



## Character Evaluation — Fall 2024

### 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.

#### **Electee Interview Questionnaire:**

The first component of the character assessment in Tau Beta Pi is the Electee Interview Questionnaire. You will be required to complete a questionnaire with a couple fun questions, a few short answer questions, and one essay question. Please note that this questionnaire (and a copy of your resume) are due by **Sept 16** by submitting them through the website. The questionnaire can be found under Members → Electee Resources while your resume should be submitted to your website profile. Submit your **essay and resume** by **Sept 16**.

Some of the short answer will provide you with the opportunity to share a part of your personality with us. Others will ask for your opinion on topics related to academic integrity. While not a direct question on character, these question will allow us to better understand you, your thinking, and grasp your personal character.

As an organization that stresses the importance of exemplary character in our electees and our active members, the essay is a **crucial** part of character assessment. This (one page) essay is an open-ended assignment, and we encourage you to get creative with your submission. Nevertheless, exemplary character is not an arbitrary concept, and we are looking for specific evidence that you know what this important quality means. Tau Beta Pi members should meet the highest standard of moral character. The quotes on the following page may help inspire you on the subject of exemplary character, but do not limit yourself to those ideas.

The questionnaire can be found and completed under **Members → Electee Resources at [tbp.engin.umich.edu](http://tbp.engin.umich.edu)**. Be ready to discuss your answers during your interview.

#### **Interviews:**

The interview is the most important part of character assessment. Interviews will be held on Sept 18, Sept 19, and Sept 20 in the Duderstadt, rooms 1120B and 1120D. You must sign up for one interview slot. Each interview should last about 25 minutes and will start no later than 5 minutes after the scheduled start time (to allow for travel from classes). Dress is business casual — you do not need to wear a suit, but should dress professionally. While the interview is intended to be low-pressure, electees can be denied membership on the basis of a negative interview, so take the process seriously. Interviewers will review the resume and the answers to the Electee Interview Questionnaire you submitted by **Sept 16**. Sign up for a graduate electee interview on the website ([tbp.engin.umich.edu](http://tbp.engin.umich.edu)).

Interview Dates: **Sept 18, Sept 19, Sept 20: 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

Location: **1120 DUDE**

Requirements: **Dress is business casual**

Sign up for a graduate electee interview under “Events” at [tbp.engin.umich.edu](http://tbp.engin.umich.edu).

Submit your questionnaire answers under **Members → Electee Resources at [tbp.engin.umich.edu](http://tbp.engin.umich.edu)** and your resume to your **website profile** by Sept 16.

If you have any questions or scheduling issues, please contact the GVP ([tbp.gradvicepresident@umich.edu](mailto:tbp.gradvicepresident@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)