

NATURAL SCIENCES COUNCIL

Info Session 1



CNS Administration

UT Senate

NSC

Student Governmental Organization (SGO)

“The liaison between the students and the faculty in the College of Natural Sciences”

Committees

Legislation

Student Access

Community Involvement

Catalyst

Student-Faculty

Academic Affairs

Public Relations

Internal Relations

WHAT DOES NSC DO?

- Advocacy
- Outreach
- Student-Faculty Relations
- Improving Student Experience
- Community Building

ADVOCACY

LEGISLATION

Student Advocacy

- **Identify challenges** faced by students college-wide
- Gather data **representative** of CNS students voices
- Conduct research on issues/concerns

Creating Legislation!

- Develop and write **evidence backed policy solutions** to enhance academics, resources, and community

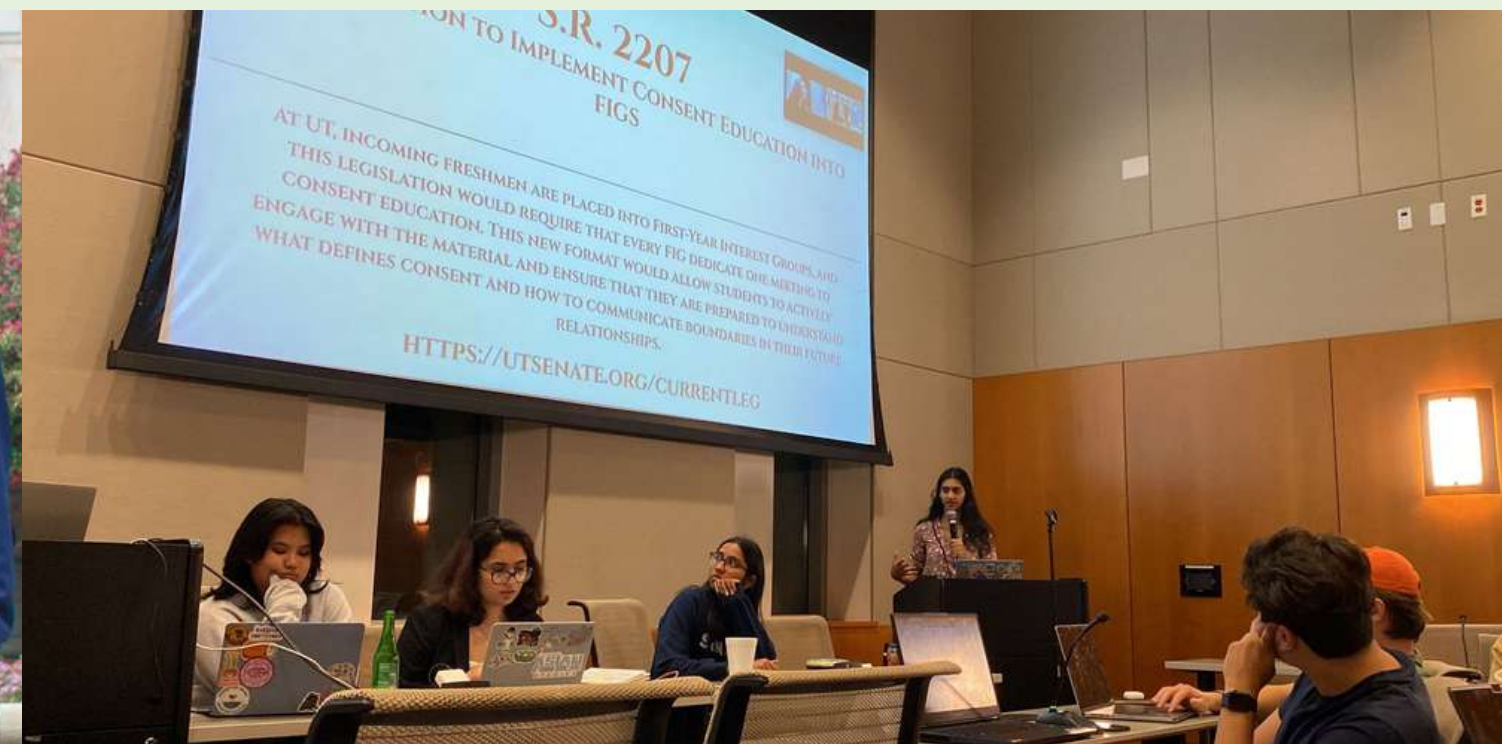
Implementation

- Collaborate with faculty and admin to put legislation **into action!**
- Continue improving initiatives through student feedback

Past Projects:

- CS and SDS FRI Credits
- Improving CNS Infrastructure
- Updating Eureka
- TIP Scholars and First Gen Student Support
- CNS Wellness Ambassadors
- Major Specific Peer Advisors

Main Purpose: Advocate for CNS students by creating and implementing solutions!





STUDENT ACCESS

Create opportunities for all, address barriers, spotlight community, and empower students with resources to support their success and well-being!

Student Advocacy

- **Primary advocate** for CNS Students on issues concerning **accessibility, visibility,** and other student needs
- Identify **barriers** CNS students face and create initiatives to **address them**

Resource Accessibility + Wellness

- **Raise awareness** and **understanding** of resources that can benefit CNS students
- Hosting events that **promote wellness** and a culture of well-being

Heritage Months

- **Spotlight underrepresented groups** with **heritage month events** to uplift and celebrate our CNS Community

Past Projects

- Resource Round Up
- Casa Marianella service project for Hispanic Heritage month
- Wellness Day
- Naloxone Drive
- Imposter Syndrome Roundtable
- CNS Wellness Ambassadors

OUTREACH

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Event Promotion

- Managing Instagram stories, posting about events, reposting graphics from other councils, texasscience, etc.
- Member of the Week Shoutouts, Committee spotlights, Legislation Spotlights, NS Week, and Recruitment + in recent times reels!

Merchandise Creation

- Put your creativity at work by learning about merch design- from T-shirts to other exciting things.
- In the past = quarter zips, bucket hats, sweaters, and tote bags!
- You don't have to be an artist!!!!

Photography

- Documenting all NSC events alongside CNS-wide events including Natural Sciences Week, Curie Diaries, CNS Connections, and Gone to CNS!
- Capturing moments with students at all these events and creating collages for promotion online + website

Graphic Design

- For anyone and everyone, no prior experience needed!
- If you want to explore your more creative side or just do something different and more fun = CANVA enthusiasts
- Create cohesive themes for our events such as recruitment and mainly Natural Sciences Week!

KEY PURPOSE: Bring all the committees together and showcase the amazing things Council is up to!





COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Service Tracks

- Long-term, weekly volunteering
- Serving Austin and the UT community
- Young Scientists
- Food Distribution

Day of Service

- Semesterly college-wide event
- Engages 100+ volunteers in 6+ events throughout the day

Community Partners

- Represent CNS in the greater Austin community
- Elementary school STEM nights
- STEM Girl Day

Org Partnerships

- Engage CNS orgs in service initiatives
- Establish a service-focused mindset in CNS

We aim to bring together CNS students while supporting various communities in the greater Austin area!

STUDENT-FACULTY RELATIONS

STUDENT-FACULTY

Building Connections in CNS

The Student Faculty Committee creates opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to connect beyond the classroom. Through initiatives, like Student-Faculty Luncheons and Banquets, and the Curie Diaries, students can engage in meaningful conversations that bridge professional and personal experiences.

Faculty-Staff Appreciation Banquet

The Faculty & Staff Appreciation Banquet is our way of celebrating the professors and staff who make CNS such a supportive community. This annual event brings CNS faculty together in a more formal setting to recognize the hard work and dedication that often go unnoticed.

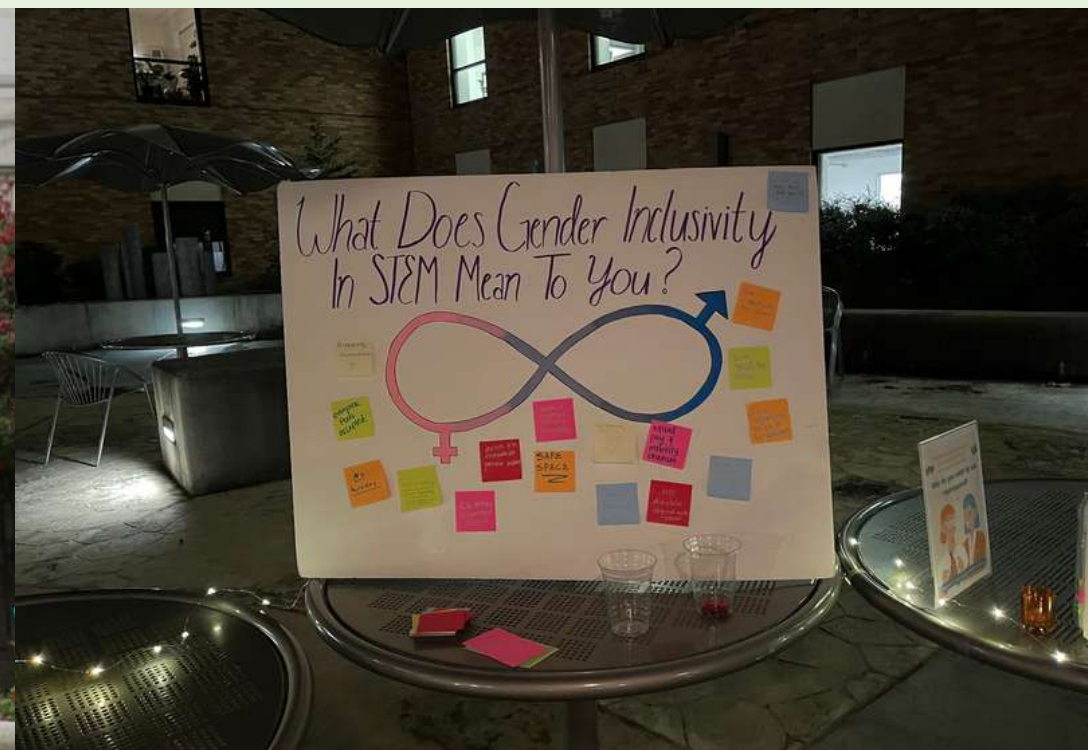
Luncheons

Student-Faculty Luncheons create a more casual setting for students and professors to connect beyond the classroom. Over a provided meal, students can ask questions, exchange passions, and build meaningful relationships that might not happen in a large lecture hall.

Past Events

- Student-Faculty Luncheons
- Curie Diaries
- Passion Panel
- Faculty Student Appreciation Banquet

KEY PURPOSE: Fosters meaningful connections between students, staff, and faculty within CNS!



*IMPROVING THE CNS
STUDENT EXPERIENCE*

CATALYST

CATLYST

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT-RUN PUBLICATION OF CNS

KEY PURPOSE: A student-run magazine at the intersection of CNS student voices, science, and creativity.

Student Spotlights & Stories

- Share personal narratives, interviews, op-eds, and reflections from students across CNS
- Write for columns like *Beyond the Beaker*, *Love in CNS*, and *Human Beans* to explore identity, ambition, and student life

Creative Contest & Art Features

- Annual student-submitted art and writing contest bridging science, creativity, and personal expression
- Showcase illustrations, poetry, comics, and photography online – and in print!

Pre-Professional & Campus Guides

- Write practical guides for pre-med, pre-law, research, grad school, and navigating UT
- Offer peer-to-peer advice on interviews, applications, time management, and study tips

Student Issues & Impact

- Cover the topics that matter – mental health, housing, food insecurity, equity, and more
- Write investigative pieces, personal essays, and advocacy-driven stories that spark conversation and drive change





ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

CNS Connections

- Help students explore career options early through face-to-face conversations with industry representatives.
- Provide networking opportunities in biotechnology, healthcare, business, computer science, and more.

Graduate School Scholarship

- Support CNS upperclassmen preparing graduate school applications.
- Recognize academic progress and commitment to further education.

Academic Initiatives

- Advocate for changes that reduce barriers to student success.
- Example: currently launching a peer advising program in CNS where upperclassmen mentor underclassmen in academics, research, and extracurricular involvement.

Student Resources

- Expand access to academic and professional development opportunities.
- Work with Career Services, the Health Professions Office, and other partners to strengthen advising and experiential learning.

KEY PURPOSE: Ensure CNS students have the resources, opportunities, and support needed to succeed academically and professionally.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

INTERNAL RELATIONS!!! (FUN)

Fostering Inclusive Spaces

- Making sure NSC is a **safe space** for everyone.
- Celebrating and including people from all backgrounds!
- Embracing both the differences and similarities that make each person unique.

Meaningful Connections

- Striving to **build friendships** among all NSC members to strengthen collaboration on council projects.

Celebrating Hard Work!!!

- IR ensures that every member's **hard work is recognized** and celebrated!
- Creating **fun, engaging events** that people genuinely enjoy.

Beloved Events:

- Committee Cup!
- Bachelor X!
- Mentor-Mentee!
- NSC Pageant!
- Friends Giving!
- Bake off!
- Broomball!



APPLICATION BREAKDOWN

APP QUESTIONS



6 Application Questions

4 Long Answer

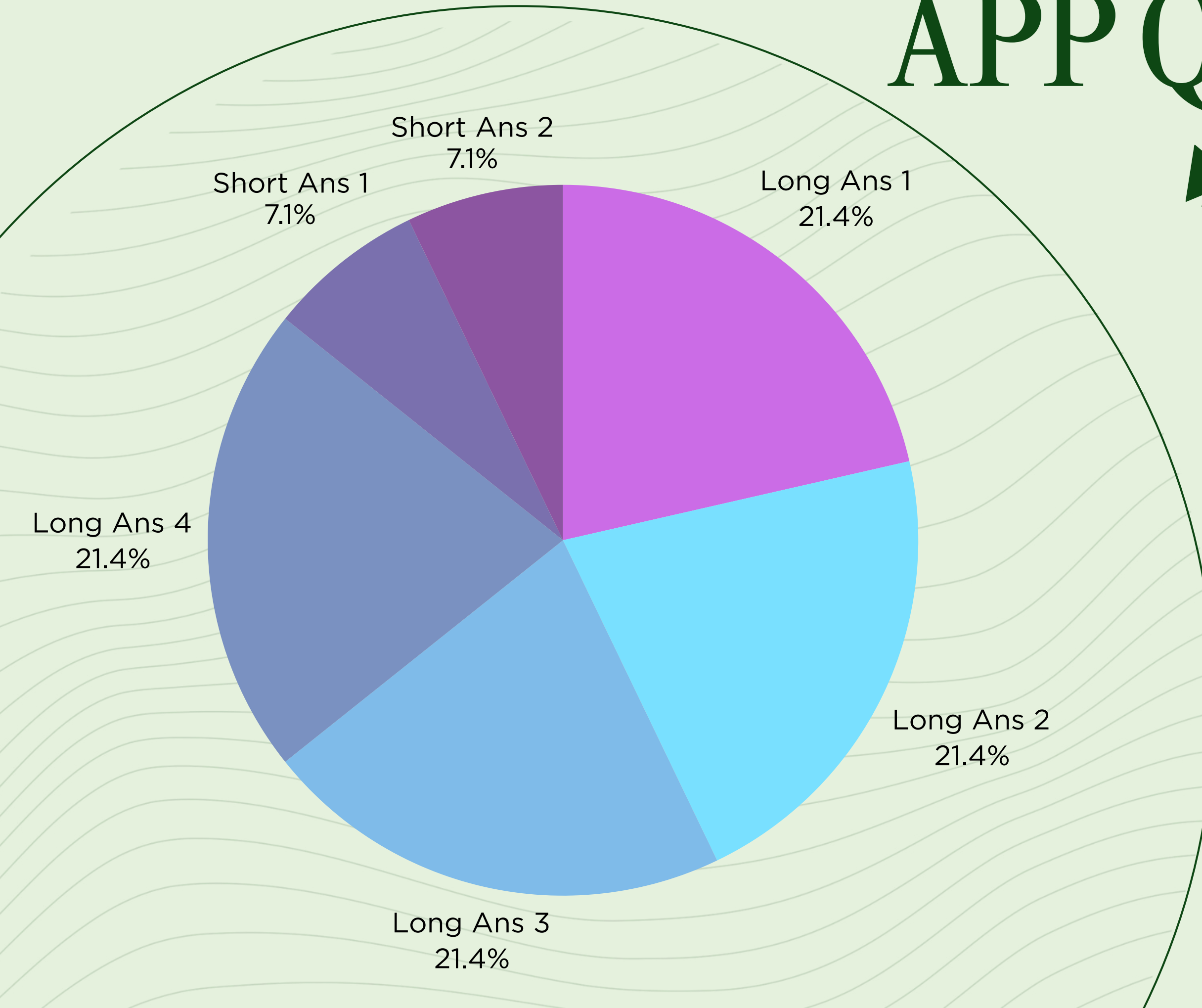
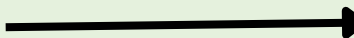
- 200 - 250 Words
- Scored out of 6

2 Short Answer

- 100 words
- Scored out of 2
- (These can't hurt you, be as creative as you like!)

We are looking for meaningful and thoughtful answers. Biggest advice you will hear if you ask anyone is to **BE YOURSELF!**

Question Breakdown



APP QUESTIONS

Long Answer 1

"In ecosystems, every organism plays a unique role; when one thrives, the whole community benefits." What is your personal 'why' for serving the CNS community, and how does NSC's mission uniquely speak to that purpose? (200 words)

Long Answer 2

NSC's work centers on improving the CNS student experience. What is one issue you've observed or learned about within CNS, and how has it affected students? (250 words)

Long Answer 3

Reflect on a period of personal growth that has impacted who you are today. How does this insight prepare you to contribute as a leader and advocate in NSC? (250 words)

Long Answer 4

Share a passion of yours, whether academic or extracurricular. Why is it meaningful to you? (200 words)

- **Do you know what NSC is? Can you identify features about it that makes it unique? Why does our mission resonate with you?**
- **Can you observe issues within CNS and how they impact students?**
- **What personal experience helped you grow, and how will that growth shape the way you lead and advocate in NSC?**
- **Avoid resume dumping! Instead, reflect on an experience in depth.**
- **We want to know more about you! Create a narrative and be able to talk about your passions.**

APP QUESTIONS

Short Answer Options

*If money didn't matter, what would you do with
your life?*

Give us your top 5.

*You are asked to teach a class on anything you
want to. What is the class about and why?*

*Write about the last thing/person that made you
smile.*

How would you want to be remembered?

What are you reading right now?

**We are not trying to trick you, be as
creative as you want and let us know
more about your personality! Think
outside of the box for your answers,
members can't help you with this one.**

FAQ: "Give us your top 5... what?"

**Ans: that's the point of the question
being there, we want to see your
creativity!**

APPLICATION DONT'S

- Do NOT go over word limit! We will not read it.
- Avoid talking badly about someone in your life, keep it respectful.
- Avoid the use of AI, we can typically tell...
- Avoid resume dumping, it never answers the question being asked.
- Avoid surface level answers, dig deeper and set yourself apart.
- Avoid copying our mission and committee descriptions straight from our website.
- Avoid spelling your name/eid/email incorrectly, we cannot contact you if that is the case.
- Avoid waiting until the last minute, some applications do not go through if you submit right at 5 PM.

WEAK RESPONSE

Why do you want to join NSC? (200 words)

Ever since I was a kid, I've dreamt of helping people. Throughout my time at UT, I have struggled to find friends and build a community. Walking up and down speedway, no organization caught my attention until I stumbled upon the Natural Science Council. Filled with laughter and happiness, I could immediately tell that is the place I belonged. I have always wanted to be in a place of like-minded individuals that value the same things I do. NSC's mission to serve as a liaison between faculty and students offers me a way of helping my peers that I plan on utilizing. **(102 words)**

- Lacking explanation of personal motivations for serving CNS students
- Surface-level understanding of NSC's mission

STRONG RESPONSE

What unique identity, perspective, or skill set would you bring to the Natural Sciences Council? How do you foresee this contributing to your time in Council? (250 words)

One of my biggest “why”s this year has come from being a STEM instructor over the summer. Working with minority HISD students who come from environments riddled with issues related to status/relationships and a lack of nurturance for higher education endeavors has driven me to seek ways to support younger students in underserved communities. Being an instructor brought out my passion for connecting with and teaching youth, and I can see myself implementing my experience in STEM education and curriculum planning (e.g. how to create engaging lessons, activities, spaces) with the CI committee’s current initiatives.

On the other hand, my experience at “Girl’s State” made me realize the importance of establishing a space where genuine, vulnerable, and diverse stories can be uplifted and cherished. The program brought 500 girls around Texas to learn how to strengthen our personal values through debate, legislation, and government. We were challenged to create a space where we could have discourse while supporting each other’s individuality within a week of knowing one another, and we achieved that culture of rapport because we kept witnessing how the best ideas and stories were brought out when girls were cheering each other on. I want to be able to bring such spaces to life through NSC like Student Access does because as someone who would never have spoken about stigmatized or less spoken topics before, my spark for speaking my truth was ignited through watching other confident girls do the same in a supportive community. **(247 words)**

- Personal and specific
- Clear understanding of NSC’s work
- Shows growth and reflection

MEMBERSHIP EXPERIENCE

WHAT CAN YOU GET OUT OF THIS ORG?

Leadership

- Executive Board
- Committee Initiatives/Leads
- Lead your own projects/initiatives

Community

- Friends, peers, classmates, mentors, study buddies, roommates

Platform for Change

- We have the platform and resources to help fuel your passion project!





NEW MEMBER EXPERIENCE

New Member Retreat

Meet the Exec board
and your New
Member Class!

New Member Project

Build a new project
with your fellow
New Members!

Mentorship

Find a mentor that
you can rely on for
wisdom and
friendship.

Join a Committee

Find a committee
that aligns with your
interests.

Class Bonding

Build connections
that last a lifetime!

MUST KNOW'S

*GMs: **Monday 5-6pm** (mandatory)*

***ANYBODY** can write legislation/catalyst pieces*

Recommended donations are \$20 per semester

***Every** NSC member has voting power for legislation*

Inter-committee collaboration is huge!

*It's about a **10 hour commitment each 5-6 weeks***



RECRUITMENT TIMELINE



*GENERAL MEMBER
TESTIMONY*

QUESTIONS?

MEET & GREET

TALKING POINTS

What committee are you a part of (or interested in)?

Have you worked on any projects recently?

What has your experience in NSC been like?

What got you interested in NSC?

How does NSC work with administration?

How can non-members work with NSC?

What's your favorite NSC memory?

Questions?

Email **nsc.vice.president@gmail.com**

Fall 2025



Sign In Form

