



# THE INNOCENTS SOCIETY

The Chancellor's Senior Honorary  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



Dear Applicant:

The Innocents Society is the Chancellor's senior honorary at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Founded on April 24, 1903, and uniquely Nebraskan, the Society has been leading the campus in all aspects and promoting school spirit for more than 100 years. In the spring, thirteen new members are chosen from the junior class to carry on the Innocents Society's traditions and goals. Membership is based upon superior academic achievement, unparalleled leadership, and selfless service to the University and community.

The Innocents Society takes pride in being an active organization. This past year, the Society has co-hosted many events with Chancellor Rodney Bennett, completed monthly service projects in the Lincoln community, participated in Homecoming Week activities, hosted a Blood Drive Challenge, and organized a volunteer trip across the state of Nebraska.

Former Innocents Society members include the following: former U.S. Representative Howard Buffett, former President and Chair of the Cooper Foundation E.N. "Jack" Thompson, former Nebraska Governor and U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey, former University of Nebraska President James "J.B." Milliken, former Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning, former NFL player Kyle Vanden Bosch, Hudl co-founder John Wirtz, and former Nebraska State Senator Adam Morfeld. Honorary Innocents Society members include the following: former U.S. Senator and Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, former Nebraska football coach, athletic director, and U.S. Representative Tom Osborne, former Nebraska football coach and athletic director Bob Devaney, former University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Ronnie Green, former University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Harvey Perlman, University of Nebraska President Emeritus Martin Massengale, and Chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, Warren Buffett.

If you have any questions about the application or the organization, please contact Angela Le, Marissa Mendez-Santiago, any member of the Society, or visit our website at [innocents.unl.edu](http://innocents.unl.edu).

Marissa Mendez-Santiago  
Selections Co-Chair  
[mmendez-santiago2@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:mmendez-santiago2@huskers.unl.edu)

Angela Le  
Selections Co-Chair  
[ale28@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:ale28@huskers.unl.edu)

Tanner Maas  
[tmaas10@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:tmaas10@huskers.unl.edu)

Reem Ahmed  
[rahmed6@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:rahmed6@huskers.unl.edu)

Aaron Morrissey  
[amorrissey10@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:amorrissey10@huskers.unl.edu)

Jenna Wakefield  
[jwakefield9@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:jwakefield9@huskers.unl.edu)

Jenny Castor  
[jcastor3@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:jcastor3@huskers.unl.edu)

Mollie Petersen  
[mpetersen117@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:mpetersen117@huskers.unl.edu)

Michelle Garcia-Barillas  
[mgarcia40@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:mgarcia40@huskers.unl.edu)

Zein Saleh  
[zsaleh4@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:zsaleh4@huskers.unl.edu)

Anna Newcome  
[anewcome2@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:anewcome2@huskers.unl.edu)

Grace Timm  
[gtimm3@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:gtimm3@huskers.unl.edu)

Emma Lindsey  
[elindsey2@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:elindsey2@huskers.unl.edu)

**Personal Information:**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student NUID: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Parent(s)/Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

College: \_\_\_\_\_ Cumulative G.P.A.: \_\_\_\_\_

Major(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Minor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Transfer Student:    Yes / No    If “Yes”, from where? \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of completed academic semesters not including Spring 2026: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of completed credit hours toward undergraduate degree by August 2026: \_\_\_\_\_

Projected Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you attend the University as a full-time student through the 2026-2027 academic year? Yes / No

If no, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

### **A Note on Eligibility:**

The Innocents Society only considers applications from UNL students who: (i) have maintained a minimum 3.3 G.P.A., (ii) have completed no fewer than four and no more than six academic semesters excluding Spring 2026, (iii) have completed at least 89 total credit hours by August 2026, and (iv) plan to graduate no sooner than Spring 2027. Any eligibility questions may be directed to the Society's Selections Co-Chairs Marissa Mendez-Santiago and Angela Le.

### **A Note on Shading:**

A few years ago, the Innocents Society discontinued its tackling tradition in favor of a new tradition for selecting new members: shading. During this formal presentation, each of the thirteen new members will receive a pair of sunglasses, an iconic symbol of the organization for nearly 50 years, to represent their selection into the Innocents Society. Any shading questions may be directed to the Society's advisor Tim Hodges at [hodges@unl.edu](mailto:hodges@unl.edu) or 402-472-2035.

### **A Note on English as a Second Language Applicants:**

The Innocents Society recognizes that English is not everyone's first language. Therefore, we would like to provide resources available on campus for students to utilize as they see fit:

- UNL Writing Center
  - <https://www.unl.edu/writing/>
- English Language Support Lab
  - <https://www.unl.edu/piesl/esl-support-lab>

### **Grade Release Form:**

*I authorize the release of all academic information needed for consideration of my membership into the Innocents Society (a virtual signature is also accepted).*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Application Materials:

Please complete the following materials in English while following the guidelines for each portion of the application.

### I. Academic Résumé:

Please include an academic résumé no longer than one page. List and briefly explain your academic involvement, membership in honorary organizations, and honors and awards in reverse chronological order. Please also provide your cumulative G.P.A., major(s), and minor(s). **Do not include your name on this page.**

### II. Extracurricular Résumé:

Please include an extracurricular résumé no longer than one page. List and briefly explain your extracurricular involvement, service activities, and work experiences in reverse chronological order. **Do not include your name on this page.**

### III. Essay Questions:

Please answer the following questions, each one on its own sheet of paper. Each response must be typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman font, and numbered appropriately. Unless otherwise noted, your responses should be no longer than one page. **Do not include your name on these pages.**

1. Discuss a pivotal experience that transformed your perspective on learning and strengthened your commitment to your academic journey.
2. Describe how your leadership has helped build an inclusive community, respecting the contributions of the past while opening new doors for those to come.
3. Consider the impact of selfless service on building and maintaining strong communities. Share an example of how you have positively influenced the University or your community through selfless service.
4. Imagine that you have just finished writing a 1500-page autobiography. Reproduce page 1313.
5. Write your own essay prompt and answer it in 300 words or less.

### IV. Letter of Recommendation:

Please include one letter of recommendation.

### V. Submission Guidelines:

Please submit your application according to the following guidelines:

1. All applications should be submitted by email to [13innocentsociety@gmail.com](mailto:13innocentsociety@gmail.com) **no later than 1:13 pm on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**. Please send your application in a single email with the subject: Last Name, First Name Innocents Application. Submit each of your essay responses, academic resume, extracurricular resume, personal information form, and class schedule (found on the Innocents Society website) as a separate PDF attachment in this email. The file names should be Personal Information, Academic Résumé, Extracurricular Résumé, Class Schedule, Essay 1, Essay 2, Essay 3, Essay 4, and Essay 5. Your essays and resumes should not contain your name, as we would like our selection process to be fair and anonymous.
2. Your letter of recommendation should be submitted in the form of a separate email from your recommender and sent to [13innocentsociety@gmail.com](mailto:13innocentsociety@gmail.com). This email should also be **received no later than 1:13 pm on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**. The subject should be in the following format: Your Last Name, Your First Name, Letter of Recommendation. The document should be a PDF with the file name: Letter of Recommendation.
3. Include your name only in the files that specifically request your name and/or signature. Do not include your name on any other pages.
4. If you are applying to multiple honor societies, please send the preference form to [studentlife@unl.edu](mailto:studentlife@unl.edu) with the subject being: Preference Form. **DO NOT** send this file to the Innocents email as your preference is confidential.