

Exception Guidelines For Membership Eligibility

I. Students in Basic Program

Reference International Bylaws, Article III, Section 2: Membership eligibility is determined by participation in a baccalaureate or equivalent nursing degree program, achieving academic excellence (defined as having a grade point average [GPA] of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale when GPA systems are used), a ranking of not lower than the top 35% and completion of one-half of the nursing curriculum. Students must demonstrate academic achievement, academic integrity and professional leadership potential.

A. Exception Clause - Exceptions may be made to one of the following membership criteria at the discretion of the chapter's governance committee when all other criteria have been met.

1. Academic Achievement – Students that have a cumulative grade point average below 3.0 or an equivalent of this measure but have a *nursing* major grade point average of 3.0 or higher or the equivalent of this measure.

OR

2. High Academic Achievement – Chapters that have a cohort of high achieving students may admit all students with a grade point average of 3.5 and above on a 4.0 grading scale or the equivalent of this measure, regardless of the number (percentage) in that given cohort. The Exception Limit (see III below) is waived in this particular instance.

OR

3. Class Rank – Students that have a grade point average or equivalent measure that is below the upper 35%.

OR

4. Curriculum – Students that fall slightly short of completing at least one-half of the required curriculum.

B. Time Limitation Exception - Students in the basic program may be considered under the student criteria up to one year following graduation.

II. Students in Graduate Programs

Reference International Bylaws, Article III, Section 2: Membership eligibility is determined by participation in an accredited program of graduate study in nursing including master, post-master, doctoral and post-doctoral, having achieved academic excellence (defined as having a GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale when GPA systems are used) and completion of a minimum of one-quarter of the graduate curriculum. Students must demonstrate academic achievement, academic integrity and professional leadership potential.

A. Exception Clause - Exceptions may be made to one of the following membership criteria at the discretion of the chapter's governance committee when all other criteria have been met.

1. Academic Achievement – Students that have a cumulative grade point average slightly below 3.5 or the equivalent of this measure.

OR

2. Curriculum – Students that lack a few credits of completing at least one-quarter of the required curriculum.

B. Time Limitation Exception - Students in the graduate program may be considered under the student criteria up to one year following.

III. **Exception Limit** – In any one induction period, exceptions may not exceed ten (10) percent of the total number of inductees.