



Character Evaluation - Winter 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 the questionnaire with three fun questions, three short answer questions, and one essay question. The questionnaire can be found under Members → Electee Resources and submitted to the website, while your résumé should be submitted to your website profile. Submit your **questionnaire responses and résumé** by **Monday, January 29th at 11:59 pm**.

Some of the short answer questions 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 some may not directly relate to your character, these questions will allow us to better understand you and your thinking.

As an organization that stresses the importance of exemplary character in our members, the essay is a **crucial** part of character assessment. This (one page) 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. 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 don't limit yourself to those ideas.

The questionnaire can be found and completed under **Members** → **Electee Resources at 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 in-person on **January 31 to February 2** in the Duderstadt, 1120B and 1120D. You must sign up for an interview slot. The interview will take 30 minutes, and you will be interviewed by one or two of our Active members. Dress is business casual. Electees can be denied membership on the basis of a negative interview, so take the process seriously. Don't stress too much about this, though, because it rarely happens. Interviewers will review the résumé and the answers to the Electee Interview Questionnaire you submitted by **Monday, January 29th at 11:59 pm**.

Interview Dates: **January 31 to February 2**

Location: **Duderstadt Center Rooms 1120B and 1120D**

Requirements: **Dress is business casual**

Submit your questionnaire answers under Members → Electee Resources at **tbp.org/questionnaire**

and your résumé to your website profile by **Monday, January 29th at 11:59 pm**.

If you have any questions or scheduling issues, please contact the Vice President (tbp.vicepresident@umich.edu).

Quotes about Character

"But rules cannot substitute for character."

– Alan Greenspan, former chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board (b. 1926)

"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)

"One can acquire everything in solitude - except character."

– Henri Stendahl, French novelist (1783-1842)

"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)