

PHI ALPHA HONOR SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL WORK

“Through Knowledge-the Challenge to Serve”



North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University Bachelor of Social Work Program

Phi Omicron Chapter

Purpose and History of Phi Alpha Honor Society

The purpose of Phi Alpha Honor Society is to provide a closer bond among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideas. Phi Alpha fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work.

The concept of a national social work honor society came from a group of undergraduate social work students at Michigan State University in 1960. Investigation revealed that local chapters existed at three schools. Those three schools along with a few other schools formed a National Honor Society Committee in November of 1960. For more than a year this committee worked on the constitution and other administrative matters. The name Phi Alpha and the key were adopted from the local chapter which existed at Florida State University. The constitution and formal organization were completed in 1962.

Requirements for Membership

The Phi Omicron Chapter is open to undergraduate social work students who meet eligibility requirements:

- Officially accepted into the Bachelor of Social Work program without provisions
- Achieved junior status
- Completed 21 semester hours of required core BSW program courses—three (3) of the 21 semester hours must include the completion of one of the following core courses: Social Statistics or Research Methods
- Achieved an overall grade point average of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale
- Achieved a 3.50 grade point average in required core BSW program courses
- Complete five (5) volunteer/service hours each semester to maintain active membership status*

Benefits of Membership

- A member of an internationally recognized organization that supports high standards in social work education and that is respected by employers, social workers, and college admissions
- Participation in scholarly activities and social action events
- Opportunities to engage in individual scholarship and travel to national conferences
- Eligible for scholarships
- Lifetime membership

* *Examples of acceptable service work include: Phi Alpha service projects and activities, special committee meetings, and other work to benefit the organization/chapter, BSW program, university or the social work profession.*