

Phi Beta Kappa Eligibility and Election Procedure  
Spring 2013

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION?

In general, only the top 10% or so of the graduating class is eligible for election to Phi Beta Kappa. Grades in course are the main determinants, but high GPAs are only the minimum requirements for election. Students also must meet significant distribution requirements, particularly in the areas of language study and quantitative reasoning. In addition, the faculty as a whole is polled and asked to rank students academically, and those rankings play a significant role in the election of some students.

The top one or two students in the junior class may also be considered for election.

### HOW ARE STUDENTS ELECTED?

The faculty and staff members of the Phi Beta Kappa Society elect students to membership, taking into consideration GPA, breadth of study, and faculty opinion about students' academic achievements. Elections take place in two stages: first, at the start of block 7, students with extremely high GPAs who have met the chapter's distribution requirements will be elected on the basis of GPA alone. Generally, students falling into this category will have GPAs in the top 5% of the student body.

Second, students falling roughly into the next 15% or so will be listed on a ballot distributed to the faculty. Each faculty member will rank the students they know on their academic standing, while noting how well that faculty member knows each student ranked. Using a Math Department program, those rankings are then weighted, producing a list of what the whole faculty considers to be the second tier of top students by rank. At that point, members of the chapter vote on how many of those students to accept, which sometimes involves reviewing individual transcripts to determine the cutoff point.

### WHAT CHALLENGES DO WE FACE IN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY?

We face two kinds of challenges in determining eligibility.

- We need to determine which students are graduating in order to produce a rank-ordered list by GPA of eligible candidates. Since we are restricted to admitting students who rank in the top 10% of the graduating class, we must eliminate students who have sufficient units to graduate but who are not in fact graduating.
- We also need to eliminate from eligibility students who have not met the language requirement (for students who first matriculated in 2010 – “juniors”) or quantitative reasoning requirement (for students who first matriculated in 2011 – “sophomores”). For the most part, tracking these requirements will not be a problem this year. *However, advisors should note that these requirements are more stringent than our all-College requirements, so they should encourage their academically strong younger advisees to study languages and quantitative reasoning.*

## **WHAT DO ADVISORS AND DEPARTMENT CHAIRS NEED TO DO NOW?**

Encourage all your seniors, especially the high achievers, to apply to graduate NOW!! All they need do is log onto Banner and click on the "Apply to Graduate" link.

In order to rank and vote on students, we must distinguish between graduating students and students who are not graduating but who may have senior standing. The only way to do so is for students to declare their intentions. Students failing to apply to graduate will not be considered for election.

***Deadline: Wednesday, 27 March – The First Wednesday of Block 7***

## **ADVISE YOUR STUDENTS TO COMPLETE INTERMEDIATE LANGUAGE**

Chapter and National language requirements have changed – and they are more stringent than the College's language requirement.

- "Seniors" – if they matriculated in 2009 or earlier – need not meet new language requirements.
- "Juniors" and younger – students who matriculated in 2010 or later must meet the new National language requirement, completion of the study of a foreign language at the intermediate level. Our Chapter's interpretation of this requirement is that students must have on their transcript the completion of a course for the fourth block of language study, its equivalent, or higher (normally 201, if a two-block course; or 202 or 212, if a one- or 0.5-block course).

***Completion of this course at Colorado College or as transfer credit from another institution of higher learning must appear on the transcript.***

## **ADVISE YOUR SOPHOMORES TO COMPLETE THE "Q" REQUIREMENT**

Chapter and National requirements now require the mastery of quantitative reasoning, effective for all students who matriculated in the fall of 2011 – that is, the "sophomore" or "rising junior" class. To meet this stipulation, the Chapter will require students to complete a course that has been designated a "Q" course.

***Note that the class matriculating in 2011 does not have to meet the Q requirement in order to graduate, but DOES need to complete one Q course to be eligible for election to Phi Beta Kappa. In other words, Phi Beta Kappa put a Q requirement in place one year before the College created an all-College quantitative reasoning requirement.***

## **NEW FACULTY - CLAIM YOUR RIGHT TO BE AN ELECTOR!**

If you have joined the CC faculty or staff recently and are a member of Phi Beta Kappa, please identify yourself and claim your right to act as an elector. Write to Dennis McEnnerney (dennismc@coloradocollege.edu) to inform him of your status.

For a list of members as of last year, visit <http://www2.coloradocollege.edu/pbk/>.