



Character Evaluation - Winter 2014

Tau Beta Pi MI-G

Exemplary character is one of the requisites for membership in Tau Beta Pi. In addition to being active members of the engineering community, Tau Beta Pi members must meet the **highest standards of moral character**. Our chapter will assess your character through written essays and an interview.

Essays:

The first component of the character assessment in Tau Beta Pi is the written essay. You will be required to write two brief (1 page) essays. Please note that these essays (and a copy of your résumé) are due by **Monday, February 3rd** by submitting them via email to the Vice President (tbp.vicepresident@umich.edu). Submit your **essay and résumé** by **Monday, February 3rd**.

1. **The first essay must answer the question: "What does exemplary character mean to you?"**

This essay is a rather open-ended assignment, and we encourage you to get creative with your description. Nevertheless, exemplary character is not an arbitrary concept, and we are looking for specific evidence that you know what this important quality means. The quotes on the following page may help inspire you on the subject of exemplary character, but don't limit yourself to those ideas.

2. **The second essay may address any ONE of the following questions:**

- (a) **"What role do you feel engineers play in society?"**
- (b) **"What are your priorities in life?"**
- (c) **"Who is your greatest role-model or mentor?"**

Each of these questions is meant to give you the opportunity to speak on something you might feel passionate about. While not a direct question on character, any of these questions will allow us to better understand you and grasp your personal character.

Interviews:

The interview is the most important part of character assessment. Electees can be denied membership on the basis of a negative interview, so take the process seriously. Interviews will be held **February 5, 6 & 7** in the Duderstadt Center Connector Conference rooms. Your interview will last approximately 50 minutes. Dress is business casual — you don't need to wear a suit, but don't show up in jeans. Interviewers will review the résumé and essays that you submitted by **Monday, February 3rd**. You can sign up for a time slot at bit.ly/w14interviews.

Interview Dates: **February 5, 6 & 7**

Each interview is 50 minutes long.

Location: **Duderstadt Center Connector Conference Rooms**

Requirements: **Dress is business casual**

Email your résumé and essays to the Vice President (tbp.vicepresident@umich.edu) by **Monday, February 3rd**. Sign up for an interview slot at bit.ly/w14interviews.

The interview information will be re-addressed during Second General. However, if you have any questions, please contact the Vice President (tbp.vicepresident@umich.edu).

Quotes about Character

“Character, not circumstance, makes the person.”

– Booker T. Washington, American educator and civil rights activist (1856-1915)

“Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.”

– Abraham Lincoln, 16th U.S. president (1809-1865)

“It is with trifles, and when he is off guard, that a man best reveals his character.”

– Arthur Schopenhauer, German philosopher (1788-1860)

“Weakness of attitude becomes weakness of character.”

– Albert Einstein, Swiss-American mathematician and physicist (1879-1955)

“Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved.”

– Helen Keller, American author, activist and lecturer (1880-1968)

“When the character of a man is not clear to you, look at his friends.”

– Japanese Proverb

“The right way is not always the popular and easy way. Standing for right when it is unpopular is a true test of moral character.”

– Margaret Chase Smith, American Senator (1897-1995)

“The best index to a person’s character is (a) how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and (b) how he treats people who can’t fight back.”

– Abigail Van Buren, American columnist (1918-2013)