

Proposed Code of Procedure and Requirements for Fellowship Status

1. A member of The Gerontological Society of America, upon recommendation by a Fellowship Committee of a Section, may be awarded Fellowship status by the Council of the Society to be effective after a minimum membership in the Society of five years. To apply, Members-at-Large must affiliate with one of the Sections.
2. Individuals may obtain forms from the Central Office of the Society or from their Section. A completed form should be sent to the Central Office of the Society, which will place it in the hands of the appropriate committee. Committees of the Sections may identify selected individuals to apply for Fellowship status by requesting that they complete the standard procedure.
3. Central Office will check membership status/Fellowship Endorser's status before sending out applications for review.
4. Fellowship Committee of each Section shall consist of three or more Fellows of that Section. The recommendations of the Section committee are forwarded to the Society's Fellowship Committee.
5. Decisions of the Society's Fellowship Committee shall be presented to Council in writing. Council awards GSA Fellowship status.
6. Requirements for Fellowship are as follows:

The individual must meet the following minimum qualifications, as stated in Article II, Section 2. a. of the Society's bylaws (indicated in italics), in addition to the others which may be required by a particular Section (see item 6).

- 1) *The minimum standards for Fellow shall be (a) an advanced degree beyond the baccalaureate conferred by a graduate school of recognized standing, or a professional degree from an accredited professional institution; (b) prior status as a Member for at least five years and involvement in Society activities-must show evidence of a strong long-term commitment to the Organization, that can be demonstrated in a variety of ways, i.e., elected office in GSA; GSA abstract or journal reviewing; GSA committee membership for some duration; chair of GSA symposia; (c) active engagement at the time of nomination in the advancement of gerontology-active engagement at the time of nomination in the advancement of gerontology can be demonstrated by a variety of GSA activities and/or non-GSA activities which may include: (1) academic, e.g., teaching aging courses at university or medical school settings; (2) administration, e.g., chair of a department of gerontology or aging studies program; (3) clinical, e.g., working with older adults, caregivers, staff of geriatric facilities in innovative ways; supervision or students in geriatric practice; (4) research, e.g., administering grants, promoting methodological or statistical improvements; and (5) public policy, e.g., advocacy for older adults at local, state, regional, and/or national levels; (d) five years of acceptable professional experience; (e) evidence of unusual and outstanding contribution or performance in the field of gerontology-may be reflected in scholarly achievements such as publications in peer-reviewed journals, funded research projects, and/or chairing symposia at national conventions. Publication of 5 works represents a minimum. Development of innovative curricula for gerontology tracks, the winning of teaching awards for gerontology courses, directorship of nationally recognized aging-related policy programs are also examples of notable contributions; and (f) letter of endorsement by two current Fellows of the sponsoring Section-endorsements should clearly reflect how the candidate has had a visible, long-term impact on gerontology*

The individual must have been engaged in recognized work related to gerontology for at least five years prior to application such as research, teaching, administration, public or professional service.

The individual must have substantially demonstrated an active interest and responsibility in gerontology as shown by publications or presentations at scientific or professional meetings, or public leadership in one of the fields recognized as pertaining to gerontology.

- 2) *The requirement of an advanced or professional degree may be waived upon submission of evidence satisfactory to the Fellowship Committee of the Society of outstanding contribution or performance in gerontology.*

Individuals who have made substantial contributions but who do not meet the formal educational requirements or specifically recognized activity in gerontology can be nominated for Fellowship. In such instances, a supporting statement from the Section Fellowship Committee must accompany the application. This statement must give information about the accomplishments of the individual such that the requirements should be waived.

- 3) *Fellowship status is awarded by GSA Council. The approval process for Fellow shall include the following: (a) endorsement by two Fellows of the Society who are members of the Section through which application or nomination for Fellowship is being made; (b) review and nomination by the Fellowship Committee of the appropriate Section; (c) approval by the Society Fellowship Committee; and (d) award by Council.*
- 4) *Application for Fellow status shall be initiated through the Section of the individual's primary identification.*
- 5) *Fellow status is conferred only once by the Society.*
- 6) *A member whose application or nomination for Fellow is rejected at any stage may appeal by resubmitting the application or nomination with additional supporting information to the Society's Fellowship Committee.*

6. Additional criteria for specific Sections include:

Biological Sciences: either an MD degree or a doctoral degree in the field related to experimental biology and conferred by a graduate school of recognized standing; prior status as a member of the Section for at least three years; five years of research experience subsequent to the granting of the doctoral degree; evidence of meritorious performance in biology or a related field; publication of at least five papers (or the equivalent) prior to fellowship application, dealing with an aspect of the biology of the aging process; and active engagement in the advancement of gerontology at the time of the nomination. Names of the prospective Fellowship candidates will be placed annually on the Section ballot for comments by the Section members prior to the final judgement by the Fellowship Committee members.

Clinical Medicine: no additional criteria beyond that identified in the general requirements for Fellowship status.

Behavioral and Social Sciences: (1) doctoral degree conferred by graduate or professional school of recognized standing; (2) Current active involvement in the advancement of gerontology; (3) 5 years of post-doc gerontological experience; and (4) publication of at least 5 works in refereed journals which contribute to the literature on gerontology in the behavioral or social sciences. The requirement of a doctoral degree may be waived upon submission of evidence of outstanding contribution or performance in gerontology.

Social Research, Policy and Practice: minimum standards shall be (a) an advanced degree conferred by a graduate school of recognized standing, or a professional degree from an accredited professional institution; (b) prior status as a Member for at least five years; (c) active engagement at the time of nomination in the advancement of gerontology; (d) five years of acceptable professional experience subsequent to the granting of an advanced degree; and (e) unusual and outstanding contribution or performance in the field of gerontology as evidenced by:

- 1) *Expansion of knowledge base in gerontology:*
Authorship of studies, reports, books, monographs, etc. at least three of which required external evaluation for publication; other appropriate evidence might include, for example, primary representation in litigation with substantial impact upon the elderly or the design of innovative physical environments for the elderly. All candidates must present evidence of externally evaluated publication. However, it is recognized that new and significant information can also be developed from other professional efforts for members of certain professions. Evidence of such contributions may replace the more substantial publication expectations for the majority of candidates.

- 2) *Professional activities in gerontology:*
Examples of the kinds of activities that will merit consideration in this category include: officer in professional organization; member of editorial board; member of state or national task force or review committee; testimony before government committees; formal papers, critiques, and research findings presented at professional meetings that receive peer recognition as having made outstanding contributions to the areas of social research, planning and practice in the field of gerontology. (Stress is placed on scholarly contribution rather than on serving as a panel convener or discussant unless such roles also involve the development of a formal paper.)

- 3) *Public leadership in gerontology:*
Substantial and significant contributions in research, teachings, or program or policy development, or the planning and provision of professional services to the aging in various functional fields (e.g., community planning education, health, housing, law, transportation, social services). Moreover, evidence must be presented that the applicant's leadership contributions extend beyond immediate job responsibilities, and that such leadership is widely respected by peers for its creativity and overall value to the field of gerontology.

The Gerontological Society of America

APPLICATION FOR FELLOWSHIP

PREAMBLE

Fellowship is recognition by peers in The Gerontological Society of America for outstanding contributions to the field of gerontology and represents the highest class of membership. This recognition comes at varying points of a person's career and for diverse activities that included research, teaching, administration, public service, practice and notable participation in the Society. The GSA Council confers this status. However, applications will be judged by the appropriate Section criteria in additions to the general requirements of the Society. (These specific Section criteria are included with this application.)

APPLICATION

Please check the Section to which you are applying:
(CHECK ONE ONLY)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Sciences | <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral and Social Sciences |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Research, Policy and Practice |

Name/Degree _____ Telephone _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Year Joined GSA _____

Title of Current Position _____

Organization/Institution _____

Professional and scientific society memberships _____

Education and training (academic, professional and special study)

Institution	City	State	Dates	Degree
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Experience (List only positions relevant to gerontology, earliest position first)

Title	Organization	City	State	Dates	Full or part time
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IMPORTANT: Below give information about yourself which indicates the nature and extent of your activities related to gerontology, such as research underway, honors, and distinctions, lectures, offices held, consultantships, published articles and books, **which are not listed on your attached curriculum vitae**. Please characterize your association with GSA, specifying involvement such as attendance and presentation at annual meetings, interest groups, reviewer of abstracts or for GSA journals, etc.

ENDORSEMENTS: Two sponsors are required who are Fellows of The Gerontological Society of America and members of the section of the Society through which the application is submitted. Please send the attached endorsement forms to your two sponsors and ask them to return them directly to Central Office via email to ljohnson@geron.org by January 31. Letters of endorsement should be separate letters and **at least one should be from an organization other than the applicant's organization.**

The names of the two Section sponsors to whom I have sent the attached endorsement form are:

Sponsor's name _____ Date sent _____

Sponsor's name _____ Date sent _____

This application, your curriculum vitae, and any other enclosures must be submitted in order to be processed. Please submit on a 3.5 diskette to the address below or email them to ljohnson@geron.org. PLEASE DO NOT SEND COPIES OF PUBLICATIONS.

Fellowship Coordinator
The Gerontological Society of America
1030 15th Street, N.W.
Suite 250
Washington, DC 20005-1503

Please note that the deadline for receipt of all application materials, including letters of endorsement is January 31, 2006. Due to the time schedule for reviews, applications received after January 31, 2006 will not be submitted until the following year. NO EXCEPTIONS

4. What is the status of this individual among peers in his/her discipline?

5. Evaluation of publication(s)? (impact on field, books written, etc.)

6. Please comment on your evaluation of the commitment of this individual to the field of gerontology.

7. Contributions to The Gerontological Society of America's committees, meetings, Section roles? (please name)

Endorser's Signature

Endorser's name

Endorser's address