



## Distinguished Fellowship Requirements

To be nominated for Distinguished Fellowship, APA members must demonstrate the following:

- A minimum of **eight (8) total years** as a General Member or Fellow of the APA
- **Initial Certification** by ABPN, AOA, RCPS, AOA, or an equivalent certification board held at any time
- **Three (3) letters of support** from current APA Distinguished Fellows or Distinguished Life Fellows
- **Completed nomination form** demonstrating excellence in **at least five (5)** of the following categories:

### Board Certification(s)

Once Distinguished Fellowship status is attained, maintenance of certification is encouraged but not required. If certified by a Board other than ABPN, AOA, or Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPS), details of the certification standards and process should be submitted so the APA Membership Committee (Committee) might evaluate the equivalence of that certification. Additional credit in this category may be earned through certification by other medical boards, sub-specialty boards, or psychoanalysis, or for a Ph.D. or Master's degree in a related field. Training without certification warrants no credit. Board certification in general psychiatry is worth category credit if the Board is current. **If Boards are expired/not active, no points will be awarded for this category.**

### Involvement in District Branch, Chapter, and State Association activities

Length and quality of service to the Chapter, District Branch or State Association are taken into consideration. Elected offices, committee work as a chair or member, newsletter work, website design/maintenance for the DB, political action committee oversight, or special projects at the district branch/chapter level are examples of activities earning credit in this category. Presentations at local meetings are usually considered under teaching activities. Substantial committee work together with elected office or membership on the Executive Council for several years will usually qualify the nominee for higher credit in this category. **Membership alone does not earn credit.**

### Involvement in other components and activities of APA

Includes involvement in Area Councils, the Assembly or Board of Trustees, and/or holding elected office. Also includes work on APA Councils, Committees, Task Forces, service on the editorial boards of APA publications, APA advocacy work or APA PAC leadership. Several years of activity in two or more of the above roles will usually qualify the nominee for category credit. A longer term of service or attaining elected office in one of the components mentioned will also usually qualify the nominee for category credit. **Presentations at APA meetings should be listed under *Teaching Contributions*.**

### Involvement in other medical and professional organizations

The role, length and quality of service, as well as the level of responsibility in the positions held, determine level of credit given. **Membership alone does not earn credit.** Organizations may include international organizations (e.g., World Health Organization, World Psychiatric Association), national organizations (e.g., American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, American Medical Association), state and county medical societies, associations representing other medical specialties (e.g., pediatrics or neurology), or related professions (e.g., psychology, anthropology, sociology).

### Participation in non-compensated mental health and medical activities of social significance

Includes voluntary activities or service demonstrating physician's social responsibility and humanitarian concerns. Voluntary service for mental health patient advocacy groups (includes service on boards or task forces, event/fundraising committees, outreach, and education), free mental health clinics, educational events, mental health fairs, mental health stakeholder or advocacy groups should be included in this category. Also includes volunteer service to survivors of natural or man- created disasters and medical humanitarian efforts (i.e., Doctors without Borders, Give an Hour, non-compensated medical service in a foreign country, etc.). Nominees should specify nature of contributions and time commitments. Greater weight given to service performed over a period of time, or on a short-term, but intensive basis.



## Distinguished Fellowship Requirements

### Participation in non-medical, non-income-producing community activities

The Committee looks for significant contributions to the political, religious, charitable, artistic, educational, athletic, or ethnic life of the community, i.e., contributions unrelated to medical income-producing activities. Mere membership in, or financial donation to, a community service organization does not earn credit. Supporting letters detailing the nominee's contributions from persons directly involved with these activities are very important in documenting this category. Nominees should specify the nature of their contributions and the time commitments made. Greater weight given to service performed over a period of time, or on a short-term but intensive basis.

### Clinical contributions

This category is meant to recognize excellence in direct patient care activity. Letters attesting to and detailing exemplary skill, knowledge, diagnostic ability, and therapeutic expertise are necessary. The Committee will recognize clinical distinction achieved in any of a spectrum of settings but may take special note of work done in public service or underserved settings. Many years of respected private practice or staff work in a clinic or inpatient unit will usually qualify the nominee for credit in this category, especially when supported by letters detailing clinical excellence. Supervision of others who provide direct patient care should be included in this category. **Service on hospital committees and other medical administrative work should be listed under *Administrative Contributions* below.**

### Administrative contributions

In this category, the Committee looks for advancement in administrative positions in institutional, community/public, or private settings, as well as the level of responsibility associated with the position(s). Intraspecialty administration as well as administration within broader mental health, medical or overarching venues count towards credit in this category. Responsibilities documented should include such non-clinical activities as program development and oversight, committee work, budgeting, management of human and financial resources, strategic planning or policy formulation. **Letters providing specifics, as well as the quality of the nominee's achievements in this area are needed.**

### Teaching contributions

Teaching in all settings is acceptable. Teaching may include academic instruction (i.e., medical school curriculum or didactics or didactics within a residency training program), clinical instruction (i.e., supervising clinicians), non-psychiatrist instruction (i.e., teaching nurses or allied health professionals), or others. In university settings, advancement in academic rank is taken into consideration, as is the extent and quality of teaching activities in other settings. There should be letters from faculty members, heads of departments or others familiar with the nominee's work. Teaching in non-institutional, non-professional settings should be supported by letters from individuals directly involved. **Presentations at scientific meetings should be included under this category.**

### Scientific and scholarly publications

Articles in journals, books (other than privately published) and book chapters should be listed in this category. Higher weight will be given to articles published in peer-reviewed, refereed and/or widely circulated journals and to lead authorship. Both number and quality of publications are considered in evaluating this category. **No credit is given for unpublished research.**