

SCP (Division 17) Fellow Criteria (updated 2023 and in current use)

Primary Criteria

Fellowship in the Society of Counseling Psychology (SCP; Division 17 of the APA) involves meeting the following two primary criteria:

1. Sustained unusual and outstanding contribution or performance in the field of psychology
2. The contributions or performance, to a substantial degree, should further the mission of the society.

Materials to support fellowship should address these aspects of the contribution or performance:

1. A description of the contribution or performance
2. Documentation that the contribution or performance has had demonstrable and substantial effect on research, policy, practice, training, or social justice.
3. A cogent explanation of how the contribution or performance was consistent with and further the mission of the Society of Counseling Psychology.
4. The contribution or performance can be in any area of psychological activity, including, but not limited to research, practice, advocacy, training, and professional service. The description of contribution or performance must clearly state the nature of the contribution or performance and the range/degree of impact. For example, noteworthy contributions or performances *might* include:
 - a. Research that results in the development of new theory or practice
 - b. Theoretical work that results in innovative practice or new research directions
 - c. Consultation with agencies that has substantial impact on the way services are delivered
 - d. Development of new research methods that results in sophisticated tests of hypotheses
 - e. Leadership in groups that influence policy
 - f. Edited handbooks or major reviews that form the basis of understanding of an area
 - g. Development of new training models that are widely adopted
 - h. Production of films, videos, computer programs, or assessment instruments with a demonstrable and major impact in the field
 - i. Leadership and administrative contributions that have had substantial impact on the advancement of counseling psychology as a field

To the extent possible, evidence should be presented to substantiate the contribution. For example, documentation of work that influences theory may refer to citation rates, references in theoretical development or reviews, statements of eminent theoreticians or researchers in accompanying letters. Documentation of influence on practice may refer to agencies that use the treatment model, statements by agency directors, and references

in practice publications. Documentation of contributions to policy may include chairpersonships of committees that produced APA policy statements, testimony at legislative hearings that influences legislation, and statements by psychologists active in policy work.

Numbers of publications, committee assignments, offices in organizations, effective teaching, editorial board service, and sustained practice of psychology are admirable accomplishments but do not provide evidence of unusual contribution or performance. The critical determination is how the activities of the psychologist actually had a lasting and widespread effect on the science and practice of psychology. For example, academic psychologists at research universities are expected to have a strong scholarly record, but fellowship is reserved for those whose scholarship (if that is the claimed contribution) has or will have a lasting impact on theory, research, or practice. Similarly, psychologists in practice are expected to deliver effective services to clients, but fellowship is reserved for those whose clinical activities (if that is the claimed contribution) have influenced theory, research, and practice in a broader context. Special awards or recognition by regional or national groups for sustained contributions to science, practice, or teaching are also evidence of unusual contributions.

The final piece of the fellowship documentation is to show that the unusual contribution or performance is consistent with and furthers the mission of the Society of Counseling Psychology. For example, central to our mission is the focus on providing effective services to populations that traditionally have need and are underserved; research, practice, or service that demonstrably benefits these populations would support this requirement for fellowship in Division 17. Contributions made through leadership in APA governance (e.g., Boards, Committees, Taskforces) related to counseling psychology and offices in SCP and related organizations *may* also further the mission of SCP, but service to APA and SCP is not required for Fellowship. **Nominees, nominators, and letter writers are expected to be knowledgeable of the mission of SCP (see www.div17.org/downloads.htm), and to discuss how the nominee's contributions are related to the science and practice of counseling psychology.**

Additional Criteria

In addition to the above primary criterion, the following criteria are stipulated by APA and the Society of Counseling Psychology:

1. Receipt of a doctoral degree based in part on a psychological dissertation, or from a program primarily psychological in nature and conferred by a graduate school of recognized standing (APA).
2. Prior and current membership as an APA and SCP member for at least one year (APA and SCP). Membership needs to be up to date, including renewals, for application to be submitted.
3. Active engagement at the time of nomination in the advancement of psychology in any of its aspects (APA).
4. Five years of acceptable professional experience subsequent to the granting of the doctoral degree (APA).

Application Process (nomination, application and election)

Any member or Fellow of Division 17 may make a nomination and self-nominations are also acceptable.

- a. Nominees who are *not currently Fellows* of any division of APA must submit to the SCP Fellowship Committee:
 1. A Uniform Fellows Application (see <http://www.apa.org/membership/fellows/index.aspx> for detailed instructions under Initial APA Fellow Application section)
 2. A self-statement detailing contributions, evidence to substantiate the contributions, and impact on counseling psychology as indicated in the primary criteria above.
 3. A current vita (prepared as noted in the UFA)
 4. Three letters of endorsement from APA Fellows, at least two of whom are SCP Fellows, that document how the nominee has met the primary criteria discussed above.
 5. The Qualification Self-Checklist for Prospective Applicants for Fellow Status
 - To be elected a Fellow of SCP and APA, nominations must be approved by (a) Fellows of the SCP Executive Board upon recommendation of the SCP Fellows Committee, (b) the APA Membership Committee, (c) APA Board of Directors, and (d) the APA Council of Representatives.
- b. Nominees who *are already Fellows* of APA (i.e., a division other than 17) must submit 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.
 - Election to Fellow of SCP for existing APA Fellows only requires the approval of the Fellows of the SCP Executive Board upon recommendation of the SCP Fellows Committee.

Election Process

The Fellowship Committee Members of Division 17 reviews all completed submissions received by the application deadline. The deadline for completed applications can be found on the SCP Website: <http://www.div17.org/about-scp/fellowship/fellowship-nominations/>

1. 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.

2. 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
3. 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](#).