Code of Procedure and Requirements for Fellowship Status
Revised for 2016

A member of The Gerontological Society of America, upon recommendation by the Fellowship Committee of a Section may be awarded Fellowship status by the Council of the Society to be effective after a minimum regular membership in the Society of five years. To be nominated, Members-at-Large must affiliate with one of the Sections.

A nomination packet must be sent to the Central Office of the Society via the submission process, which will submit the files to the appropriate committee.

Submission:
All packet materials must be submitted to https://fs8.formsite.com/GSA1945/form1/index.html by no later than 11:59pm (PST) on February 15, 2016 in English, in one packet as a PDF, and include the following:

a. Nomination letter (1) – See page 3, number 3 letter ‘a’
b. Endorsement letter (1) – See page 2, number 1 letter ‘f’
c. CV of nominee (include list of GSA activities)

The nominating letters should address the minimum criteria below plus the section specific criteria for the appropriate section.

Please address any questions to fellowship@geron.org.

The nominator will receive an e-mail confirmation within 1 business day.

The Central Office will check membership status of both the nominee and endorsers before sending out applications for review. Both parties must be active, dues paid members with the Society. The Fellowship Committees of each Section, which shall consist of three or more Fellows of that Section, will review the nominations and make recommendations to the GSA Fellowship Committee. A GSA Fellowship Section Representative or Chair may nominate an applicant for Fellowship status, but must recuse themselves from reviewing that particular application. Decisions of the Society's Fellowship Committee shall be presented to Council in writing. GSA Fellowship status is awarded by GSA Council.

Please note, once a nomination for fellowship has been received by the Central Office, there will be no communication regarding the status of the nomination until the respective Fellowship Committees has made their decision.

Requirements for Fellowship:
A Fellow shall be a member of the Society who is nominated by a Fellow of his or her
Section and met the standards described below. The Fellow Nominee must meet the following minimum qualifications, as stated in Article III, Section 2a, of the Society’s bylaws, in addition to others which may be required by a particular Section (see item 5).

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. 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, and additionally must have demonstrated an active interest and responsibility in gerontology.
   c. Evidence of significant contribution to or performance in the field of gerontology that is reflected in scholarly achievements, such as publications in peer-reviewed journals; funded research projects; chairing symposia at national conventions; development of innovative curricula for gerontology tracks; winning of teaching awards for gerontology courses; and/or directorship of nationally recognized aging-related policy programs are also examples of notable contributions;
   d. Prior status as a Regular Member for at least five years and involvement in Society activities – nominees must show evidence of a strong and sustained commitment to the Society, which can be demonstrated in a variety of ways, for example, by having held elected office in GSA, performing reviews of GSA abstracts or journal submissions, serving on a GSA committee, publishing articles in GSA journals, or contributing to the GSA Annual Scientific Meeting by chairing symposia or giving platform presentations.
   e. Active engagement at the time of nomination in the advancement of gerontology, which can be demonstrated by a variety of GSA activities and/or non-GSA activities including but not limited to:
      1) academic, e.g., teaching aging courses;
      2) administration, e.g., chair of a department of gerontology or aging studies program or administration of an aging service or advocacy organization;
      3) clinical or other practice, e.g., working with older adults, caregivers, staff of geriatric facilities or aging services organizations in innovative ways; supervision of 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;
   f. Letters of endorsement by two current Fellows of the sponsoring Section – endorsements should clearly reflect how the candidate meets the criteria for Fellowship, has had a visible, sustained impact on gerontology, and has made regular contributions to the Society.

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 the GSA Council. Fellow status is conferred only once by the Society. The approval process for Fellowship shall include the following:
   a. Endorsement by two Fellows (one being the nominator) of the Society who are members of the Section through which 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;
   d. Award by Council.

4) A member whose nomination for Fellow is rejected at any stage may appeal by resubmitting the nomination with additional supporting information to the GSA Fellowship Committee.

5) Additional criteria for specific Sections include:

**Biological Sciences:**
   a. Either an MD degree or a doctoral degree in the field 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 three 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 fellowship application, in areas relating to the biology of the aging process.

**Health Sciences:** no additional criteria beyond that identified in the general requirements for Fellowship status.

**Behavioral and Social Sciences:**
   a. Current active involvement in the advancement of gerontology;
   b. Five years of post-doctoral gerontological experience;
   c. Publication of at least 5 works in refereed journals which contribute to the literature on gerontology in the behavioral or social sciences.

**Social Research, Policy, and Practice:**
   a. Membership in the section for at least one year, and preferably more;
   b. Unusual and outstanding contribution or performance in the field of gerontology in relation to social research, policy, and/or practice, as evidenced by one or more of the following activities:
1. Expansion of knowledge base in gerontology (e.g., authorship of studies, reports, books, monographs, or related products, at least three of which required external evaluation for publication; 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 knowledge can also be developed through other professional efforts for members of certain professions, in which case evidence of such contributions may replace the more substantial publication expectations typical for the majority of candidates. For individuals whose primary contribution is in the academic realm, it is expected that a minimum of five publications that make substantial contributions to gerontological knowledge will have been published in peer-reviewed journals or other influential outlets related to social research, policy, and/or practice.

2. Professional activities in gerontology, including but not limited to serving as an officer in a professional organization; being a member of an editorial board state or national task force, or review committee; providing testimony before government committees; authoring, presenting, or discussing formal papers, critiques, and research findings presented at professional meetings that receive peer recognition as having made an outstanding contribution to social research, policy and/or practice. Of note, more importance 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 including activities such as substantial and significant contributions in research, teaching, or program or policy development; planning and provision of professional services to the aging in various functional fields (e.g., community planning education, health, housing, law, transportation, social services); primary representation in litigation with substantial impact upon the older adults. 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.