

Historical Perspective

Our organization began as a Radio Honorary Society known as Beta Epsilon Phi, with the first chapter induction taking place on the campus of Stephens College (Columbia, Missouri) Saturday evening, December 6, 1941. Unfortunately, the events of the following day (bombing of Pearl Harbor and America's entry into World War II) delayed the development of the Society. On May 1, 1943, it was announced that the Society was reorganized as Alpha Epsilon Rho, a national organization with a relationship to the Association for Education by Radio, a professional organization of Radio Educators. The student group, consisting of delegates from Stephens College, Syracuse University, the University of Minnesota, and Ohio State University, met on the OSU campus to charter the organization. Over the next 50 years, the organization grew to represent more than 100 chapters and a membership of more than 30,000. In 1995, the organization split into a professional interest component (National Broadcasting Society) and an honor society (Alpha Epsilon Rho). These components are closely aligned, and new members of AERho either have evolved from NBS-level membership, or are automatically invited into NBS. In 2021, the NBS-AERho partnership was officially rebranded as the National Electronic Media Association.

On December 1, 2009, Alpha Epsilon Rho was granted full membership in the Association of College Honor Societies.



Honor societies represent a rich tradition in the history of higher education. True honor societies exist to recognize and promote excellence in academic accomplishment.

Whether individual societies service multiple academic disciplines or only a single, specific academic major, their overall purpose is to encourage and recognize students who have achieved a high level of academic competence and to promote excellence in the academic community.

ACHS is the organization honor societies join when they want their society **certified by a neutral body**, want to **collaborate with other honor societies to promote best practices in recognizing and promoting excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, and research**, and seek to continually **maintain the highest standards** by providing annual reports and undergoing regular re-certification.*

*The above statement can be found on the ACHS website. The full website can be found [here](#).