of which the invite was received. These invites are sent out per the qualifications listed in Section A:

- sophomore, junior, or senior status with a cumulative GPA of 2.5-3.29
- sophomore, junior, or senior status with a GPA of 3.0 or higher

Non-members who don't receive a nomination can self-nominate via an application at <a href="https://members.nsls.org/nomination/application">https://members.nsls.org/nomination/application</a>. Applications for self-nomination are accepted year-round. Self-nomination applications require 1-2 faculty recommendations. These are then reviewed by our Chapter Success Manager at the National Office and approved on a rolling basis with no deadline.

There are two categories of membership: non-inducted and inducted. Upon joining, one is a non-inducted member until completion of the Foundations of Leadership program which includes Orientation, Leadership Training Day, attending three speaker broadcasts, and attending three Success Networking Team meetings. Once one completes all the requirements, they are inducted members. If one transfers to a different institution that has a chapter of the NSLS, you can transfer into their chapter and keep your progress towards induction.

Non-inducted members get the same benefits as inducted members. The only difference is that there are some scholarships that are only available for inducted members. Inducted members will also get their certificate and be able to sign up for additional leadership programs that are offered by the NSLS.

#### Section D - Member Removal

If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, violates the organization's constitution or by-laws, or violates the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local law, the member may be removed through a majority vote of the officers in consultation with the organization's advisor.

In the event that the reason for member removal is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or cannot otherwise be shared with members, the executive board, in consultation with the organization's advisor, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer.

As a student organization, we cannot remove a member from the NSLS national organization, but we would bring the topic up to our national advisor.

## Article V - Advisory

## Section A - Advisor Duties & Responsibilites

The responsibilities of the organization's advisor are as follows:

- act as the bridge between the student body and the University
- attend Executive board meetings if requested
- assist with maintaining active status with Student Life
- obtain semester invites from Registrar

#### Section B - Advisor Term

Advisors are appointed by the university and serve a one year term with the opportunity to be reappointed. Once appointed, the advisor will serve as Advisor for the minimum of one year and can stay in the role unless they step down or are removed via discussions between the executive team & the university. This will happen if the advisor doesn't fulfill their role for the organization as determined by the university or if they violate the Code of Conduct as set by the university.

## Section C - Advisor Selection

The Primary Advisor must be a member of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff. The advisor serves as the point of contact between the student body of the organization and the governing body of the University. One is selected based off the following criteria:

- Must have significant leadership experience within and outside the university
- Understands and agrees with value & ROI of leadership training
- Ability to advise a very large student organization
- Ability to provide sound counsel on NSLS governance approaches
- Models & promotes positive leadership attributes

The National Office of the NSLS appoints our Chapter Success Manager. This individual is our liaison between our chapter leadership team & the National Office.

## Section D - Advisor Replacement

A University Advisor can be replaced if they violate the university Code of Conduct or fail to perform their duties as Advisor. If a University Advisor steps down, the President would consult with the university to find an adequate replacement.

The National Office handles replacements or removals of Chapter Success Managers, which is essentially our National Advisor, as needed based off performance and student feedback.

# Article VI - Organizational Leadership

# Section A - Officer Positions

The chapter executive board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Chairs, Success Networking Team Coordinator, & IT Coordinator. Not all positions are required and are filled on an as needed basis (with the minimum listed below). Each committee shall have a designated number of members to carry out the duties of the team and be chaired by a member elected from within the committee. Executive officers are appointed for the academic year and are required to attend meetings unless an alternative form of participation is worked out

The Executive board of the chapter shall be composed of at least a President, Vice President, and Treasurer. A full executive board would consist of six members plus six committee heads. In the event of a low number of executive members, committees are allowed to be combined and officers can take on committee head roles on top of their current responsibilities.

The general duties of each position are as follows:

#### President

- facilitate meetings
- govern Executive board
- meet weekly with the National office and advisor
- contact new members to introduce Executive board
- participate in monthly national forums or designate another Executive member to attend
- recruit & lead Executive board
- fill in empty positions if needed
- confirm active status with Student Life

Vice President

- act as President in their absence
- oversee committee chairs
- shadow President in sessions with the National office

#### Secretary

- record minutes at Executive board meetings and share to Chapter Leadership and Chapter Success Manager at the National office
- take attendance at live Orientation, Leadership Training Day, and speaker broadcasts, or designate another Executive member to do so
- enter attendance in Members Area within 48 hours of event
- send email reminders and announcements containing important chapter and national information
- manage chapter email and NSLS inbox (only if IT Coordinator position is vacant)

#### **Treasurer**

- create and oversee a bank account with the President and Advisor
- attend any necessary Student Government financial meetings
- create and manage a budget for national chapter dues and local expenses and enter it into the Bi-Annual Strategy meeting form
- work with Fundraising chair to implement fundraising plans

#### SNT Coordinator

- facilitate or create a schedule for the Executive board to assist at every groups first meeting
- reserve rooms or finalize locations for SNT meetings
- teach SNT facilitators how to run meetings
- gather availability from general members and create viable SNT groups that can meet at a given time
- connect with SNT facilitators to collect minutes and confirm attendance for each meeting
- remind members to submit SNT reports within 24 hours of the meeting

#### IT Coordinator

- Manage chapter gmail
- Manage chapter website inbox
- Assist w/ technology setup for events

## The responsibilities of the six committees are as follows:

#### **Publicity**

- manage chapter social media
- creatively advertise the NSLS and specific events hosted by the chapter
- Reach out to professors, other student organizations, departments and other groups on campus to promote the NSLS and its events
- Create flyers to promote the NSLS and upcoming NSLS events on campus
- Review current national guidelines on earning the positive publicity pillar

## Fundraising

- develop & implement fundraising ideas
- keep treasurer updated on fundraising efforts

## Society Events

- Reserve rooms and coordinate set-up for Orientation, Leadership Training Day, Speaker Broadcasts (live and Video-on-Demand), and Induction
- Take lead on ordering food if serving refreshments at events

#### Social Events

- Plan and implement events like ice cream socials and game nights
- Reserve rooms and coordinate set-up for events outside of the core program
- Take lead on ordering food if serving refreshments at events outside of the core program

# Community Service

- Plan and implement community service events
- Establish partnerships with service organizations on campus and in the community to offer a variety of events

• record participation at events and complete Community Service form

#### Membership Outreach

- Divide the Members' Progress list among the committee to complete check-ins throughout the semester to help achieve 40% induction
- Reach out to members with the committee after Orientation to encourage continued participation, gather feedback, and answer questions
- Request a table or booth at campus involvement fairs to create another touch point with members and potential members
- Assist and ensure committee reaches out to members who are not attending events throughout the semester

## Section B - Officer Eligibility

Officers must be members of the Ohio State chapter of the National Society of Leadership & Success but don't have to be inducted to serve on the executive team. They must perform their assigned duties and attend meetings regularly, or have something worked out with the President if they cannot be present.

## Section C - Officer Selection Process

Officer selection is based on applications and a majority vote by the executive team. Interested members can apply here: <u>Apply for Eboard Position | Members Area</u>. The application window opens each spring semester and we finalize our selections for the following year by the end of that semester. We will open applications in the summer and fall if we have a vacancy that needs filled for the following year.

## Section D - Officer Removal

Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal includes, but isn't limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws, failure to perform duties, failure to attend meetings without working out an alternative with the President, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws. The Executive Board may act for removal upon a two-thirds vote of the executive board in consultation with the organization's advisor.

The removal process is as follows:

- Establishing grounds for removal: Provide evidence to other officers & advisor for reason for removal
- Notify the officer in question: Inform the officer in writing (physical or email) of their charges & provide them the opportunity to explain themselves to the other officers & advisor
- Removal meeting: Hold a meeting of the other officers & advisor (if available), to vote on removal of questioned officer
- Vote on removal: <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> vote of the remaining officers is required to confirm removal
- Written declaration of removal: Written by the President including the input of all other officers & advisor as to the reasoning and confirmation of removal

## Article VII - Organizational Dissolution

## Section A - Dissolution Requirements

If the local chapter violates the Code of Conduct in such a way that the university deems it suspended from operations and calls for dissolution, then the executive team will work with the university to carry out that process. The National Office would be informed of this to determine if the chapter can continue in an online fashion or if it must be entirely dissolved. An online chapter is run entirely virtually or asynchronously, which is what chapters will do if they cannot function well on-campus due to reasons listed below. If any of the below thresholds are reached in a given semester, the officers will work with the university and the National Office to determine next steps.

## Thresholds for dissolution:

• If the chapter has less than 10 active student members

- If the chapter has no engagement on-campus by the members for an entire semester measured by the amount of attendees at events
- If the chapter violates the university Code of Conduct this would qualify for full dissolution
- If the chapter falls below the minimum credit with the National Office and cannot afford to pay chapter dues this is handled by the National Office

# Section B - Dissolution Procedures, including Assets & Debts

The local chapter is responsible for any and all debts and credits owed to The Ohio State University should the organization be dissolved for any reason. The National Office is not responsible for any local chapter debts or credits should the chapter be dissolved for any reason.

Upon dissolution, the organization would utilize any remaining assets to cover debts and outline plans for handling outstanding debts & excess assets should either scenario occur.

## Article VIII - Constitutional Amendments

Due to the size of the organization's membership, only officers may propose amendments. Officers can & should take general membership ideas into account when creating the proposal as to best serve the general body of members.

Any proposed amendments should be presented to the organization in writing and should not be acted upon when initially introduced. Upon initial introduction, the proposed amendments should be read in an officer meeting, reviewed by the advisor, then in the officer meeting in which the votes will be taken, and should require a <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> majority of all officers, present or not.

Once an amendment has been passed, the Constitution should be re-uploaded to the student organization portal to provide members with the most up-to-date Constitution for the organization. The constitution should not be amended easily or frequently.