Applying for Fellow status in Division 17: Frequently Asked Questions

What is Fellow status in APA?

“Fellowship is a special distinction for APA members who have received a doctoral degree in psychology or a related field from a regionally accredited institution and can show evidence of unusual and outstanding contributions in the field of psychology. Fellow status requires that a person's work have had a national impact on the discipline beyond a local, state or regional level. A high level of competence or steady and continuing contributions are not sufficient to warrant Fellow status. National impact must be demonstrated. Application for Fellow status is open to any APA Member who meets the criteria of both sponsoring division and the American Psychological Association. Each division establishes its own criteria for nominations to initial Fellow status – sometimes the same as APA criteria, but usually involving additional requisites relevant to that division.” (APA On-Line Fellows Application Platform Instructions for Applicants). For more information, go to the APA Fellows webpage.

There are 2 categories of Fellow status:

1. Initial Fellows - APA members who do not hold fellow status through a sponsoring division.
2. Current Fellows – APA members who have been elected to fellow status through a sponsoring division.

Are there any minimum requirements to apply for Fellow status in APA?

The minimum requirements to apply for Fellow status in APA are the following:

- Doctoral degree based in part on a psychological dissertation.
- Prior status as a member for at least one year, and nomination by a division to which the member belongs.
- Active engagement in the advancement of psychology.
- Five years of acceptable postdoctoral experience.
- Evidence of unusual and outstanding contribution or performance in the field of psychology.

What is Fellow status in Division 17?

“Fellowship is an honor bestowed upon members who have made “unusual and outstanding contributions or performance in the field of psychology.” Their contributions are viewed as having enriched or advanced Counseling Psychology well beyond the level that normally would be expected of a professional psychologist. Fellows are selected by peers on the basis of evidence of sustained superior performance that is recognizable at a national (rather than local or regional) level.” (https://www.div17.org/fellowship-nominations)
“Fellowship in the Society of Counseling Psychology (SCP; Division 17) involves meeting the following two primary criteria: Sustained unusual and outstanding contribution or performance in the field of psychology. The contributions or performance, to a substantial degree, should further the mission of the society.

[Click here](#) for information on the division criteria for Fellowship in Division 17.

**How do I apply for Fellow status in Division 17?**

“The process to apply to be an APA fellow is done via the APA Online Fellows Application Platform. (Please note, you must log in to MyAPA to access the application.) This system allows nominees, endorsers and division fellows chairs to submit all required documents online.” ([APA On-Line Fellows Application Platform Instructions for Applicants](#)).

If you are applying for initial APA Fellowship (i.e., not currently a fellow in another division of APA) through Division 17, these are the additional criteria:

1. Prior membership as an APA and Society for Counseling Psychology (SCP) member for at least one year (APA and SCP).
2. Active engagement at the time of nomination in the advancement of psychology in any of its aspects (APA).
3. Five years of acceptable professional experience subsequent to the granting of the doctoral degree (APA).

[Click here](#) to learn more about the nomination information for Fellow status in Division 17.

**If I am already a Fellow in another APA division, how do I apply for fellow status in Division 17?**

“Current fellows are APA members who are already fellows in other divisions, and may also become fellows in another division without approval from the APA Fellows Committee. Once an APA member has been approved by the Fellows Committee, Board of Directors and Council of Representatives for fellow status in one division, they do not need further approval from APA to become a fellow in additional divisions. It is the responsibility of each division to determine the eligibility of current fellows and to notify APA of their election.” ([APA Fellows Webpage](#)).

“Nominees who are already Fellows of APA (i.e., a fellow in a division other than 17) must submit the following to the SCP Fellowship Committee:

1. A current vita
2. A self-statement detailing contributions, evidence to substantiate the contributions, and impact on counseling psychology as indicated in the primary criteria above.
3. One letter of recommendation from an SCP Fellow that documents how the nominee has met the primary criteria discussed above.” (https://www.div17.org/fellowship-nominations)

4. The above materials must be emailed to Division 17 Fellows Chair by the stated deadline to receive full consideration. (Click link for more details: https://www.div17.org/fellowship-nominations)

Can I submit an application for fellow to more than one division?

"Applicants may apply for initial Fellows status in up to two divisions as long as they receive Division Fellows Chair statements from both divisions. Upon submit of the second Fellows application, Applicants will be asked to mark one as Primary. If no application is marked as primary, the default primary application will be the first application submitted by the applicant. Only the primary application will be submitted to the APA Fellows Committee for review.

If the Fellows Committee recommends the primary application for Fellows status, then the secondary application will be automatically recommended. Likewise, if the primary application is not recommended, then the secondary application will also not be recommended." (APA On-Line Fellows Application Platform Instructions for Applicants).

Click here for information on the division criteria for Fellowship in Division 17.

I’d like to know who are Fellows in Division 17. Where can I get this information?

The names of Fellows in Division 17 can be found on the Division 17-Society of Counseling Psychology website for the Society of Counseling Psychology (https://www.div17.org/fellowship)

I’m eager to write a letter of endorsement to support an applicant for Fellowship in Division 17! What do I need to know?

“Endorsers are APA Fellows who have agreed to support a member’s nomination for fellow status. Endorsers are required to complete the Fellows evaluation form and provide a written endorsement letter. As part of the application process, nominees are required to provide the name and email address of three APA Fellows who have agreed to endorse their application.

Upon submitting the application, each endorser will receive an email at the address provided containing a hyperlink that will allow the endorser to complete the Fellows evaluation form and provide a written endorsement letter.” For consideration for Fellowship in Division 17, endorsers must be a Fellow of Division 17, complete the Fellows evaluation form, and provide a written endorsement letter.

- Endorsement letters that are helpful to applicants are ones that clearly communicate to the Fellows Committee the “…specific impact of the candidate on the profession or field of

In particular, endorsement letters are particularly helpful to applicants if the letters address and clearly describe the applicant’s impact within Division 17 or the profession of counseling psychology.

**Ok, I think I’ve got it! What is the timeline to submit my materials?**

Great! Here are the deadline dates:

- Nominations are due September 7, 2021
- Completed applications are due October 11, 2021

To nominate someone for Fellow status, email the following to the Division 17 Fellows Chair:

- Person’s name and email address
- A copy of the nominee’s Vita
- Note that self-nominations are encouraged as well!

If you are applying for initial fellowship or if you are a current APA Fellow and applying for Division 17 Fellow status, please visit the APA Fellows Webpage or the Division 17 webpage for additional information. For application as a new or initial fellow, all materials need to be uploaded through the APA online system by the candidate and his/her nominees.

**I’ve submitted all my materials and confirmed that all my endorsement letters have been submitted. Now what?**

- The Fellowship Committee Members of Division 17 reviews all completed submissions received by the application deadline. The deadline for completed applications is October 11, 2021.
- Upon completion of the review of all completed submissions, during the midyear meeting of the SCP Executive Board, Fellows of the SCP Executive Board review and vote on those candidates forwarded for recommendation to them by the Division 17 Fellowship Committee.
- In March of each year, the APA Fellows Committee then considers each nomination forwarded to them to determine:
  - Recommendation for election of the candidate to Fellow status
  - Non-recommendation for election of the candidate to Fellow status
  - Deferment of the nomination based on the need for additional information
The decision is then forwarded to the APA Board of Directors and the APA Council of Representatives for their review and decision. For additional details on the timeline and process, visit the APA Fellows webpage.

For additional information and answers to questions, visit the Division 17 Fellows webpage.