



FAQ's for Becoming and AWHONN Fellow

Do I need to be nationally certified to apply for AWHONN Fellowship?

As a candidate for AWHONN Fellowship, you need to be nationally certified or hold an advanced degree. Obtaining a national certification indicates a true and sincere commitment to your specialty and demonstrates excellence in your field. Obtaining an advanced degree demonstrates commitment to professional growth.

How do I nominate a colleague to become a Fellow?

If you know of an AWHONN member who demonstrates excellence and commitment to the field of women's health, obstetric, or neonatal nursing, encourage them to consider applying for the Fellows program.

How can I find qualified people to write letters of recommendation (sponsors)?

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact their mentors or any AWHONN member who has influenced their career over the years. AWHONN Award Recipients, Section Chairs, Committee Chairs, or past members of the Board of Directors who you have previously worked with are a great place to start. In addition, consider those who you have worked with who can speak to your expertise and commitment to the field.

Can current members of the Fellows Selection Committee, Board of Directors, or AWHONN employees serve as a sponsor and write a letter of recommendation?

Those members who are currently on the Fellows Selection Committee or the AWHONN Board of Directors cannot serve as a sponsor during the time they are serving their terms. AWHONN employees cannot serve as sponsors.

Are current members of the Board of Directors or AWHONN nursing staff eligible for Fellowship?

Current members of the AWHONN Board of Directors and current AWHONN employees are ineligible for Fellowship designation. Members who have served on the Board of Directors in previous years but are not currently serving on the board are eligible to apply for a Fellowship. Board of Directors may apply to be an AWHONN fellow the cycle after serving on the Board.

How many applicants can one sponsor nominate each year?

An AWHONN member may serve as the primary or secondary sponsor for up to (2) fellow applicants per year. There is no limit to the number of secondary sponsorships.

Do I need to be an AWHONN member to apply to be an AWHONN Fellow?

You must have at least 5 years of AWHONN membership and be a current **full** member to apply to be an AWHONN Fellow. Your years of membership do not have to be consecutive.

How does the application process work?

Applying includes the following process:

1. Complete a Self-Assessment and develop a personal statement. Take the time to review the application criteria carefully to be sure you have met the requirements.

2. Meet and discuss your readiness to apply with two identified sponsors. Share your personal statement with them and have a meaningful discussion with them about your readiness for Fellowship. If your identified sponsors don't feel you are at the level required for Fellowship, be open minded and work with them to strengthen your portfolio for nomination in the future.
3. Complete the application process and obtain letters of recommendation from your two sponsors. Applications are due by **Wednesday, March 1, 2023**, and require a \$75 non-refundable application fee.
4. Three members of the Fellowship Selection Committee will be assigned to review and score your application. Applicants will be notified by **Monday, April 3, 2023**, and will be inducted at the AWHONN National Convention in June 2023 in New Orleans, LA.
5. Inductees will also be recognized and celebrated through multiple channels including:
 1. The 2023 AWHONN National Convention
 2. Member HUBs
 3. Social media channels
 4. AWHONN website
 5. AWHONN Express

What is the responsibility of the applicant?

It is the responsibility of the applicant to present evidence of excellence in the areas of nursing practice, research, education, advocacy, or policy. The evidence must clearly identify achievements throughout their career that exceeded the expectations of their positions and job descriptions, and how the applicant influenced care at the regional, national, or international level.

Since the word count is limited, may I use abbreviations and acronyms in the application?

Abbreviations and acronyms may not be universal and can lead to confusion. The use of abbreviations and acronyms should be used cautiously.

Should I list grants and research funding?

Grants, research funding, and publications can be captured in detail in your curriculum vitae or resume. You can refer to them in the application fields as well, if applicable.

What are the commitments for active Fellowship?

Inducted fellows will be asked to have active AWHONN involvement on committees, task forces, section meetings, national committees, and mentoring. Fellows are encouraged to serve as strong leaders within the association and participate as role models and mentors for other AWHONN members.

How far back can I go in my career to find examples to use in my focus areas:

There is no timeline on the number of years of experience required to apply, however examples should detail your experience in caring for women, newborns, and patients across the reproductive spectrum and include contemporary issues.

May I reapply if I am not accepted during the current cycle?

If the Fellows Selection Committee feels that your listed accomplishments do not qualify for Fellowship during this application cycle, applicants are strongly encouraged to work with their identified sponsors in the upcoming year(s) to strengthen their application or work on initiatives and activities to make them more competitive. AWHONN Fellows must demonstrate outstanding contributions to clinical

practice, research, education, advocacy, or policy at the healthcare systems, regional, national, or international level that is reflective of AWHONN's mission and vision.

Is there a limit to how many Fellows are inducted each year?

No, there is no limit to the number of inductees.

Are there other costs associated with Fellowship above the \$75 application fee?

Yes, if you are selected to be an AWHONN Fellow, there will be an annual fee of \$150 due upon acceptance which will cover the induction ceremony, the Fellowship Medallion, and approximately one year of Fellowship (FAWHONN) designation. Annual fellowship renewal fees, which will be due at the time of your membership dues, will be \$150 in addition to annual AWHONN full membership dues. Applicants are encouraged to seek organizational support from their place of employment to help defray these costs as needed.

Must I be a full member to renew my Fellowship dues?

Only full members and retired members are eligible to renew a Fellowship designation. E-members and student members are not eligible to be an AWHONN Fellow.

If I am not selected for Fellowship, will I receive feedback on my application?

All decisions by the Fellows Selection Committee are final and no explanation of decisions will be provided to applicants or sponsors. If the applicant is not selected for fellowship, we recommend a follow-up discussion with your primary and secondary sponsor to determine the best way to prepare for candidacy in the future.