



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:** Carl Basila

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

Main major is Business. I'm also enrolled for an associate of arts degree, and an associate of science degree.

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

I have 3 fields in action: Medicine (cardiac surgery), Business specifically finance (Investment banking) and Law (Corporate-Business law) which is very ambitious.

My career goal is to become an academic cardiac surgeon whose research and teaching focus on the financial, legal, and regulatory frameworks that govern cardiovascular innovation and healthcare delivery.

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

Honestly my first reason was the prestige of an honor society and scholarships. But it changed over time as my involvement in the chapter increased, I encountered wonderful people and discovered a lot more opportunities that I thought were available.

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

Bananas are radioactive (The reason is they are very rich in potassium) or humans share about 60% of their DNA with bananas.

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

If I must thank my past self for one decision, it'll be: deciding to leave my home country after high school. Going to college in a foreign country changed me beyond what I could have thought. I have grown up so much as a human being and I'm more aware of my abilities and what I want from life, which I could not have if I stayed home with my parents.

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

Being able to wake up every day in the apartment that I'm paying with my own income. It may not seem special to people, but it is to me because I was raised by a helicopter family. Not only my parents, but my uncles and aunts on my mom's side were also very involved in my upbringing and I

was not allowed to work during my whole teenage years into my adulthood because I was so much covered and taken care of. I think that is one of the reasons I decided to go to college outside of the country, because I wanted to experience life and freedom, being able to oversee myself. So now as an adult, experiencing those small responsibilities brings me joy and gratitude. This is not to say I'm against what my family did for me; I'm thankful. I know I'm blessed to have such a loving and supportive family. Fulfilling adult activities by myself provides a proud sentiment of a capable human being.

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

I would say being able to learn and understand any skill or subject in an instant because I have a very investigative spirit and I want to understand life beyond the evident notion. So being able to learn any subject in an instant will help push through the surface and really dig into the subject to find the hidden part of human life, mind and wisdom.

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

My go-to hype song is "Hall of fame" from The Script featuring Will.i.am released in 2012. This song pushes me beyond myself to find in me the strength to be the best in everything I do.

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

My favorite way to recharge is to isolate myself and stay in the silence of my apartment. I would usually sleep, then spend the rest of the day either reading, writing, listening or creating music, and finish the day with a nice gratitude prayer. I would usually fast during the day and eat a light meal at the end of the day for restoration.

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

This is interesting because being far from my family, I find comfort of knowing that I'm still connected to them in one way or the other so I created a personal tradition for my birthday: I would usually buy myself a cake in my dad's favorite flavor, and a bottle of wine of my mom's preferred taste and drink one glass while wishing myself a wonderful year. I do it every year and my family is aware of it.