

**The University of Michigan
Edward Alexander Bouchet
Graduate Honor Society**

**CHARTER DOCUMENT
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**RACKHAM
GRADUATE SCHOOL**
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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 Alexander Bouchet and the scholarship, character, leadership, 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. The UM Society is committed to intellectual excellence and interdisciplinary work, but with the additional goal of using the knowledge gained at the academy in order to aid the communities and objects of research.

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 not only committed to contributing to the development of their field(s) of study but also to the application of that knowledge into action that aims to improve the lives and conditions of the subjects of research.

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 at the local, national, and international levels, as necessary. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society 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. UM Bouchet Scholars play a pivotal leadership role in extending access of the university to a wider public community by creating and disseminating knowledge for whom such knowledge may serve.

Service: Each member should actively contribute to the well-being of 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. Examples of service might include: participating in a neighborhood/community educational program for youth; serving in local and/or state politics; and/or involving oneself in a local non-profit organization.

Advocacy: Each 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 inequities and disparities in our society, particularly in education.

History and Goals 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 African American to earn a doctorate degree from an American university. He earned his doctorate in Physics from Yale University in 1876.

Edward Alexander 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 Bouchet attended the New Haven High School (1866-1868) and graduated from Hopkins Grammar School (1870) as valedictorian of his class.

Edward Bouchet entered Yale College in 1870 and was the first African American to graduate 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 election did not take place until 1884, when the Yale chapter was reorganized after thirteen year 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 Ph.D. in Physics in 1876. Bouchet was the first African American to earn a doctorate degree from an American university.

Upon graduation from Yale, Dr. Bouchet taught chemistry and physics for twenty-six years at the Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia, PA. 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 2 was discontinued "at the height of the DuBois-Washington controversy over industrial vs. collegiate education." The school was moved to Cheney, PA as a vocational and teacher-training school; the name was changed in later years to Cheney State College. 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, Galipolis, 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, where he returned to New Haven.

Founding Chapters:

Yale University and Howard University serve as the founding chapters of the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. One national charter with two chapters will be inaugurated in 2005 on Bouchet's birthday, September 15. Since 2005, Washington University, Georgetown University, and Cornell University have been inaugurated. The founding chapters and their members are by necessity members of the initial National Steering Committee and all other applicable committees.

Chapter Requirements:

Eligibility for the formation of an institutional chapter is limited to doctoral-granting institutions with a sustained record of training scholars who are traditionally underrepresented in the academy. Interested institutions must show evidence of prior reform efforts designed to promote diversity and excellence in doctoral education.

Eligibility Requirements

Institutional Charters:

Eligibility requirements for the formation of a Bouchet Graduate Honor Society charter institution are limited to Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) granting colleges and universities. Induction into the society is by invitation only. 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. Chapters should demonstrate commitment to graduate education through Ph.D. granting programs. Universities should exhibit a track record of training underrepresented students in the academy.

Specific Institution Details

Edward A. Bouchet Honor Society Committees:

National External Advisory Board (NEAB) is the committee responsible for advising the National Steering Committee. Each member serves a term of four years. This committee will meet once or twice a year, usually in the fall and/or spring, but always on September 15 (if it falls on a weekday) beginning in 2005.

National External Advisory Board Members

- President of member Universities or President's representative from each chapter
- Provost or Provost's representative from each chapter
- Invited CEOs
- Invited Presidents of foundations

National Steering Committee (NSC) is to be partially comprised of Howard University and Yale University member representatives. 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. The National Steering Committee is the highest, governing body of Bouchet Graduate Honor Society members. All final decisions or discrepancies about the operations of individual chapters are ultimately decided upon by the National Steering Committee. The National Steering Committee reserves the right to decline, revoke, or suspend the charter of chapters determined to be functioning outside of the guidelines and mission of the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. The National Steering Committee, which is advised by the National External Advisory Board, can revise the

charter as needed. Each member of the National Steering Committee serves a term of three years except for the doctoral student members and the postdoctoral or alumni members who all serve two-year terms. In case of a voting tie, simple majority wins.

National Steering Committee Members

- Dean of Graduate School or Dean designate from each chapter
- Faculty member from each chapter
- Doctoral student from each chapter
- Postdoctoral representative or alumna/nus from each chapter

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 Institutional Steering Committee is responsible for budgetary appropriations within the chapter. This committee is also responsible for determining the personnel of the Membership Selection Committee. A member of the National Steering Committee may also serve on the Institutional Steering Committee. In case of a voting tie, simple majority wins. All committee members must be current members of the national Bouchet Graduate Honor Society and the local chapter. Member representatives from the dean's office and the provost's office will serve a term of four (4) years on the ISC. All faculty members, doctoral students, postdoctoral representatives and alumni serve a term of two (2) years.

Institutional Steering Committee Members

- Dean of Graduate School or Dean designate
- Representative from the Provost's Office
- Faculty member from one of the four divisions at the University of Michigan
- Doctoral student from each discipline division
- Postdoctoral representative or alumna/nus

Membership Selection Committee (MSC) is responsible for identifying prospective members and chapters and for ensuring their subsequent compliance of eligibility requirements. The Membership Selection Committee will review nomination documents (see Nomination and Selection Process), vote on each nomination, and present possible inductees to the National Steering Committee (NSC). The NSC is then responsible for inviting members for induction into the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. The Membership Selection Committee is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that current members from their respective institutions maintain eligibility. Moreover, the Membership Selection Committee 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 may nominate a doctoral student for membership. All committee members must be current members of the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society and the local chapter.

Membership Eligibility Requirements:

- Doctoral Student Member is enrolled in excellent academic standing as defined by the institution, has completed all course work and successfully advanced 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 institution and be within a reasonable time frame of completing their Ph.D. degree as expected within their discipline. Each applicant must meet the eligibility criteria determined by his or her institution and embody the legacy of Edward A. Bouchet.
- Post-Doctoral Member is a person who has been awarded a Ph.D. or joint Ph.D. from a research institution and is currently holding a post-doctoral fellowship or equivalent position within the host chapter institution.
- Alumni Member is an individual who holds a Ph.D. or joint Ph.D. from the host chapter institution in high academic standing and has graduated or has been nominated after graduation from the institution to be an Alumni Member of the Society.
- Faculty Member is an individual who has been awarded a Ph.D. or joint Ph.D. and is currently holding a faculty or lecturer position within the host charter institution.
- Lifetime or Honorary Member. Individuals who are deemed by the Society as having contributed significantly to promoting the Society's mission.

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 Membership Selection Committee may review the member's status and recommend said action to the Institutional then National Steering Committees. A doctoral student's membership can be revoked if the fellow 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 fellows maintain high, academic standing.

Application and Acceptance Process:

Doctoral Student Member. A student who meets the eligibility requirements may apply for membership in the society. Similarly, a student may be nominated by a faculty member from the host institution that is familiar with the student's academic career. The applicant should provide a letter of support from his/her faculty thesis advisor or a faculty member from their Dissertation Committee. The application package should also include a personal statement indicating how the applicant embodies the character and legacy of Edward Bouchet as indicated in the mission statement and a current transcript from the U-M. The application packet will be reviewed and recommendation for induction into the Society will be granted by the Membership Selection Committee. Final approval of Bouchet Graduate Honor Society inductees at all chapter institutions will be granted by the National Steering Committee prior to the Induction Ceremony held each year.

Postdoctoral Member. Upon application, an individual provides one letter from a current mentor or the Chair of the Dissertation Committee as well as a current copy of the curriculum vitae. The application packet will be reviewed and recommendation for induction into the Society will be granted by the Membership Selection Committee. Final

approval of Bouchet Graduate Honor Society inductees at all chapter institutions will be granted by the National Steering Committee prior to the Induction Ceremony held each year.

The Membership Selection 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 Membership Selection Committee describing how the incumbent embodies the character of Edward 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 a chapter institution. The application will be reviewed and invitation into the Society granted by the Membership Selection Committee.

Faculty Member. Submission of a letter of intent to the Membership Selection Committee describing how the incumbent embodies the character of Edward 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 a chapter institution. The application will be reviewed and invitation into the Society granted by the Membership Selection Committee.

Lifetime or Honorary Member. Submission of a letter of intent to the Membership Selection Committee describing how the incumbent embodies the character of Edward 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 a chapter institution. The application will be reviewed and invitation into the Society granted by the Membership Selection Committee.

U-M Edward A. Bouchet Honor Society Activities:

Bouchet Scholars Research Roundtables. During the academic year, Bouchet Scholars will be invited to semester lunch-hour roundtables by U-M faculty and postdoctoral scholars focused on the faculty's area of research relevant to the U-M Bouchet theme of the "scholar-activist". The initial year will feature roundtables hosted by current faculty serving on the Bouchet institutional steering committee.

Bouchet Community Connection Network. A network of Bouchet Scholars will be created to promote and advertise the expertise of each one. This network can also be advertised more widely to promote the scholars as "experts" in their respective fields. In addition, the network would provide opportunities for communities to connect with scholars around important issues affecting them.

Bouchet Scholars "On the Market" network or web-link. This multidisciplinary network would provide a major channel for information dissemination on research, grant, postdoctoral, and other relevant opportunities for the scholars not only at U-M but at the other Bouchet universities. The website would allow scholars to post their CV and other materials from prospective organizations seeking employees or faculty/researchers.

Bouchet Travel Award. A limited travel award to the annual Yale Bouchet conference held in New Haven, CT. This annual conference held on the campus of Yale University is an opportunity to present one's work in an interdisciplinary setting as well as network with peers across disciplines and institutions.

Bouchet Interdisciplinary Learning Community. After scholars have been inducted, the U-M will organize and hold a seminar that will bring scholars from different disciplines at the university (and possibly Bouchet Scholars from other universities) to participate in a semester-long seminar. The seminar will meet at least every 2 weeks to discuss pedagogy, methodology, service and practice. The seminar will be facilitated by faculty or practitioners that have bridged the gap between scholarship and activism.