

2026 Code of Procedure and Requirements for Fellow Status

Nomination Process:

A nomination packet addressing the below criteria must be submitted to the central office of the Society via the online submission portal. Each section has a review panel that will review all applications submitted to that specific section. Upon recommendation by the Fellows Review Panel, fellow status may be awarded by the board of directors of the Society.

Fellows of the Society must remain members of the Society to maintain fellow status.

The minimum membership requirements for a Fellow shall be as follows:

1. At the time of the application deadline, the applicant or nominee must have completed 7 years of active membership in GSA at the Regular and Transitional membership levels.¹
 - a. FGSA designation is available to members who have affiliated with a primary section in BS, BSS, HS or SRPP.
 - b. FAGHE designation is available to members who have identified AGHE as their primary section or are the designated Academy representative for their institution.
2. A fellow must be nominated by a current GSA member fellow who is affiliated with the nominee's primary section. The application must include a single nomination letter signed by the nominator and at least two additional signatories who are not required to be GSA fellows.
3. To be nominated, members at large must be affiliated with one of the sections.

The minimum standards for a Fellow shall be as follows:

1. The individual must have either an advanced degree beyond the baccalaureate conferred by a graduate school of recognized standing, or a professional degree from an accredited professional institution.²
2. The individual must have been engaged in recognized work related to gerontology for at least 7 years prior to application. The work must demonstrate engagement in the following areas:³
 - a. *Current engagement in advancement of gerontology at the time of nomination.* Nominees can demonstrate such engagement in a variety of ways, including the following:
 - academic—such as teaching courses on aging
 - administrative—such as chairing a department of gerontology or an aging studies program, or administering an aging services or advocacy organization
 - clinical or other practice—such as working with older adults, caregivers, staff of geriatric facilities, or aging services organizations in innovative ways, or supervising students in geriatric practice

¹ Membership minimum is based on total years as regular and transitional member and is not required to be consecutive.

² The requirement of an advanced or professional degree may be waived upon submission of evidence satisfactory to the fellows review panels of the Society of substantial contribution or performance in gerontology. In such instances, a supporting statement from the section's fellows review panel must accompany the application. This statement must give information about the individual's accomplishments such that the requirements should be waived.

³ Activities and achievements during time as a student may be included.

- public policy—such as advocating for older adults at local, state, regional, or national levels
- research—such as administering grants, or promoting methodological or statistical improvements
- b. *Past scholarly achievements in the field of gerontology.* Nominees must have been engaged in recognized work related to gerontology and must have demonstrated an active interest and commitment to gerontology. This interest can be demonstrated in a variety of ways, such as the following:
 - developing innovative curricula for gerontology tracks
 - winning teaching awards for gerontology courses
 - leading nationally recognized aging-related programs
 - publishing in peer-reviewed journals
 - engaging in funded research projects
 - chairing symposia at national conventions
- c. *Involvement in GSA activities.*⁴ Nominees must show evidence of a strong and sustained commitment to the Society by participating in a variety of activities, such as the following:
 - performing reviews of GSA abstracts or journal submissions
 - volunteering on a committee/workgroup/advisory panel/member group program within GSA
 - volunteering in member engagement programs and products (webinars, workshops, workgroups, review panels, etc.)
 - serving as an Interest Group convener
 - publishing articles in GSA journals
 - applying and/or serving as a nominator for a GSA Award
 - participating in the GSA Mentor Match program as either a mentor or mentee
 - contributing to the GSA Annual Scientific Meeting by chairing symposia or giving presentations, promoting meeting to colleagues/students,
 - supporting GSA by giving to a donation fund
 - other relevant GSA activity involvement

3. Additional criteria for specific sections include the following:

Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education:

- a. Outstanding achievement in teaching
- b. Influential research publications or theoretical contributions on pedagogy, or gerontological/geriatric education and training
- c. Substantial contributions to AGHE through engagement in executive, committee, or advocacy initiatives on its behalf
- d. Leadership in administration and funding of gerontological or geriatric educational programs, including the development of new programs

⁴ Any involvement in the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education prior to the 2018 merger may be considered GSA activities; involvement as a student and/or transitional member is counted toward GSA engagement.

Behavioral and Social Sciences:

- a. Active involvement in the advancement of the field of gerontology
- b. Primary membership in the BSS section for at least 7 years
- c. Publication of a substantial body of recognized work contributing to the literature on gerontology in the behavioral or social sciences

Biological Sciences:

- a. Either a medical degree or a doctoral degree in gerontology related to experimental biology and conferred by a graduate school of recognized standing
- b. Prior status as a member of the section for at least 3 years
- c. Five years of research experience subsequent to the granting of the doctoral degree
- d. Evidence of meritorious performance in biology or a related field
- e. Publication of papers (or the equivalent) prior to fellows application, in areas relating to the biology of the aging process

Health Sciences:

- a. Primary membership in the Health Sciences section for at least 5 years

Social Research, Policy, and Practice:

- a. Primary membership in the SRPP section for at least 5 years
- b. Significant contributions to applied gerontological research, policy, or practice, as evidenced by one or more of the following:
 - dissemination of SRPP-relevant information including both peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed publications, white papers, presentations, authorship of books, books chapters, media or professionally recognized/technical reports and monographs related to older adults
 - history of advocacy for policies and/or engagement in legislative programs that improve the well-being of older people
 - leadership positions in organizations or agencies that are recognized for high-quality services to older adults and/or the development/implementation of applied innovative programs