

South Florida Center of Excellence at FIU

*NATIONAL ACHIEVERS SOCIETY
APPLICATION*



NATIONAL ACHIEVERS SOCIETY

Application Deadline:

Friday, April 19, 2024

General Concerns or Questions:

Please contact the office

Phone: 305-348-1742

Email: fiupreco@fiu.edu

EXPECTATIONS

Students inducted into the National Achievers Society are required to fulfill specific academic, social and participatory expectations. Parents are also expected to contribute to the experience for their student and the others in the Society. These expectations are to help students maintain their standard of distinction and to prepare them to take an active role in their communities. The grades earned by Achievers must be a sign of their excellence. Achievers must:

1. Maintain an average grade of 'B' or a 3.0 GPA in both the academic and behavioral aspects of their school records. This will be verified mandatory submission of the Achiever's report cards each quarter.
2. Attend the monthly meetings and a supplemental activity each semester.
3. Attend the voluntary activities organized by the society.
4. Participate in the Annual State Conference in the Spring Semester.
5. Parents are strongly encouraged to be active members of The Miami Achiever Parents Association (TMAPA).

Failure to achieve these goals will be taken as an indication that the student is no longer interested in being a member of the Society.

THE MIAMI ACHIEVERS PARENT ASSOCIATION (TMAPA)

The Parent Association is a non-profit organization established primarily to serve the National Achievers. It is the supporting organization that works together with the South Florida Center of Excellence to promote the students' education. Parents interested in joining the Association will contribute an annual fee of \$35 per family.

THE NATIONAL ACHIEVERS SPONSOR

The student **must** have a sponsor who may be an individual, a club, or an organization. In addition to paying a donation in the form of a \$65.00 sponsor's fee, the sponsor will serve as a positive influence on the student, take part in the student's induction ceremony and remain as a mentor to the Achiever through college (**past sponsors have included parents, counselors, school staff, church elders, and staff from other FIU programs**).

THE INDUCTION CEREMONY

The induction ceremony is highly specialized to the National Achievers Society. All National Achievers have been inducted into the Society during the annual ceremony where they are introduced to the community and their accomplishments are highlighted. At this time, the sponsor initiates the Achiever by placing the personalized National Achievers jacket on the student. The induction ceremony will be held on *May 11, 2024*.

THE NATIONAL ACHIEVERS JACKET

National Achievers are students to be recognized for their continued accomplishments. One of the most prestigious forms of recognition is the wearing of a National Achievers jacket. The jacket symbolizes the excellence of the student wearing it, as well as signifying the student as a role model (cost of the jacket is included in the \$65.00 donation).

THE APPLICATION

Students must submit a complete application including:

- Application – personal information
- Medical Information with signature
- Information Release with signature
- Photo and Media Release
- Two (2) Recommendations – 1) Teacher, Counselor or Principal; and 2) Clergy or other Community Leader
- **Student's Course History showing three consecutive quarters of A's and B's, maximum two C's in academics (advanced, gifted, honors, AP, IB, or Cambridge courses) and no C's in conduct**
- Donation of \$65 non-refundable money order payable to **FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (FIU)**. **NO PERSONAL CHECKS ARE ACCEPTED.**
- Laws of Life Essay

NATIONAL ACHIEVERS' SOCIETY

**SOUTH FLORIDA CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
MODESTO A. MAIDIQUE CAMPUS, GC 342
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33199
PHONE (305) 348-3634 / FAX (305) 348-6609
<http://sas.fiu.edu/nas/>**

It is not your environment, it is you – the quality of your mind, the integrity of your soul, the determination of your will – that will decide your future and shape your life.

-Dr. Benjamin Mays

The South Florida Chapter of the National Achievers Society is under the auspices of The Florida Education Fund. Hundreds of young African American students are honored to be inducted into this prestigious society and follow in the footsteps of our great African American leaders.

Inductees are students who demonstrate high achievement academically and socially by maintaining "A" and "B" grades and adhering to excellence in behavior, so they are role models for others.

The goal of the sponsors and Parent Association is to continue to provide these Achievers with educational and cultural opportunities to enhance and maximize their potential in maintaining excellence and in becoming leaders of tomorrow. This will be accomplished through student leadership, workshops, opportunities to lead activities and meetings, peer tutoring and counseling, educational trips, and conferences, focusing on culture and historically related subjects, test preparation, pre-college prep workshops, college tours, active parent participation at workshops, and other student-sponsored activities.

Achievers, parents, and sponsors are expected to participate in local, state, and national conferences. Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month (except July and August), alternating between FIU's North (BBC) and South (MMC) Campuses to facilitate the attendance of all Achievers and their parents. Active participation by parents is encouraged because "It takes a village to raise a child."

We also believe that the more a student and their family contribute to the Society and the Parent's Association, the more they will benefit from them. The most successful Achievers have been those who have committed themselves to the success of the organization.

QUALIFICATIONS

THE STUDENT MUST BE ENROLLED IN A SCHOOL IN MIAMI DADE COUNTY AND BE IN THE FOURTH (4TH) THROUGH THE TENTH (10TH) GRADE.

All students must meet the academic requirement of "A" and "B" grades for the last 3 consecutive grading periods. A "C" grade may replace the "B" grade only in advanced, gifted, honors, AP, IB, or Cambridge courses indicated as such **on their report card**. Also, no grades below "B" are accepted in conduct. ***High School students must also have a minimum of a 3.0 unweighted grade point average in addition to academic requirement.***

Students should receive high recommendations from teachers and mentors who know them well and can attest to their academic talents and personal strengths.

Exceptions to the qualifications and requirements remain at the discretion of the South Florida Center of Excellence Director.

APPLICATION FOR THE NATIONAL ACHIEVERS' SOCIETY
SOUTH FLORIDA CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

APPLICATION PACKAGE MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED NO LATER THAN April 19, 2024

If selected, the student must attend the NAS Induction Ceremony on May 11, 2024, to be initiated as an Achiever.

STUDENT INFORMATION:

Last Name: _____ First: _____ MI: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: (____) _____ Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Sex: Male Female Citizenship: _____

Race: African American Caucasian Hispanic Pacific Islander
 Asian Native American Other _____

If you are a permanent resident, provide a copy of your Resident Alien Card. #: _____

JACKET SIZE: Circle size: (Jackets run a little small, if in doubt order the next size)

Small Medium Large X Large XX Large

SCHOOL INFORMATION:

School: _____ Current Grade: _____ GPA: _____

School ID Number: _____ School Counselor's Name: _____

Are you enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program at your school? Yes No

Class Enrollment: Regular Gifted Honors AP Dual Enrollment

Special Education Graduation Yr.: _____

Special Honors and Awards: _____

OTHER INFORMATION:

Religion: _____ Church you attend: _____

List areas of interest or clubs to which you belong: _____

What do you want to be/do after you graduate from college? _____

FAMILY INFORMATION:

(Confidential Information used for demographic purposes only.)

Student lives with: Mother Father Both Relative: _____ Other: _____

MOTHER/FEMALE GUARDIAN INFORMATION:

Last Name: _____ First: _____ MI: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home/Cell #: (____) _____ Work #:(____) _____ Email: _____

Level of Education: No High School Diploma Bachelor's Degree
 High School Diploma or GED Master's Degree
 Associate of Arts Degree Doctoral Degree

Mother's occupation: _____ Title: _____

FATHER/MALE GUARDIAN INFORMATION:

Last Name: _____ First: _____ MI: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home/Cell #: (____) _____ Work #:(____) _____ Email: _____

Level of Education: No High School Diploma Bachelor's Degree
 High School Diploma or GED Master's Degree
 Associate of Arts Degree Doctoral Degree

Father's occupation: _____ Title: _____

Annual Household Income (check one):

\$0-\$14,999 \$15,000-\$24,999 \$25,000-\$39,999 \$40,000-\$49,999 \$50,000 and above

Total Number in Household: _____ Public Assistance: YES NO AFDC : YES NO

SPONSOR INFORMATION:

Sponsor's Name: _____ Relationship to Student: _____

Sponsor's Address if not a parent:

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home/Cell #: (____) _____ Work #:(____) _____ Email: _____

Sponsor's occupation: _____ Title: _____

STUDENT MEDICAL INFORMATION: This information will help us best serve the student if anything occurs during an NAS activity.

1. Does student currently have any special health problems?

No Yes Please explain: _____

2. Is student currently on any type of medication? No Yes Please specify:

3. Emergency Contact:

Name	Relationship	Home Phone
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In case of injury or accident while participating in the Center of Excellence's activities, I hereby authorize the Center of Excellence staff to obtain and authorize medical treatment for my child. I also understand that I am responsible for any fees that are incurred for medical treatment for my son/daughter.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

INFORMATION RELEASE

Student's Name: _____ Student's ID#: _____

I hereby grant the staff of the South Florida Center of Excellence at Florida International University permission to have access to my child's educational records and demographic information and to forward same to the Florida Education Fund Inc., its parent organization. I understand that these records are confidential and will be used only in support of my child's education. I promise to do all I can to remain involved with my child's education to assist him or her in maintaining excellence.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Photo and Media Release Form for Minors

I, _____, parent/guardian of _____, a minor student of the Florida International University National Achievers Society, do hereby give permission to the South Florida Center of Excellence at FIU, to use my child's photograph or photographic image, name, honor roll information and voice recordings in official National Achievers Society business, including: Web sites, newsletters and newspapers, videos, and other print and electronic materials as deemed appropriate by FIU staff. I understand that Florida International University requires that all minor students who have agreed to pose for a photograph for use in the promotion of Florida International University and its departments/units must sign a photograph release form (along with his or her parent). It is agreed that the use of my photograph or photographic image shall in no way be used in any other forum other than for official University/National Achievers Society business.

In consideration of my child's engagement as a model, and for other good and valuable consideration herein acknowledged as received, I hereby grant to Florida International University and assigns, those acting with its authority and permission, the irrevocable and unrestricted right and permission to copyright, in its own name or otherwise, and use, re-use, publish, and re-publish photographic portraits or pictures of my child or which my child may be included, in whole or in part, or composite or distorted in character or form, without restriction as to changes or alterations, in conjunction with my child's own or a fictitious name, or reproductions thereof in color or otherwise, made through any medium at his studios or elsewhere, and in any and all media now or hereafter known for illustration, promotion, art, editorial, advertising, trade, or any other purpose whatsoever. I also consent to the use of any printed matter in conjunction therewith.

I hereby waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished product and the advertising copy or other matter that may be used in connection therewith or the use to which it may be applied.

This release contains the entire agreement between the parties and shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the successors and assigns of the undersigned.

Date _____

Minor's Signature _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____

Print Name _____

Address _____

Florida International University – South Florida Center of Excellence

NATIONAL ACHIEVERS' SOCIETY

FIU's Center of Excellence was one of the founding five centers started in 1985. Over 1100 scholars have been inducted into this prestigious Society since then. The application process starts at the beginning of each academic year and annual Inductions are held each Fall.

Achievers at FIU participate in:

- Student leadership
- Academic and social seminars
- Peer tutoring and mentoring
- Educational trips and conferences
- Test preparation
- College prep workshops
- Financial aid workshops
- College tours
- Fundraising activities
- Community service
- Brain Bowl competitions
- Annual picnic
- Rev. MLK Jr. Day Parade
- Black History Month Activities

The National Achievers Society (NAS) was established with the purpose of encouraging students to excel both academically and culturally. The NAS at FIU is sponsored by the Florida Education Fund (FEF), which established 10 Centers of Excellence throughout the state to identify and motivate historically disadvantaged elementary and secondary students to subscribe to individual and group motivation, academic skills development, cultural enrichment, career awareness, and increased exposure to higher education.

A National Achiever is:

- Enrolled in a Miami Dade County school in the 4th through 10th grade
- An A or B student for the last three consecutive report cards (both academic and conduct grades)
- A positive example for other students to emulate
- Active in the community

Expectations:

- Maintain an average of 'B', or a 3.0 unweighted GPA in both academics and conduct
- Attend the National Achievers Society's monthly meetings
- Attend the activities organized by the society
- Attend tutoring sessions
- Participate in the Annual State Summit in the Spring
- Parents are strongly encouraged to be active members of The Miami Achievers Parents Association (TMAPA)

For more information, please visit us at <http://sas.fiu.edu/nas/>.

ESSAY TOPICS

National Achievers Society Laws of Life Essay



The *Laws of Life* are core values and ideals by which we live. Honesty, perseverance, and the Golden Rule all are examples of these universal “laws” that transcend religions, cultures, and national borders.

To be eligible for induction into the National Achievers Society (NAS), a potential inductee must complete and submit a 250-word (maximum) *Laws of Life Essay*. The *Laws of Life Essay* requirement offers a potential NAS member the opportunity to think about and communicate the principles that guide his or her life.

As you write your *Essay*, please select the quotation below that expresses a key value and/or ideal by which you live. Then explain why the chosen value/ideal is important to the way you live your life by discussing your experiences, lessons learned, and people who have served as living examples of your chosen value/ideal.

1. *In a world filled with hate, we must still dare to hope. In a world filled with anger, we must still dare to comfort. In a world filled with despair, we must still dare to dream. And in a world filled with distrust, we must still dare to believe. –Michael Jackson*
2. *The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. –Martin Luther King*
3. *Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world. –Nelson Mandela*
4. *You can't let your failures define you. You have to let your failures teach you. –Former President of the United States, Barack Obama*
5. *Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today. –Malcolm X*
6. *Education must not only simply teach—it must teach life. –W. E. B. Dubois*
7. *Nothing ever comes to one that is worth having, except as a result of hard work. –Booker T. Washington*
8. *You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them. –Maya Angelou*
9. *The kind of beauty I want most is the hard-to-get kind that comes from within—strength, courage, dignity. –Ruby Dee Davis*
10. *The world is before you and you need not take it or leave it as it was when you came in. –James Baldwin*
11. *I don't know what your future is, but if you are willing to take the harder way, the more complicated one, the one with more failures at first than successes, the one that's ultimately proven to have more victory, more glory, then you will not regret it. This is your time. –Chadwick Boseman*
12. *The most important thing is to try and inspire people so that they can be great at whatever they want to do. –Kobe Bryant*

Please note that the Laws of Life Essay you submit will be forwarded to the Florida Education Fund (FEF), the entity that sponsors Florida's Laws of Life Essay Contest, for consideration for possible prizes as a part of that Contest. If you do not want your Essay considered in the Contest, please sign this form below.

I do not want my Essay considered for prizes as part of the FEF's Laws of Life Essay Contest:

Signature: _____

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Application
- Medical Information and signature
- Information Release and signature
- Photo and Media Release
- Two (2) Recommendations –
 - 1. Teacher, Counselor or Principal
 - 2. Clergy or other Community Leader
- Student's Course History showing three consecutive quarters of A's and B's, maximum two C's in academics (advanced, gifted, honors, AP, IB, or Cambridge courses) and no C's in conduct.**
- Non-refundable donation of \$65 money order payable to **FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (FIU). NO PERSONAL CHECKS OR CASH ARE ACCEPTED.**
- Laws of Life Essay

I was referred by: _____

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

***Florida International University
South Florida Center of Excellence
Attn: Precollege
Modesto Maidique Campus
11200 SW 8th Street, Room SASC 205
Miami, Florida 33199
305-348-3634***