**Tri-Beta Membership Frequently Asked Questions 2024:**

**FAQ**:

**\*What are the minimum requirements for membership in the Theta Chi Chapter of Tri-Beta at Loyola?**

**GPA –** Students must have a Biology GPA of 3.3 or higher to be accepted for membership. All biology courses (lectures and labs) are used to calculate the GPA. Abroad courses will also count for this calculation if they are on your transcript.

**3 or more majors level Biology Courses completed** – Students must have completed at least 3 lecture courses (3 credits or more) at the majors level to meet this requirement. The courses must be majors-level courses (Ex. BL118/150, BL121/152 BL201/154 and higher). Non-majors biology courses do not fulfil this requirement. Courses must be completed with a grade on the transcript for the course to be evaluated. Courses in progress do not fulfil this requirement.

**No Biology course grades at D+ or lower** – Students must not have any Biology courses with a grade below the C- level even if the Biology GPA is sufficient to meet the minimum 3.3 GPA standard. Grades of D+, D, or F in any Biology course disqualifies the student from Tri-Beta entrance.

**\*What are the different levels of membership?**

**Regular Members:** Most applicants will be applying to be Regular members of Tri-Beta. To be a Regular member, you must meet all the minimum requirements indicated on the application (and listed above) **AND** be registered as some type of Biology major (this includes Biology, Biochemistry, Biology/Psychology, other Interdisciplinary majors with Biology). The one-time membership fee for this type of membership is $65. Regular members are given honor cords by the national organization to be worn at graduation.

**Associate Members:** Other students who meet the minimum requirements for membership but are not Biology majors, may apply to be Associate members. Associate members pay a one-time membership fee of $55 and do not receive honors cords at graduation (this is a national organization distinction, not one created by the Loyola chapter). This type of membership applies to those not majoring in some type of Biology major.

**\*What are the benefits of joining Tri-Beta?** As a national academic honor society, Tri-Beta is widely recognized as a sign of distinction by employers and graduate/professional schools on resumes, CVs, and applications. As a member of Tri-Beta, you join a group of peers who have demonstrated academic excellence and can interact and learn from each other. In recognition of this achievement, at graduation Regular members will be provided with honor cords to add to your commencement regalia. Additionally, all members in good standing will be recognized in the commencement program at graduation. Members also have the opportunity to participate in service such as tutoring, mentoring, fundraising and educational outreach. All of these activities provide members with many opportunities to expand their skills and experiences through helping others. Further, there are many opportunities to gain leadership experience as an officer, member of a committee, or individual member proposing an initiative.

**\*What types of activities are organized and run by Tri-Beta?** Tri-Beta is active in upholding academic excellence, supporting research endeavors, and providing service to the Loyola and Baltimore communities. As a chapter, our typical yearly activities in the past have included weekly tutoring for students in the introductory biology major courses, running a peer mentoring program for students new to the major (Bio Buddies, formerly Beta Buddies), and engaging in fundraising or other service projects. In 2023-2024 with the introduction of a new introductory biology series of courses for first year students, the tutoring program has been terminated but may be reintroduced in the future if the department determines it is still needed after evaluating the new introductory series of courses. In most years, we hold fundraisers for biology related organizations, organize and run science educational outreach nights for elementary and middle school students, and organize collections of food/clothing/housing essentials for shelters in the Baltimore area. Additionally, Tri-Beta periodically provides supplemental funds for biology students traveling to present research findings at regional and national scientific conferences.

**\*What is the time commitment and requirements for Tri-Beta Members after induction?** Tri-Beta activities are only as successful as the dedication of its members. All members are expected to participate chapter activities to remain in good standing and receive honor cords for graduation. Service is an integral part of the Tri-Beta National Honor Society and is a requirement to remain a member. NOTE: this is different than some honor societies on campus that have no commitments after induction. Typically, the chapter engages in several service initiatives and projects during the semester. All members are expected to participate in the mentoring activities and some of the other fundraisers/drives/outreach in each semester. Additionally, members are expected to assist leadership in conducting the induction ceremony in the Spring semester. **Overall, these activities** **typically add up to less than 8-10 hours of time commitment per year (depending on what activities are planned each year).**

**\*How do I calculate my biology GPA?** There are many online college GPA calculators you can use for this. You will need all of your course credits and the letter grade to enter for each course (Biology lectures and labs).  You must include all your Biology courses (BL designation) in the GPA calculation including labs. Additionally, if you take Biochemistry I/II it should be calculated in the GPA even if you register using the CH number instead of the BL number (because it is the same course).

**\*Can non-majors join?**  Yes, students who are not Biology majors, or some type of Biology interdisciplinary major) can join Tri-Beta as Associate members (not Regular members). Students applying as Associate members pay a membership fee of $55 instead of $65. For Associate members, the courses to meet the minimum requirement of three lectures must be majors-level biology courses. Non-majors level courses cannot fulfill this requirement. Please note that Associate members do not receive honors cords at graduation (this is a national organization distinction, not one created by the Loyola chapter).

**\*Do lab courses count as one of the 3 courses to be inducted?**  No, you need 3 lecture biology courses at the majors-level to be inducted into Tri-Beta. These courses cannot be non-majors courses.

**\*Do lab courses count in the Biology GPA calculation?**Yes, all biology courses (BL) are used in calculating the GPA, including lab courses.

**\*Do Study Abroad Biology courses count?**  Yes, if you have the grades already on your transcript these count for induction and in the GPA calculation.

**\*How does being abroad affect your service requirements?** We love that so many of our members study abroad. We just ask that you perform a little extra service in the semester you are not abroad. Ex. Abroad in the Fall, then do a little more service in the Spring semester of the same year.

**\*Can you join if you are abroad this Spring semester?**  Yes, we can send you an application by email.  You can then return the application by email.  If you are accepted into membership, you can then pay your membership dues electronically.

**\*Are seniors able to join?**  Yes, you can join from sophomore through senior year as long as you meet the membership requirements. Seniors will be expected to contribute to service activities of Tri-Beta during the Spring semester once you are notified of acceptance into Tri-Beta.

**\*Are membership dues paid each year?**  No, you only pay a membership fee at the time of induction.  There are no additional fees in subsequent years. Membership fees for Regular members are $65. Membership fees for Associate members are $55. Of the money we collect in dues, all but $10 is sent to the national organization to register a student as a member of the National Beta Beta Beta organization.

**\*Do you need to attend the Induction Ceremony to join?**  No, you are not required to attend the induction ceremony (but we hope you will!). The induction ceremony is a time to celebrate our newest members with the Loyola community but your induction into membership only depends on our submission of your information and fees to the national organization.

**\*What forms of payment are accepted and how do I submit payment?** We will inform you of the details on how to pay membership dues once your application has been reviewed and you are accepted into membership. This year, we hope to again collect dues electronically through The Bridge. No money is due at the time of the application submission. We will only collect it after acceptance. You will receive an email with the details if accepted.

**\*What are the requirements to wear the Tri-Beta Honor Cords at graduation?** Honor cords are given to Regular members of Tri-Beta who have continued to meet the academic requirements of the Theta Chi chapter (3.3 Biology GPA, no Biology grades below C-) as well as the service obligations (help with tutoring, mentoring, etc of the chapter). Note: Associate members do not receive honor cords from the national organization because you are not biology majors. This is not a chapter distinction between membership types but a national one.

**\*Other Questions:**

Please direct other questions regarding Tri-Beta membership to our chapter email at: tribeta@loyola.edu