



PHI THETA KAPPA  
HONOR SOCIETY

## Candidate Questionnaire: Getting to Know You

*Please complete this questionnaire. Answers should be brief.  
Responses will appear unedited on Phi Theta Kappa's Catalyst website.*

### **Candidate for (highlight ONE):**

- International President
- Division I Vice President
- Division II Vice President
- Division III Vice President
- Division IV Vice President

**Your Name: Parsa Vard**

#### **1. What is your college major?**

- My college major is Music Technology. Music has always been the one constant in my life, but audio engineering showed me how to turn that passion into a craft, and that craft into a career. I love the balance of creativity and precision: I can chase a feeling, then refine it through critical listening until it is perfect. Most importantly, it gives me a way to serve—using sound to support others, the way music has always supported me.

#### **2. What is your ultimate career goal?**

- My ultimate career goal is to become a Grammy Award-winning audio engineer focused on Dolby Atmos mixing and mastering through my own studio. I want to use that studio as a platform for local artists and underrepresented communities—helping their art be heard the way it deserves.

#### **3. What was your primary reason for accepting PTK membership?**

- My primary reason for accepting PTK membership at the beginning of 2025 was to become the kind of role model I needed when I first started community college. I came into community college completely directionless, and I wanted other students to see that with determination, they can find their path and achieve more than they think is possible.

#### **4. What's your go-to "fun fact" during an icebreaker?**

- My go-to "fun fact" during an icebreaker is that I am the mascot at my college. Dancing whilst hidden under a costume serves as a fun way to express myself creatively. The best part is seeing kids light up, run over for a hug, and leave with a memory that can become the highlight of their day.

#### **5. If you could thank your past self for one decision, what would it be?**

- If I could thank my past self for one decision, it would be interning at a nonprofit radio station over the summer. I was not sure how useful it would be at first, but it connected me to the local music scene and a team I love that genuinely values my work, and that has strengthened my confidence as a leader. Now I continue my time there as a volunteer.

#### **6. What's a small, everyday thing that brings you joy?**

- A small, everyday thing that brings me joy is writing five things I am grateful for in my gratitude journal. This has been an essential step in my morning routine for the last three years, and it helps me start the day with a positive mindset. It strengthens my sense of fellowship by reminding me to appreciate the people around me and the support I'm surrounded by.

#### **7. If you could instantly master a random skill (tightrope walking, speaking fluent whale), what would it be and why?**

- If I could instantly master a random skill, it would be knowing how to play every instrument, because then I could translate any idea in my head into a real instrumental and produce without limits. I would use that ability to help other artists bring their songs to life, especially when they do not yet have the resources or training to do it on their own.

**8. What's your go-to hype song when you want to feel unstoppable?**

- My go-to hype song when I want to feel unstoppable is “Unwritten” by Natasha Bedingfield. It reminds me of what my teacher always tells me: no one else has my story. Everyone brings their own unique perspective to the table. That mindset has strengthened my leadership because it pushes me to show up with assurance and help others believe they can do the same.

**9. What's your favorite way to recharge when you're running on empty?**

- My favorite way to recharge when I am running on empty is rewatching comfort movie series like Star Wars and Rocky, or comfort shows like Full House, Avatar: The Last Airbender, Dragon Ball Z, and Yu-Gi-Oh! These shows remind me how strength comes from people in your corner, and they make me want to be that person for others.

**10. What's your favorite tradition – family, personal, or something you invented?**

- My favorite tradition is a Persian tradition called Chaharshanbeh Soori. It takes place on the last Tuesday night of the Persian year, when people jump over small bonfires to leave the old year behind and welcome the new one with hope. What I love most is how it brings people together, turning renewal into something you share, not something you do alone.