

Examples of achievement in nursing

Candidates shall have demonstrated achievement in nursing in one of the following areas:

- scholarship,
- leadership,
- service or practice

Achievements may include using transferable nursing skills applied to promote or support interdisciplinary collaboration and/or impact change in healthcare or the broader society, in an effort to support Sigma's vision of transforming global healthcare. Examples of achievements in each area are provided below. The examples are meant to be illustrations of possible achievements and are not meant to be specific requirements for application.

Achievements shall occur after the basic or initial nursing program completion (first degree in nursing). For example, student evidence-based practice projects do not meet the criteria if completed as part of the initial nursing degree.

Scholarship

Sigma's Board of Directors (2015) defined scholarship as engagement with interdisciplinary teams working within the communities, they serve to implement basic research methods and translation sciences; quality improvement initiatives; harnessing of large data sets; health policy research; evaluation of evidence-based practice; and implementation and dissemination of findings.

[\(Sigma Theta Tau International 2013-2015 BOD \(2015, February 14\). *Sigma Scholarship Defined.*](#)

Some potential examples include, but are not limited to:

- *Engaging in evidence-based practice projects at the unit or institutional level.*
- *Engaging in quality improvement programs that bring about change to practice, patient care, or organizational policies.*
- *Receiving a research grant.*
- *Conducting research and disseminating findings.*
- *Mentoring of junior nurse researchers.*
- *Publishing an article in a peer-reviewed professional journal.*
- *Presenting at a professional conference.*
- *Disseminating scholarly information via professional digital platforms including podcasts, blogs, and webinars.*
- *Developing evidence-based educational programs for nurses.*
- *Designing and instituting contemporary educational models to influence nursing education.*
- *Being recognized as an expert in a nursing or other health-related area.*

Leadership

Leadership is central to the work of the honor society. It is not a set of skills, perspectives, or characteristics within an individual; rather, leadership is something that occurs between people, groups, and systems. Leadership involves social responsibility to use knowledge and collective expertise, resulting in nursing actions that transform the health of communities and environments. Transformation involves influencing the choices individuals and groups make for lasting positive change.

[Sigma Theta Tau International \(2005\) Resource Paper and Position Statement on Leadership and Leadership Development Priorities.](#)

Some potential examples include, but are not limited to:

- *Chairing a nursing or healthcare committee and collaborating with interdisciplinary groups.*
- *Holding a leadership position in a professional nursing, other health-related, or community organization/association where healthcare expertise is provided.*
- *Mentoring others to help prepare them for leadership positions.*
- *Engaging in healthcare policy development or advocacy work.*
- *Being recognized by an organization/institution/agency for providing exemplary leadership in a specific area or on a specific project.*
- *Leading the development and implementation of original nursing projects designed to improve patient care or the functioning of the healthcare organization.*
- *Serving as an external consultant or reviewer to professional or educational organizations (e.g., accreditation site visitor, external program consultant).*

Service or Practice

Service is outreach or engagement beyond daily work responsibilities by nurses for the purpose of advancing world health and improving healthcare everywhere. Nurse leaders are expected to contribute substantially to the profession, community, and governance within a nursing organization, healthcare institution, or community setting where healthcare expertise is provided.

Some potential examples include, but are not limited to:

- *Working with a nonprofit organization that does global outreach and relief work.*
- *Facilitating the work of a homeless health clinic.*
- *Organizing and sustaining ongoing volunteer recruits to work in a food bank.*
- *Developing and leading projects and activities to promote well-being, such as a spiritual support group for nurses, Relay for Life, suicide awareness and prevention, and opioid abuse epidemic awareness and prevention.*
- *Sustaining healthcare-related volunteer community service for organizations such as The Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, Doctors without Borders, or Rotary International.*
- *Implementing shared governance models within a nursing or healthcare-related organization or institution.*
- *Serving on nursing or healthcare-related institutional/organizational boards and committees.*
- *Advising and mentoring student or new nurses beyond daily work responsibilities.*