

San Diego State University  
**HONORS COUNCIL**

University Honors Program • Phi Eta Sigma • Scholars Without Borders • Golden Key • Phi Kappa Phi  
Mortar Board • Phi Beta Kappa

July 2014

Dear Dean's List Honoree:

On behalf of the University Honors Council, congratulations! With your high standards of scholastic achievement, students such as yourself well represent San Diego State University.

The Honors Council comprises representatives from the University Honors Program, Scholars Without Borders and from each of the University's national (Golden Key is international) multidisciplinary honor societies: Phi Eta Sigma, Golden Key, Phi Kappa Phi, Mortar Board, and Phi Beta Kappa. Our goal is to promote and reward superior academic achievement at SDSU.

The **University Honors Program** is open to incoming freshman, as well as first and second-year college students who have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. To apply, students must complete the Honors Program application (due February 1st) which includes one essay. To graduate from the program, students must complete the Honors Program curriculum, study abroad, and earn a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. Honors courses are noted on transcripts and students completing the program are awarded a certificate of completion as a supplement to the diploma and a special medallion especially suited for wearing at commencement. To apply to the University Honors Program, please visit [www.sdsu.edu/honors](http://www.sdsu.edu/honors). For more information email [honors@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:honors@mail.sdsu.edu).

**Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honor Society** is open to students who have enrolled in 12 units or more and achieved a grade-point average of 3.50 in either semester during their freshman year at SDSU. Eligible students are invited to join at the beginning of the fall semester of their sophomore year. Students who were eligible but missed induction after their freshman year may apply to join retroactively *only during the designated invitation period* in the month of September. Activities include mentoring freshman, academic lectures, discussion groups, community service, and social events. For information contact Jessica Savalla at [phietasigma@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:phietasigma@mail.sdsu.edu)

**Scholars Without Borders** is an honorary society dedicated to promoting international exchange and service and recognizing scholarly achievement in an international context. Membership is open to international and U.S. students with a 3.5 GPA based on 6 units earned at SDSU for graduate students, and a 3.25 in 30 units with at least 12 units at SDSU for undergraduates. For more information, see <http://swb.sdsu.edu>.

**Golden Key International Honour Society** is comprised of juniors and seniors in the upper 15 percent of their class (roughly a 3.49 GPA) whose last 24 units have been earned at SDSU. Activities include the fall induction, frequent social events, monthly meetings, annual regional and national meetings, and community projects. For more information contact Dr. Edith Benkov at [ebenkov@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:ebenkov@mail.sdsu.edu).

**Phi Kappa Phi** is the oldest honor society that recognizes excellence in all academic disciplines. Standards for election are extremely high. Membership is by invitation only to the top 7.5 percent of second-semester juniors and the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students. The Society annually provides scholarships for graduate study and grants for study abroad and internships contact Dr. Steven Schellenberg at [saschellenberg@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:saschellenberg@mail.sdsu.edu).

**Mortar Board** is a national honor society for college seniors. To be considered for election to membership, students must have senior standing for the fall semester with an overall GPA of 3.2 and have participated and excelled in scholarship, leadership, and service. Admission to Mortar Board is highly competitive and is restricted to 40 students a year. Activities include presenting the Emeritus Faculty and Staff Outstanding Service Award, hosting a Faculty and Staff Appreciation Dinner, publishing the SDSU Mortar Board Daily Planner and Calendar of Events, and conducting philanthropic projects related to the national focus. For more information go to <http://sdsumortarboard.edu> or contact Dr. Jane K. Smith at [jsmith@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:jsmith@mail.sdsu.edu).

**Phi Beta Kappa** is the nation's oldest and most prestigious honor society for undergraduates in the liberal arts and sciences. Juniors and seniors who have completed 45 semester units in residence and who have completed or are completing two years in residence are eligible for election by invitation only, which occurs in the spring. To be considered, juniors must have a minimum 3.75 GPA in 75 semester units in Liberal Arts and Sciences at SDSU, and seniors must have a minimum 3.6 GPA and at least 90 semester units of coursework in the liberal arts and sciences. The coursework must demonstrate breadth outside the major, including college-level mathematics and the equivalent of three college semesters of a foreign language. Contact Dr. Annalisa Berta at [aberta@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:aberta@mail.sdsu.edu).

Should you become a member of all five honor societies (excluding the Honors Program and Scholars Without Borders) and maintain good standing and active participation for at least one semester, you will be eligible as a graduating senior to be awarded the

**Dr. Henry L. Janssen Honors Council Award for Excellence.**

Again, congratulations on your success! I encourage you to become involved in the various honor societies on campus because they provide truly rewarding experiences. Further information on the societies may be found in the *SDSU General Catalog*. Best wishes for your continued high achievement!

For more information regarding any of these organizations please go to <http://honorscouncil.sdsu.edu/>.

Sincerely,

*Olivia Chavez*

President, Honors Council