

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR ENDORSERS

The following is excerpted from a letter sent by a Division Fellows Chair to endorsers for each of the division's Fellow applicants. The letter encourages endorsers to provide very strong, concrete details when writing endorsements for Fellow status. Feel free to excerpt or include these helpful instructions with your correspondence to endorsers.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ENDORSERS

How to write an effective endorsement for Fellow Status

Under APA rules, Fellow status is an honor bestowed upon members who have made an “unusual and outstanding contribution or performance in the field of psychology.” To achieve Fellow status, members must be recommended by a Division of which they are a member and also be approved by the APA Membership Committee and by Council. The individual thus becomes a Fellow of APA as well as a Fellow of the Division.

The most effective endorsement letters are those that systematically and specifically speak to the APA Fellows criteria on the attached form. It is your job to make clear how the candidate meets these criteria. The candidate's assembled dossier will be assessed by the Division's Fellows Committee and the APA Membership Committee based on the documented achievements and accomplishments of the nominee and the endorsement by three Fellows of the APA.

Although several steps are involved in electing Fellows, the most critical aspect will be the supporting letters that are based upon your considered judgement and detailed knowledge of the potential Fellow's accomplishments. The candidate will need to provide you with a CV and other materials to help you with your assessment. The nature of the “unusual and outstanding contributions or performance in the field of psychology” should be specified in sufficient detail so that Fellow Committee members (both APA and the Division) who may be unacquainted with the candidate's work can provide an evaluation that speaks to Fellows criteria. This is a chance to put all modesty aside and really make visible the impact of the candidate's contributions.

Our Division Committee certainly hopes to recognize as many members who deserve to become Fellows of APA. However, knowing the detailed inspection made of the endorsers' justifications, your precise statements are really the crux of the decision. **THE MORE CLEARLY YOU CAN INDICATE THE UNIQUE CONTRIBUTIONS (TO BOTH PSYCHOLOGY AND TO THE DIVISION'S MISSION), THE MORE LIKELY THE CANDIDATE WILL BE SUPPORTED.** So please take the time to be concrete, specific, operational in your endorsement. We have been told that generic statements of support will not be sufficient. Finally, our prior experience has been that sometimes deadlines go by before we know it.

The deadline for returning your endorsements is: November 15th ____. This is an absolute deadline if the candidate is to meet APA deadlines!