



Application Process for Initial APA and APA Division 36 Fellows

APA Fellows Statement

Fellows shall be members of the association who are interested in the advancement of psychology as a science and as a profession. Fellow status is an honor bestowed upon APA members who have shown evidence of unusual and outstanding contributions or performance in the field of psychology. Fellow status requires that a person's work has had a national impact on the field of psychology beyond a local, state or regional level.

Criteria for APA Fellow Status

- 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

Initial Application for APA Fellow Status and APA Division 36 Fellow Status

Applications for APA Fellow Status are initiated by application through one of APA's 54 Divisions. The application procedures for current APA and Division members seeking recognition as a Fellow of APA and Division 36 are:

- (1) Confirm your membership eligibility. Applicants must be current members of APA and the Division. If not currently a member and/or their membership has lapsed, the applicant must apply for membership or reinstatement; however, the membership will not take effect until January 1. Unfortunately, this means that an applicant cannot access the portal or apply until January 1, which is past the division's application deadline.
- (2) Review the criteria for APA Division 36 Fellow (see below);
- (3) Inform Edward Shafranske, Ph.D., ABPP, of your intent to apply for Fellow status via eshafran@pepperdine.edu;
- (4) Prepare the following application materials:
 - a. Applicant Statement
 - b. Current CV
 - c. Select three current Fellows of APA Division 36 (see the list of current fellows), contact them and obtain their willingness to provide an endorsement statement and obtain their contact information.

- (5) Initiate the application process by signing in to the APA Fellows Program portal via:

https://apply-apa-fellows.apa.org/?_gl=1*9yec8i*_gcl_aw*R0NMLjE3NTg2NTMzMjQuRUFJYUIRb2JDaE1JcWNMYjFzWHZqd01WTUlqduFSMDJkUV9wRUFBWUFTQUFFZ0tleWZEX0J3RQ..*_gcl_au*MTM0MTQ0MzU2NC4xNzU4NTUyMjY3*_ga*ODA2OTY3OTAzLjE3NTg1NTlyNjc.*_ga_SZXLGDJGNB*czE3NjAwNDU2MjgkbzYkZzEkdDE3NjAwNDYwMDAkajU2JGwwJGgw

All materials must be submitted to the APA Fellows Portal by December 15, 2025, for consideration in the 2026 application cycle. Announcement of the status of the application will be made on or about February 15, 2026.

Application Process for Current APA Fellows and APA Division 36 Members

Current APA fellows who are members of Division 36 should apply for Division 36 fellow status through an expedited review. The application process is as follows:

- (1) Confirm your membership eligibility. Applicants must be current members of APA and the Division. If not currently a member and/or their membership has lapsed, the applicant must apply for membership or reinstatement.
- (2) Review the criteria for APA Division 36 Fellow (see below);
- (3) Inform Edward Shafranske, Ph.D., ABPP, of your intent to apply for Division Fellow status via eshafran@pepperdine.edu;
- (4) Submit the following application materials to Dr. Shafranske (not the APA Fellows Portal):
 - a. Applicant Statement
 - b. Current CV
 - c. Identify a current APA Division 36 Fellow, who is familiar with your contributions, and request a letter of endorsement. Provide the name and contact information of the endorser to Dr. Shafranske. Dr. Shafranske will formally request the letter from the psychologist.

All materials must be submitted to Dr. Shafranske by April 1, 2026, for consideration in the 2026 application cycle. Announcement of the status of the application will be made on or about June 1, 2026.

APA Division 36 Criteria for Fellow

In considering applicants for Fellow status, Division 36 emphasizes research and theoretical work in the psychology of religion and spirituality as well as psychological commentary and theory related to religious/spiritual inquiry. Research in other areas may be considered as additional evidence of advanced achievement in the science and professional of psychology.

Specific criteria that may be taken into account include the following:

1. Election or appointment to the editorship or the editorial board of a well-recognized psychological journal or monograph series related to the Division's interests.
2. Election or appointment to state, provincial, regional, national, or international positions, committees, commissions, or offices in psychology, including leadership positions in Division 36.
3. Evidence of outstanding teaching, including innovative course or curriculum development with significant and broad influence beyond one's own institution.
4. Active participation indicative of leadership in other relevant organizations involving psychologists, e.g., the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, the International Society for the Psychology of Religion, American Association for the Advancement of Science, etc., or appointment to study sections and task forces of major national or international foundations or institutes.
5. Authorship or editorship of a book or textbook dealing with the psychology of religion, and spirituality, religious/spiritual issues and behavior seen from a psychological perspective, or other areas of convergence among religion/spirituality, psychology, psychotherapy, or pastoral counseling.
6. Extensive and far-reaching leadership and instructional participation in continuing education projects established in the service of advanced study in the psychology of religion and spirituality or closely related areas.
7. Special recognition through honorary degrees or distinguished service awards and citations if such recognition represents accomplishments of broad consequence to the science or profession of psychology.
8. Service as head, director, chairperson, coordinator, or founder of a department or agency, if this service results in unique models for the delivery of psychological services in the religious/spiritual sector.
9. Evidence or documentation that the nominee has enriched the depth and scope of psychology as it relates to religious issues on a scale well beyond competence as a practitioner, research scientist, or teacher.
10. Outstanding performance as a provider of psychological services as attested by documentation and publications. The provision of these services must have positive consequences for the advancement of psychology within the religious/spiritual sector and should include innovative approaches to the understanding and solving of individual, group, and organizational problems.
11. Recognition of expertise in the psychology of religion and spirituality or related areas by virtue of invitations to make presentations at major universities and conferences.