

Eta Kappa Nu

Candidate Information Packet
Fall 2026



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Section 2 Guidelines for Completing the HKN Signature Board

Your signature board is a very important part of your "rite of passage" into HKN. The tasks assigned represent core values of HKN and prepare candidates for the duties of active members. Signature Boards can be picked up at the end of the first Candidate Meeting or in the HKN Lounge (BHEE 138) any time during operating hours. (9:00 - 5:00 M-F).

The left column is where you will politely obtain **four** signatures from ECE professors.

*Note that graduate students are not required to obtain signatures from professors, as it's likely they are already acquainted with the professors they will be working with.

The center column is where our department head, faculty advisors, and the executive board will sign. candidates will obtain signatures from exec members for completing the correlated requirement (Sec. 3)

The schedule for meeting with the Department Head (Dr. Kulkarni**) is currently being scheduled. Please do not try to schedule an appointment with him! **

In the final column, you will find **eight (max of 10)** active members to sign your signature board.

Below is a template of your signature board. **Make sure to follow the signature locations as listed.** The final signature will be the Recruitment Director once you have completed all requirements.

Good luck!

ETA KAPPA NU



First Last

Fall 2026

BETA CHAPTER

Professor 1	Department Head	POD 1
Professor 2	Advisor (Pekarek)	POD 2
Professor 3	Advisor (Niraj)	Active 3
Professor 4	President (Introduction)	Active 4
	VP (Attend Exec)	Active 5
	Treasurer (Pay Dues)	Active 6
	Rec Sec (Survey)	Active 7
	Events (Attend Event)	Active 8
	Facilities (Cleaning)	Active 9
	Lab Director (Lab Quiz)	Active X
	Operations (Work POD)	
	PR (Resume)	
	Volunteer (Go to Event)	
	Recruitment (Turn in)	

The same person cannot sign twice, if pod partner is an officer, then you need one more active signature

2.2 HKN Whos Who

This information will help you get the center column of your signature board filled in. You can find pictures of all the Officers on the HKN [web page](#). Officers can also be reached via DM on discord.

Officers

President	Sydney Kammerer	skammere@purdue.edu
Vice President	Justin Nagovski	jnagovsk@purdue.edu
Treasurer	Evelyn McCarthy	mccar173@purdue.edu
Recording Secretary	Parin Timbadia	ptimbadi@purdue.edu
Recruitment Director	Andy Tan	ajtan@purdue.edu
Operations Director	Alex Khalitov	akhalito@purdue.edu
Facilities Director	Ryan Wurtz	rwurtz@purdue.edu
Public Relations Director	Tiana Lin	lin1542@purdue.edu
Volunteer Director	Veronica Cheng	cheng646@purdue.edu
Events Director	Jonathon Reilly	reilly53@purdue.edu
Lab Director	Asher Sprigler	asprigle@purdue.edu

Advisors

Dr. Steven D. Pekarek, Advisor
Niraj Menon, Advisor

Department Head

Dr. Milind Kulkarni

Section 3 Signature Board Requirements

1. Complete Signature Board

Obtain all required signatures as outlined in Section 1. Detailed information is below.

2. Obtain Professor and Active Member Signatures

ECE Professor Signatures (4)

One of the goals of HKN is to promote a better understanding between students and professors. This is a great opportunity to meet some professors you would not see otherwise.

It is important that you approach our faculty gently. Some of them regard the HKN Signature Board signing as a minor nuisance and it is therefore imperative that you **be courteous** when you call on a professor. They should be approached **only during their office hours**. If they have none posted, try their webpage. Still no luck, then knock softly but firmly on their office door and inquire when their office hours are. Thank them and come back **then**. You may need a graduate school recommendation someday. Upon calling on a professor during his/her office hours and hearing a "Come in...", walk in and **introduce yourself**. Don't just hand them a board and say "Sign this". Tell them why you have come to see them as opposed, say, to the professor next door.

If you should attend a virtual office hours session or arrange one with a professor, and after you've talked with them, use your computer or other device to record the meeting for 5 seconds - 10 second and send it to Andy. I will count it as the professor's signature and mark it on your signature board.

This is not required for graduate students. If you are an undergrad who has been granted entry into graduate school, you must still get the signatures.

Active Member Signatures (8+2)

On the **first two** lines of the right column, an active member who can vouch that you completed each of the two required PODs will sign. Be sure to bring your signature board to any social or other event you attend to get signatures from active members. You are also encouraged to hang out in the lounge to meet active members. Politely introduce yourself as a prospective member. Active members may ask questions to get to know you.

*Note: there cannot be any duplicate signatures. Exec Members cannot sign for active or POD shifts. If you work a POD shift with an exec member, ask another member to sign.

3. Meet Faculty Advisors

Dr. Pekarek is one of our faculty advisors, and we want you to get to know him. Please introduce yourself as an HKN candidate and be polite. You don't need to schedule a meeting with him individually, since office hours are scheduled for HKN candidates. His office is in **WANG 2059**.

Times after 09/16/2026:

Wednesday, 12:30 - 1:30

Thursday, 12:30 - 1:30

Additionally, Dr. Pekarek wants to meet with all of the candidates collectively, this **meeting is during the normal candidate meeting time on 10/29/2026 in BHEE 234 @ 6pm**. If you are unable to make it to this, please reach out to **Andy** and we can discuss.

Niraj Menon is also an advisor for HKN, and we want candidates to get to know him as he is an integral part of the ECE department and HKN. To meet with Niraj, schedule a meeting with him. His office is located in BHEE 146.

Link to schedule meeting: <https://bit.ly/hkn-niraj>

4. Meet Department Head

The ECE department head is central to our community and as future leaders of our community, meeting him, introducing yourselves, asking questions and learning about him are important ways you can become better connected.

Please do NOT try to meet him yourself.

We all will attend a group meeting with the Department Head (Kulkarni). Date TBD

If you cannot attend that meeting, please attend at least 1 seminar or talk about an ECE related topic, and take a photo of yourself at the event (or of the event if you're camera shy). A list of a few of these events is below. **(NOTE: THIS IS ONLY IF YOU TRULY CANNOT MAKE THE KULKARNI MEETING. EMAIL ME IF YOU CANNOT GO).**

Example events / talks: (old events)

Purdue Grad Student Center: Celebrating our Assc. Professors

Risk Taking, Innovation & Failures with Silicon Photonics

PEFL Nambi Seshadri

If your event is not listed, so long as it's ECE related, it will count. Reach out to Andy with any questions!

5. Attend a Social Event

Roughly every week members of HKN get together to venture outside and have some fun together. Candidates are required to attend one social event, although encouraged to attend more! See our events director to get his signature.

Events will be posted on discord with signups prior to the start time, and this packet will be updated as more events come up (though it is encouraged for you to be active on the discord!).

6. **Assist with Lounge Duty (POD shift)**

As a member of HKN, one of your main duties will be your weekly POD (Person On Duty) where you will work in the lounge and sell our vast array of snack foods and beverages to your classmates and professors. As a candidate, you assist during **two** shifts. **At least ONE** of which must be an opening (8:25 – 9:25 AM) or closing (4:25 – 5:25 PM) shift to learn about all the work that goes into keeping the lounge running smoothly. The other can be a shift that is neither opening or closing (sometime between 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM). **You must be there for the entire shift.**

Candidate POD shift sign-up sheet: [LINK](#)

Upon completing this task, please set up a tab (no need to add any money in it) at the POD desk then speak to our Operations Director for a signature.

7. **Attend a Facilities Cleaning**

As an engineering honor society which not only runs a lounge and a lab, but volunteers, runs activities, handles professional development, and more, candidates are required to help clean once this semester. This will help integrate you into what it takes to manage our facilities and what resources we have. This task should take no more than 1-2 hours.

Upon completing this task, speak to our Facilities Director for a signature.

8. **Volunteer Community Service Hours**

Candidates must perform **2 total hours** of community service to satisfy this requirement.

Note: gather the proof for your volunteering events. The volunteering director will ask for them to sign your board.

Volunteering events are not required to only be HKN sponsored. If you have a volunteering event you would like to participate but are not sure if it qualifies, please contact the volunteering director.

9. **Complete the Lab Quiz**

HKN runs our own ECE lab, located in EE038, with soldering stations and power supplies. In order to learn about the lab, as well as use it safely please complete the following quiz on our member portal.

Lab quiz link here: [LINK](#)

Once you have completed the lab quiz, we will have a lab tour with Asher Sprigler or attend our Candidate Lab Tour during a candidate meeting.

10. **Submit Resume to HKN Resume Book**

Many companies specifically seek to hire HKN members because of their commitment to academic excellence and community outreach. HKN keeps a digital resume book of current

members. Our PR director is also the officer who is responsible for HKN hiring events with companies. If you are interested in professional networking, talk to him.

Submit your resume here: [LINK](#)

When done, get a signature from our PR director.

11. Fill out IEEE induction info (Recording Secretary)

Fill out the following form so we have the correct contact info for you. This info will be used for IEEE membership. If you are already an IEEE member, still fill out the form. This form also requires you to use namedrop to link a recording of your name pronunciation.

Form link: [LINK](#)

When complete see our recording secretary, [Parin Timbadia](#), for his signature. If the form has a completed page make sure to screenshot to show proof of completion.

12. Attend One Exec-Com Meeting

The Executive Committee meets to discuss business before it is presented in the meeting for the activities. Exec-Comm meetings are typically attended by current and past officers and committee members, but are open to all active members. This semester Exec-Com meetings will happen every week, [Tuesdays from 7:30 - 8:30 at the HKN Lounge \(BHEE 138\)](#). This is a great opportunity to get many exec's signatures at once.

12.1 Introduce yourself to the president

To get the President's signature you must introduce yourself in a 15min 1:1 meeting. Prepare a short slideshow with 1 slide about yourself, 1 slide about why you want to join HKN, and 1 slide about what you think you will bring to HKN.

Schedule a meeting here: [LINK](#)

13. Pay Initiation Fee

This is a one-time fee that goes towards a number of things within our chapter and the national organization. It is due at the final candidate meeting. The Initiation Fee is [\\$90](#) in-person, [\\$90](#) online (credit card fees may apply), checks are accepted if made out to "Eta Kappa Nu Beta Chapter." Most of this goes to IEEE and the national chapter to induct you as a member. The remaining portion is used to cover the cost of your Name Tag. We do not profit from this.

This is the only time you ever have to pay. We do not charge annual dues or other fees.

Fees must be paid to our Treasurer, [Evelyn McCarthy](#) in cash (Purdue's TooCool system link will go [here](#) once we have this setup). Note if you pay online Purdue charges you a small fee (~\$5). You can find our treasurer at initiation, hanging around the lounge, at Exec Meetings or at her POD shift. (see POD schedule).

14. **Attend Initiation and Banquet**

Initiation is, as the name implies, a ceremony conducted by the officers of HKN to welcome the new candidates who have successfully completed all requirements into the organization. The recruitment director will sign your board when you turn it in to check you have met all the requirements.

The date of initiation this semester is the evening of **November 13th.**

The banquet will happen a couple weeks after initiation. HKN has a banquet each semester where all the members get dressed up and go out to a nice place and eat good food. This is where awards for the semester are given out, graduating members are given the heave-ho, and newly initiated members are welcomed into HKN. The most anticipated event of the evening is the skit that the newly initiated members (i.e. all of you) put on for everyone else.

This semester's banquet is at the time listed below. If needed, we will organize a carpool.

Candidates will need to buy a ticket. If they are bringing a plus one, they will need to buy two tickets. **The price is \$XX.**

Date: December 5th. Formal dress code.

An RSVP form will be sent out (plus ones must also fill out).

Section 4 HKN Information

4.1 Eta Kappa Nu History and General Information

Eta Kappa Nu is a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Delaware. Executive powers are vested in the National Executive Council, with judicial and advisory powers held by the National Advisory Board and legislative powers delegated to the National Convention.

To establish a new chapter, a petition must be approved by each member of the National Executive Council, and three-fourths of the present college chapters. A two-thirds majority vote is required in each chapter for approval. A quorum is established (a legal meeting can be held) when one-half of the chapter members are present.

To be eligible to join HKN, you must be in the upper quarter of your junior class or the upper third of your senior class. To stay an active member, you must not miss more than two consecutive meetings while you are in school and perform a lounge duty to help keep our lounge running. If you must miss a meeting, you may turn in an "Absence Form" (leave a note in the box of or send email to the Recording Secretary) with a reason and an indicated proxy. If you are deactivated (by missing two consecutive meetings) you can be reactivated by a majority vote of the chapter members.

Last but certainly not least: our colors are navy blue and scarlet, and our emblem is the wheatstone bridge.

4.2 From the Shade of a Cottonwood Tree: HKN's Early Days

text by Alton Zerby, Executive Secretary 1935-1958

If mythological beliefs persisted today, there would be many claims that Eta Kappa Nu sprang full-grown out of the mind of its Founder--as the ancient Greeks claimed that Eros (Cupid) sprang out of the shoulder of Aphrodite. However, it is well known and fully accepted that worthy ideas as well as marvelous machines do not *spring*; they evolve through painstaking development. Furthermore, to have credited the founder of Eta Kappa Nu with having obtained his idea as a dream while sleeping would be a gross insult. True, Maurice L. Carr was a "dreamer," as are most men of vision, but his dreams were spirited daydreams and he had the mental and physical faculties and energy to carry them through, and the personality to interest nine others to use their brains and brawn in teamwork--as true researchers and inventor of today.

At the installation of Beta-Delta Chapter in 1937, "ML" said he did not recall definitely when the idea first occurred to him of forming a collegiate society of electrical engineering students, but he thought it occurred sometime during his sophomore year. He said, however, that he knew with

certainty that while working for a utility at Springfield, Missouri, during the summer of 1904, he resolved to sound out his classmates on the subject in the fall.

He first approached a particular buddy called "Army"--Charles E. Armstrong. The idea immediately met with Armstrong's approval and the two decided to broach the subject to other classmates. "Army," who was born September 30, 1874, was almost three years "ML's" senior. As Brother Edmund Wheeler has pointed out,

"He and ML were considerably older than most of the rest of the group and both had had much practical experience prior to their senior year. Thus the young organization had the advantage of their counsel and advice in both class and fraternal affairs, which all of us were glad to accept."

Following their first formal meeting on Friday evening, September 23, 1904, young Carr and Armstrong effected a meeting with Milton K. Akers, Edmund B. Wheeler, and Ralph E. Bowser, who became sufficiently infected with enthusiasm to agree to a planning session. Sunday morning "ML" and "Army" spent several hours on the steps of the Astronomical Laboratory preparing written, tangible plans--they sought secrecy at this stage.

The five met as agreed in front of University Hall on Sunday afternoon, September 25, 1904, and wandered to a shady spot under a large cottonwood tree in the middle of an Agriculture Department field off the main campus. The tree has since become sentimentally emblematic of the early history of the organization, although it was but a chance choice and sheltered in a few subsequent meetings.

The following five weeks were extremely busy ones. A name and an emblem were chosen, policies of membership had to be defined, membership qualifications and an induction ritual were drafted. Early in this organization period Fred D. Smith, Frank R. Winders, and William T. Burnett joined the original five. Then, on October 28, 1904, at the home of Frank Winders, the first induction meeting was held. Carl K. Brydges and Hibbard S. Greene, both seniors, had by then consented to participate and it is fairly well established that Otto Wiemer became the first formal initiate. (A copy of the first ritual is in the national files.)

Finally, the organization received recognition from the university administration and later meetings were held in a room in the EE building.

All early reports were that Brother Carr's original idea was to make the chief purpose of the society one of employment--a professional union, we would call it today. But in those days such organizations were not thought of. The early publications quite plainly indicate this purpose. However, not many years passed and very few chapters were installed before it was decided that Eta Kappa Nu should be an EE honor society with scholarship as one of its chief qualifications.

Brother Wheeler recalls that scholarship was an important consideration from the first, but not a deciding factor, he, along with Carr and others of the original ten, decided that invitation to membership should depend primarily upon a collective favorable judgment of individual candidates and as to the likelihood of their eventual success in the engineering field.

Thus it was concluded that some classmates would not be considered eligible regardless of their scholastic rating and the matter of scholarship qualification for membership was temporarily deferred. In short, the founders were looking for future leaders of the profession!

With those basic ideals the organization was launched. The seal and plate for membership certificates were made up early in 1905 and the certificates were delivered in time for commencement. While HKN was strictly a "local" when organized, the foundations of a "national" were so strong that when the chapter assembled a first convention prior to the 1905 graduating exercises a full list of "national" officers was elected from the departing class.

The formation of a "ghost national" on the part of the founding members was more than a sign of wishful thinking because groups of EE's in Midwestern schools soon heard of the society and petitioned for a charter. The first new chapter was installed at Purdue University in 1906, but that organization "went on the rocks" quite early. It appears that our early members, being young, did not fully understand the workings of college administrations and had not obtained prior approval of the Purdue officialdom. The President of Purdue required that the charter be withdrawn, which was done. But those already inducted were continued as members of Eta Chapter (a chapter-at-large). In 1913, the Purdue EE administration requested a charter for a chapter on its campus and Beta was reinstated.

Gamma Chapter was installed at Ohio State University in 1907, two more, Delta at Armour Institute of Technology (now Illinois Institute of Technology) and the Epsilon at Pennsylvania State College in 1909. Chapters at Case School of Applied Science (now Case Institute of Technology) and at University of Wisconsin were added in 1910. By then the national characteristics of Eta Kappa Nu were established. Still, growth was not phenomenal and continued at an average of but one chapter a year to 1916.

Scholastic standards observed soon after the founding of Eta Kappa Nu were memorialized in a mild statement written into the Constitution during the Convention of 1913. This set definite numerical limits to the proportion of each EE class that could be elected and required that the by-laws of each chapter must specify definite scholarship standards subject to approval by the National Executive Council. In general, these standards were specified in grade points. Then, during the latter part of the 1930's, our national officers recommended that each college chapter set the upper fourth of the junior EE class as eligible for membership. This was not made mandatory until 1947, when the requirement of such rating was written into our Constitution at the recommendation of the Association of College Honor Societies, of which HKN had become a member.

During this period several alumni chapters were established and *The Bridge* began publication to act as a vehicle of communication between students and alumni. In fact, it was the idea of the founders, carried through to this day, that Eta Kappa Nu should be more than a campus organization--a man is a member of a campus chapter at most for two years; but he is an alumnus for the remainder of his life!