

Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society

CHARTER

Founding Chapters

Yale University
Howard University

Chapter Institutions

Cornell University
Emory University
Florida International University
Johns Hopkins University
Michigan State University
Northwestern University
Rutgers University (School of Environmental and Biological Sciences)
The Chicago School of Professional Psychology
The George Washington University
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of Florida
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Virginia Tech
Washington University, St. Louis

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society is to recognize outstanding scholarly achievement and promote diversity and excellence in doctoral education and the professoriate. The Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society seeks to develop a network of preeminent scholars who exemplify academic and personal excellence, foster environments of support, and serve as examples of scholarship, leadership, character, service, and advocacy for students who have been traditionally underrepresented in the academy. In the spirit of Edward A. Bouchet and the scholarship, leadership, character, service, and advocacy he exhibited, both inside and outside academic realms, inductees into the honor society bearing his name must also exhibit these same outstanding qualities.

Scholarship: The Bouchet Graduate Honor Society is a learned society that is committed to the goals of lifelong education, as well as the production and the dissemination of

knowledge in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Members are scholars who are committed to contributing to the development of their field(s) of study and who seek to ensure excellence and innovation in these fields.

Character: Bouchet Graduate Honor Society members must exhibit the highest values of their university, through their integrity, honor, and exemplary conduct and behavior. Character may be exemplified through an individual's emotional courage, principles, endurance, and the ability to follow through long after the excitement of the task is over. He or she must be reliable and consistent. At each member's core must be an awareness of the importance of contributing to society and working for the good of society.

Leadership: The Bouchet Graduate Honor Society is comprised of scholars who take personally their responsibility for their departments and their academic fields on local, national, and international levels, as necessary. BGHS leaders are the embodiment of the ideals of their respective universities. They not only represent the mission of their university but they must also demonstrate strong initiative.

Service: Each Bouchet Graduate Honor Society member should actively contribute to the well-being of the society by giving, remaining involved in the community, sharing of personal gifts and talents, and exhibiting a Bouchet-like commitment to the service of others.

Advocacy: Each Bouchet Graduate Honor Society member should actively support and advocate for broader access to graduate education and other resources within the academy. Activities might include advocating for the concerns of diverse faculty members and students, serving as a mentor, helping to address the needs of communities, and educating others on the issues that may be at the heart of the continued inequalities and disparities in our society, particularly in education.

History of the Society

The society was established with the commitment and desire by Yale University and Howard University to recognize the life and academic contributions of Edward Alexander Bouchet. Edward A. Bouchet was the first self-identified African American to earn a doctorate degree from an American university. He earned his doctorate in physics from Yale University in 1876.

Edward A. Bouchet was born in New Haven, Connecticut on September 15, 1852. He was the son of William Frances and Susan (Cooley) Bouchet. William Bouchet migrated to New Haven from South Charleston, South Carolina in 1824 as the valet of the father of Judge A. Heaton Robinson of New Haven. The senior Bouchet was said to have been prominent in New Haven's Black community, serving as deacon of the Temple Street Church, the oldest Black church in the city. Edward A. Bouchet attended the New Haven High School (1866-1868) and then the Hopkins Grammar School (1868-1870), a New Haven secondary school, where he graduated as valedictorian of his class.

Edward A. Bouchet entered Yale College in 1870 and graduated from Yale College in 1874. On the basis of his academic record he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Although Bouchet was elected to Phi Beta Kappa along with other members of the Yale class of 1874, the formal election did not take place until 1884, when the Yale chapter was reorganized after thirteen years of inactivity. Because of the circumstances, Bouchet was not (as frequently stated in other historical sources), the first African American elected to Phi Beta Kappa. George Washington Henderson (University of Vermont) was elected in 1877 as the first.

Bouchet continued the study of graduate physics at Yale, where he was awarded a PhD in physics in 1876. Upon graduating from Yale, Dr. Bouchet taught chemistry and physics for twenty-six years at the Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The institute was a Quaker institution that had earned a reputation for high academic standards since its founding in 1837. Dr. Bouchet resigned in 1902 when the Institute's college preparatory program was discontinued "at the height of the DuBois-Washington controversy over industrial versus collegiate education". The school was moved to Cheyney, Pennsylvania as a vocational and teacher-training school; the name was changed in later years to Cheyney University of Pennsylvania.

From 1902-1903, Bouchet served as a science teacher at Sumner High School in St. Louis, Missouri, in their college preparatory program. From 1903-1904 he served as business manager of the Provident Hospital, St. Louis and U.S. Inspector of Customs at the Louisiana Purchase Expedition (1904-1905).

Between 1905 and 1908, Bouchet was director of academics at St. Paul's Normal and Industrial School in Lawrenceville, Virginia (later renamed St. Paul's College). In 1908 he was appointed principal of the Lincoln High School, Gallipolis, Ohio, until 1913, when he joined the faculty of Bishop College in Marshall, Texas. Dr. Bouchet retired from college teaching in 1916 due to illness, when he returned to New Haven.

Founding Chapters

Yale University and Howard University shall serve as the founding chapters of the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society (BGHS). One national charter with two chapters was inaugurated in 2005 on Bouchet's birthday, September 15th.

National Steering Committee

The founding chapters and their members formed what would later become the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society (BGHS) National Steering Committee comprised of a designated representative from each BGHS institutional chapter. As the alma mater of Edward Bouchet, Yale University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dean (or their designated senior-level administrator) shall serve as the Chair of the National Steering Committee. The Chair of the National Steering Committee will select a Vice Chair. The Vice Chair must be a founding member of the BGHS or the dean (or comparable position) or their

designated senior-level administrator, from a BGHS chapter institution that is currently active and has been active for a minimum of 10 consecutive years.

Chapter Eligibility Requirements

Institutional Chapters

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) granting institutions only with a sustained record of recruiting, retaining and graduating scholars, and particularly those who are traditionally underrepresented in the academy, are eligible to form a chapter; by invitation only. Invited institutions are expected to demonstrate prior reform efforts designed to promote diversity and excellence in doctoral education.

All invited institutions must exhibit a track record of promoting diversity within graduate education through both matriculation and graduation statistics of underrepresented groups within the academy. Moreover, invited institutions should demonstrate their commitment to diversity in graduate education through PhD-granting programs by exhibiting a track record of training underrepresented students in the academy for employment in the academy and beyond.

Institutions interested in starting a Bouchet Graduate Honor Society chapter may submit a letter of interest from the dean (or comparable position) of their Graduate School (or relevant office) to the Chair of the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society National Steering Committee. If selected, see “Chapter Invitation Procedure and Installation” below.

Chapter Invitation Procedure and Installation

Letters of invitation to establish a Bouchet Graduate Honor Society (BGHS) chapter will be sent to the dean (or comparable position) of the interested Graduate School (or relevant office) in **July**. To elicit interest for consideration, the dean’s, or comparable position’s, response materials should be received by **November 1st**. The formal response should identify the dean’s, or comparable position’s, representative to engage with BGHS initiatives. In addition, the response should include a justification for installing a chapter administered by the Graduate School and a brief overview of notable programs that support traditionally underrepresented students throughout their time in residence. The package should **include** the institution’s statistics for the number of matriculating PhD students, the departments/programs, and the number of PhDs granted over the last 5 years with a race/ethnicity and gender breakdown.

The BGHS chapter interest package should be sent to:

Chair, BGHS National Steering Committee
Yale University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
1 Hillhouse Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511

The response will be sent to the dean, or comparable position, and his/her representative in **January** with an invitation to attend the National Bouchet Conference at Yale University. The invitation for the first conference will not include an expectation to induct students. The formal reply will, however, include chapter membership expectations to attend the National Steering Committee meetings held at Yale University; provide support for the BGHS initiatives; and to induct up to 10 PhD students at the following year's conference. Only students from recognized BGHS chapters are eligible for induction.

The installation of new chapters and the induction of new members will be held at Yale University during the National Bouchet Conference. All members of the BGHS are inducted upon the nomination of the Institutional Steering Committee (ISC) and approval of the BGHS Executive Committee (BGHSEC).

Institutional Chapter Dues and Induction of New Members

Each chapter will be expected to pay minimum, annual dues to maintain national membership status. The rate of institutional dues will be determined at the National Steering Committee meeting held at Yale University during the first day of the National Bouchet Conference and will be due in **November**. Invoices will be sent out in **July**.

The BGHS membership dues should be sent to:

Chair, BGHS National Steering Committee
Yale University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
1 Hillhouse Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511

The induction of new members will be held at Yale University during the National Bouchet Conference. Individual institutional chapters are responsible for selecting BGHS inductees. The names of up to 10 inductees and a brief 250-word research summary for each inductee should be sent to Yale University via e-mail to the Yale BGHS designated representative.

Specific Institution Details

Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society (BGHS) Committees

- **Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Executive Committee (BGHSEC)** is comprised of the Yale University, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (or designated senior-level administrator) and the Vice Chair. The BGHSEC is the highest, governing body of the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society membership. The BGHSEC has the authority to revise the BGHS Charter as needed to achieve the mission and goals based on the majority consensus of the National Steering Committee. The committee shall convene annually at Yale University to discuss policy matters governing the BGHS.

- **National Steering Committee (NSC)** is comprised of the following institutional representatives:
 1. Dean of the Graduate School (or comparable position) or the Dean' designated senior-level administrator from each chapter (Note: BGHSEC members only cast a single collective vote in the event of an NSC voting tie.)

This committee will serve as the body responsible for the national oversight and administration of all Bouchet Graduate Honor Society chapters, including the review and acceptance of new chapters from eligible institutions. All final decisions or discrepancies about the operations of individual chapters are ultimately decided upon by the NSC. The NSC reserves the right to decline, revoke or suspend institutional chapter membership if it is determined that the institution is functioning outside of the guidelines and mission of the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. When voting, a simple majority (i.e. more than half) wins. In case of an NSC voting tie, the BGHSEC will cast one collective tie-breaking vote.

- **Institutional Steering Committee (ISC)** is responsible for the administration of the member institution's chapter activities in accordance with the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society's national charter and the institution's governing by-laws. The ISC is responsible for budgetary appropriations within the chapter. The chapter institution's National Steering Committee representative will also serve on the ISC as chair. ISC committee members do not have to be current members of the national Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. ISC member representatives from the dean's office and the provost's office will serve a term of four years on the ISC. When voting, a simple majority (i.e. more than half) wins. In case of an ISC voting tie, the ISC chair will cast the tie-breaking vote.

Institutional Steering Committee (ISC) Members

1. Dean of the Graduate School (or comparable position) or the Dean's designated senior-level administrator. (Only votes during ISC voting tie.)
2. Representative from the Provost's Office
3. Up to 4 faculty representing the humanities, social sciences, and sciences

The ISC is responsible for identifying prospective BGHS members and for ensuring their subsequent compliance of eligibility requirements. The ISC will review nomination documents (see Nomination and Acceptance Process below), vote on each nomination, and present selected inductees to the BGHS Executive Committee (BGHSEC) one month prior to the conference. The ISC is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that current members from their respective institutions maintain eligibility. Moreover, the ISC may reserve the right to revoke an individual's Bouchet Graduate Honor Society membership in instances of non-compliance with the mission and goals of the Society. Members of this committee or faculty members from across the university (regardless of their membership status) may nominate an

individual for membership. Only a university or college faculty member (regardless of their membership status) or an administrator from a chapter institution may nominate a doctoral (PhD) student, postdoctoral associate, or faculty member for membership.

Membership Eligibility Requirements

- **Doctoral (PhD) Student Member** is enrolled in excellent academic standing as defined by the chapter institution, has completed all course work and successfully advances to candidacy at the host institution. The nominee must be considered “All But Dissertation” (ABD) (i.e. completed qualifying exam, orals, qualifying papers or equivalent) by the chapter institution and be within a reasonable time frame of completing their PhD degree as expected within their discipline. Each inductee must meet the eligibility criteria determined by his or her chapter institution and embody the legacy of Edward A. Bouchet. An inductee’s membership can be revoked if the inductee does not graduate within the time allotted by each university’s time-to-degree policy based on individual circumstances. The Institutional Steering Committee reserves the right to decide whether or not inductees maintain high, academic standing.
- **Postdoctoral Member** is a person who has been awarded a PhD or joint PhD from an active BGHS chapter institution or is currently holding a postdoctoral fellowship at an active BGHS chapter institution. If the PhD or joint PhD was awarded from an active BGHS chapter institution the current postdoctoral fellowship need not be from an active BGHS chapter institution.
- **Alumni Member** is an individual who holds a PhD or joint PhD from an active BGHS chapter institution (see Membership Eligibility Requirements above for a Doctoral Student Member) in high academic standing and has graduated or has been nominated after graduation from the institution to be an Alumni Member of the Society (see Nomination and Acceptance Process below for an Alumni Member).
- **Faculty Member** is an individual who has been awarded a PhD or joint PhD and is currently holding a faculty or lecturer position within the active BGHS chapter institution.
- **Lifetime or Honorary Member** is an individual who is deemed by the Society as having contributed significantly to promoting the Society’s mission. Lifetime or Honorary Members must be approved by the BGHSEC.

The Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society reserves the right to revoke the privileges of membership if a member is in non-compliance with the goals and mission of the Society. In this circumstance, the Institutional Steering Committee may review the member’s status and recommend said action to the National Steering Committee.

Nomination and Acceptance Process

- **PhD or joint PhD Graduate Student Member** – Upon nomination by the student’s faculty thesis advisor or a faculty member from the student’s Dissertation Committee or an individual from the Institutional Steering Committee, the nominee must also provide the other supporting material listed below to the ISC for review and approval. The nomination package should include a personal statement indicating how the nominee embodies the character and legacy of Edward A. Bouchet in doctoral education. Nomination packages should also include a current transcript from all Graduate and Professional Schools attended and two (2) additional letters of recommendation from the following: (1) a member of the faculty from the active BGHS host institution describing the nominee’s current and potential contributions to their field(s) of study and (2) a faculty member, dean, or director of the program describing how the nominee embodies the Bouchet legacy. The nomination package will be reviewed and recommendation for induction into the Society will be granted by the Institutional Steering Committee. Names and a brief 250-word research description for the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society inductees from all chapter institutions must be provided to the BGHS Executive Committee (BGHSEC) prior to the Induction Ceremony held each year at Yale University.
- **Postdoctoral Member** - Upon nomination by the postdoctoral fellow’s primary faculty advisor from an active BGHS chapter institution, the nominee must also provide the other supporting material listed below to the Institutional Steering Committee (see above) for review and approval. The nomination package should include a personal statement indicating how the nominee embodies the character and legacy of Edward A. Bouchet in doctoral education. Nomination packages should also include a current transcript from all Graduate and Professional Schools attended and two (2) additional letters of recommendation from the following: (1) a member of the faculty from the active BGHS host institution describing the nominee’s current and potential contributions to their field(s) of study and (2) a faculty member, dean, or director of the program describing how the nominee embodies the Bouchet legacy. The nomination package will be reviewed and recommendation for induction into the Society will be granted by the Institutional Steering Committee. Names and a brief 250-word research description for the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society inductees from all chapter institutions must be provided to the BGHS Executive Committee (BGHSEC) prior to the Induction Ceremony held each year at Yale University.

The Institutional Steering Committee may also nominate each year current alumni, faculty, or distinguished members of the academy whom they wish to honor with membership into the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. The procedures for nomination of these members are as follows:

- **Alumni Member** – Submission of a letter of intent to the Institutional Steering Committee describing how the incumbent embodies the character of Edward A. Bouchet in doctoral education. The letter of intent should be accompanied by a letter

of recommendation from one of the following: (1) a current member or (2) a member of the faculty or an administrator from an active BGHS chapter institution. The application will be reviewed and invitation into the Society granted by the Institutional Steering Committee.

- **Faculty Member** – Submission of a letter of intent to the Institutional Steering Committee describing how the incumbent embodies the character of Edward A. Bouchet in doctoral education and the professoriate. The letter of intent should be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from one of the following: (1) a current member or (2) a member of the faculty or an administrator from an active BGHS chapter institution. The application will be reviewed and invitation into the Society granted by the Institutional Steering Committee.
- **Lifetime or Honorary Member** – Submission of a letter of intent to the Institutional Steering Committee describing how the incumbent embodies the character of Edward A. Bouchet in doctoral education. The letter of intent should be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from one of the following: (1) a current member or (2) a member of the faculty or an administrator from an active BGHS chapter institution. The application will be reviewed by the Institutional Steering Committee and submitted to the BGHSEC for consideration. If approved, an invitation into the Society will be granted by the BGHSEC.

Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Activities

- **Bouchet Conference on Diversity and Graduate Education** – The annual conference, held on the campus of Yale University, includes the new chapter installations, induction ceremony, workshops, panels, and poster and oral research presentations for Society members and others.
- **Bouchet Forum** – The annual Bouchet Forum, held on the campus of Howard University, allows for unique networking opportunities for Society members.
- **Workshops** – Members may attend special workshops, to be administered at specified chapter institutions, on academic and research skills, career development, networking, fellowship and grant writing.
- **Mentoring Programs** – Society members may serve as mentors for others, as well as be mentored by other members of the society (i.e. postdoctoral members or faculty members).
- **Networking Website** (Under development) – This website will provide contact information and brief biographical descriptions of the members and their research area, as well as information and links to institutions with active BGHS chapters.

Edward A. Bouchet Honor Society Membership Benefits

- Access to the annual conference and forum
- Academic and career development assistance from fellow members
- Networking opportunities