Tau Beta Pi is the only engineering honor society representing the entire engineering profession. It is the nation’s second-oldest honor society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885 to recognize students of distinguished scholarship and exemplary character. There are now collegiate chapters at 221 US colleges and universities, active alumnus chapters in 16 regions across the United States and a total initiated membership of 429,000.

The preamble to the Tau Beta Pi Constitution describes its purpose “to mark in a fitting manner those who have conferred honor upon their Alma Mater by distinguished scholarship and exemplary character as undergraduates in engineering, or by their attainments as alumni in the field of engineering, and to foster a spirit of liberal culture in engineering colleges.” Membership in the honor society is by invitation from a collegiate chapter. Caltech is the California Beta chapter of Tau Beta Pi, founded on June 11, 1921. Those undergraduates in the top 1/8th of their junior class or the top 1/5th of their senior class or of graduate students are considered eligible to join. Another requirement is exemplary character, which, at Caltech, shall be demonstrated by 2 hours of community service. Traditionally, invitation is only extended to students in engineering disciplines, but because Caltech is so close-knit with interdisciplinary research, no distinction is made based on major.

See more information at our website at http://www.its.caltech.edu/~tbp/.

Opportunities as a TBP member:

- Tau Beta Pi annually awards up to 40 undergraduate juniors a $2,000 scholarship for their senior year of study. The deadline for the scholarship application is March 1, 2003. The application is relatively brief and requires two letters of reference.
- Tau Beta Pi annually awards numerous $10,000 fellowships to graduating seniors to help fund the first year of graduate school. The application is due in January of the senior year.
- Access to student loans up to $2,500
- A nationwide network of top engineers in various fields. Members can sign up for AlumNet, an online service exclusive to Tau Beta Pi where you can request contact with a Tau Beta Pi alumnus at different companies or institutions in order to have a responsive ear to your questions.
- Exclusive job listings on our chapter’s website as well as on the national TBP website.
- A faculty lunch is planned for third term for you to get better acquainted with Caltech faculty and their research.
- Further special events to be announced later.

How to become a member:

1. If you are here, you already meet the scholastic requirements listed above.
2. Pay the one-time membership dues of $50.
3. Fill out the membership card.
4. Participate in 2 hours of community service (it can be service done at any time as a Caltech undergraduate, or sometime in the next few weeks).
5. Turn in 2 and 3 along with a brief description of the community service to the chapter secretary, David Moore in Page 238 (MSC #503). No materials will be accepted past March 31, 2003.

Community service possibilities:

- Caltech Y
- Society of Women Engineers, http://www.its.caltech.edu/~swe
- Building Bridges (tutoring and mentoring), http://www.its.caltech.edu/~bbridges
- Campus tutoring