

becoming a Fellow

Application to the Fellows of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP) is for Nurse Practitioners who are invited to join, who meet the criteria, and who have significant achievements and/or contributions in at least two of the following priority areas: research, practice, education, and policy.

FAANP Selection Criteria

The selection criteria for membership to the Fellows of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP) include four priority areas (research, practice, education, and policy) that align with AANP's mission and goals. No one priority area is given preference over the others, although successful candidates must demonstrate exceptional contributions and professional achievements in two of the four areas. The scope, depth, and magnitude of the contributions should clearly demonstrate the progressive/pervasive or depth/breadth impact the candidate has had on the profession. Abbreviated descriptions of the achievements of active Fellows are available on the FAANP section of AANP.ORG. The list of active Fellows is interactive and each name is linked to the individual's *biosketch*.

The following list includes some examples of potential achievements from each priority area.

- **Research:** Investigator led research, translational research, and evaluative research with focus on NPs and their practice. Accomplishments documented could include the number of grants, awards, publications and other dissemination activities.
- **Clinical Practice:** Development of models to influence population health, establishing community based programs contributing to the local community's needs, entrepreneurial activities associated with program development or non-traditional practice sites, and influencing professional evidence-based practice standards.
- **Education:** Teaching innovations or presentations and curriculum development, NP educational strategies influencing outcomes.
- **Policy:** Involvement in local, regional, national and international issues, including exemplary service to professional organizations, and interacting with policy or decision makers that affect health policy.

Application Process

Prior to actually completing the application, the candidate may find a number of references helpful to pursue: *So You want to be a Fellow* at <http://www.aanp.org/NR/rdonlyres/E1705072-0792-458D-A16D-F591644481AE/0/SYWTBAF.pdf> and *Applying to FAANP* at <http://www.aanp.org/AANPCMS2/MemberCenter/Fellows+Program+%28FAANP%29/Applying+to+FAANP.htm>

Through the self-assessment process, applicants determine whether they have achievements in at least two of the four priority areas and on which two areas they will focus their application. They must ensure

their CV is current and accurate, as this document is important in dialoging with potential sponsors and as part of the review process, to support other application materials.

Once NPs have decided to pursue the application process, they must be invited by a primary sponsor from the previously mentioned active Fellows. Each active Fellow is limited to serving as the primary sponsor of only one candidate each year and some have sponsorship commitments a year or more in advance. Prior to sponsoring an applicant it is necessary to discuss the process with the applicant and review the applicant's initial material to determine if he or she believes the applicant is ready to submit an application. Once the sponsor is committed the sponsor and applicant should work together to develop the application. **The sponsor is responsible for assuring the material in the application is accurate and is a positive and highly favorable portrayal of the applicant.** If the sponsor does not believe the potential applicant is ready to apply, he/she may offer to advise the potential applicant on professional activities that would strengthen their application in the future. The primary sponsor may also assist the applicant in identifying the necessary second Fellow sponsor, who must endorse the application.. The sponsor will mentor the applicant in developing and submitting the application. The primary sponsor may also assist in identifying the necessary second Fellow sponsor, who must endorse the application. Fellows are not limited in the number of candidates for whom they can provide secondary sponsorship. As the application is prepared, the applicant and both sponsors complete the required application fields to address the candidate's abilities, accomplishments, and qualifications in the selected two priority areas. They must clearly articulate support for the two selected areas highlighted, building the case for selection to FAANP.

Once all materials are prepared, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all components are completed and submitted. All material must be submitted online, before the published deadline.

Potential deficiencies in applications include the following:

Incomplete application

Non-member applicant

Late submission

Inconsistent areas addressed by applicant and sponsors

Sponsor does not support the two areas of focus of the candidate.

Inadequately supports focus areas. Supports an area other than stated focus area.

Lack of clarity and specificity in descriptions of achievements

Lack of depth and breadth of accomplishments

Many publications but all older than two years