

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION BOOKLET

2008-2009



Education • Information • Advocacy • Membership

ACP
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
INTERNAL MEDICINE • Distinguished Society

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- n **Membership Classes**
- n **Requirements and Guidelines**
- n **Dues**

Introduction

The American College of Physicians (ACP) was founded in 1915 to uphold the highest standards in medical education, practice, and research. The American Society of Internal Medicine (ASIM) was established in 1956 to explore and influence socioeconomic and political questions that affect the practice of medicine. At their respective March 1998 meetings, the Board of Regents and Board of Governors of ACP and the Board of Trustees of ASIM voted to approve a formal merger agreement. Incorporated on July 1, 1998, the new organization was originally called ACP–ASIM. However, on April 1, 2003, the merged organization resumed the original name, American College of Physicians. ACP continues its mission, which emphasizes the enhancement of the quality and effectiveness of health care by fostering excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine.

Today, ACP is the largest medical specialty society in the world, with 126,000 members, including 24,000 medical students. ACP is the only society of internists dedicated to establishing standards; providing information and education; advocating for the public, patients, and members; promoting research; and recognizing excellence in the field. Through chapter scientific meetings, postgraduate courses, self-assessment programs, and the publication of *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *ACP Journal Club*, *ACP Internist*, *ACP Hospitalist*, policy papers, and books, ACP strives to meet the educational, intellectual, and advocacy needs of its members. ACP's ethics standards are articulated in the *Ethics Manual*, currently in its fifth edition. ACP's ethics and diversity standards are noted in this booklet.

ACP is governed by its Board of Regents, which is responsible for establishing policies and overseeing operations. The major areas of policy development are education, health and public policy, ethics, membership, and publications.

ACP is organized into chapters and regions in the United States, Canada, Central and South America, and Japan, each represented by a locally elected Governor. Collectively, the Governors constitute the Board of Governors that advise the Board of Regents. Each Governor is responsible for managing his or her chapter or region, which includes recruiting members, endorsing candidates for Membership and Fellowship, planning local scientific meetings, transmitting and disseminating College policy to local members, obtaining member input relevant to policy development, and developing programs to meet the needs of the Associates and Medical Student Members in the chapter. To learn more about how chapters are structured and how they operate, please visit the College's Web site at www.acponline.org/college/about_acp/chapters/.

Table of Contents

Membership Classes	1
Requirements for Membership.....	6
Basic Requirements for Advancement from Membership to Fellowship	8
Requirements for Direct Election to Fellowship without Previous Election to Membership.....	12
General Guidelines	14
Special Adjustments to Requirements for Physicians Outside the United States and Canada.....	15
Dues and Fees	16
For More Information	17

Membership Classes

The seven classes of membership in ACP are Affiliate, Medical Student Member, Associate, Member, Fellow, Honorary Fellow, and Master.

Affiliate Membership

In December 2004, the College established Affiliate membership for nonphysician health care professionals. Affiliate membership is available to physician assistants who are Fellow Members of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA).

Benefits of Affiliate membership include online access to *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *ACP Journal Club*, PIER (Physicians' Information and Education Resource), and The Center for Practice Improvement and Innovation; discounts on College programs, publications, and services; and continuing medical education programs at member prices.

Fellow Members of the AAPA must complete a brief application and submit it to ACP headquarters along with dues payment (see "Dues and Fees" section). The application form and a brochure detailing the benefits of Affiliate membership can be accessed via ACP Online or by request from the College's Customer Service Department. All membership benefits are activated upon receipt of annual dues. Annual renewal of Affiliate membership is contingent upon continued membership in the AAPA.

Medical Student Membership

In the fall of 1994, a free Medical Student Membership class was introduced for medical students enrolled in U.S. or Canadian medical schools or in schools outside the United States where an ACP chapter exists. In 2008, Medical Student Membership was expanded to include all medical schools recognized by the country of origin and included in the International Medical Education Directory. Benefits for international students are slightly different. Medical Student Members enjoy special student discounts on various products; free access to the online versions of College journals, annals.org and acpjc.org; free attendance at ACP's annual Internal Medicine meeting and local chapter scientific meetings; *Internist Weekly*, a weekly e-mail service featuring hot topics from *ACP Internist*; the Medical Student e-newsletter, *IMPact*; and access to select members-only sections of ACP Online, the ACP Web site.

Candidates for Medical Student Membership need only complete a brief application, apply by phone at 800-523-1546, extension 2400, or apply through the Web site at www.acponline.org.

Associate membership

Associate membership is a special category of temporary membership for physicians in training, fourth-year medical students upon acceptance into an approved residency program, and international medical graduates who are still in training. The term is generally limited to the four years after graduation from medical school upon being accepted into an approved postgraduate training program in internal medicine or one of its subspecialties, in a combined internal medicine residency program, in neurology, or while serving in the military or public health service before completing postgraduate training in internal medicine. Associate membership can be extended for as long as the physician is in residency or fellowship training. Associates enjoy all membership privileges except the right to hold office or to propose candidates for membership. After two years of membership in good standing, Associates have the right to vote in chapter elections and town meetings.

Candidates for Associate membership must submit an application with dues payment. Acceptance is subject to verification of enrollment in an approved training program. Benefits are activated upon election and receipt of dues.

Associates who advance directly to Membership before Associate membership ends are eligible for up to five years of dues discounts. See Dues and Fees section for more information.

An application for Associate membership can be downloaded from ACP Online (www.acponline.org), requested from the program director, or obtained by calling the Customer Service Department at 800-523-1546, extension 2600, direct at 215-351-2600, or by e-mailing custserv@acponline.org. Questions about eligibility requirements should be directed to Member Credentialing at 800-523-1546, extension 2700, or can be e-mailed to mbrservices@acponline.org.

Membership

Membership in ACP is a benchmark in the career of an internist. It is an expression of solemn dedication to the highest standards of medical practice, education, and research, and provides peer recognition of continued commitment to professional excellence.

Members have the right to vote and to exercise all privileges of membership, except the right to hold office, sponsor candidates for Membership and Fellowship, or use the letters of ACP in connection with their professional activities. Membership benefits are detailed on the College's Web site, www.acponline.org.

Contingent upon favorable review of their credentials, candidates are deemed elected to Membership by the Board of Regents.

Associates in ACP chapters outside of Japan whose dues are paid are automatically advanced to Membership in the College upon certification in internal medicine, a combined internal medicine specialty, or neurology, or documentation of their successful completion of an approved program. Associates may choose not to advance to Membership, or may request an extension of Associateship in lieu of automatic election to Membership.

Physicians who are not Associates and who have been certified in internal medicine, a combined internal medicine specialty, or neurology need only complete a short Membership application and submit it with dues payment. Physicians who have not been certified, but who have successfully completed training in an acceptable program, are also eligible for Membership. Benefits are activated upon election and receipt of dues.

All candidates for Membership who reside in Canada and Japan must be certified in internal medicine.

If a Membership application does not fulfill requirements, it will be referred to the appropriate ACP Governor and the national Credentials Subcommittee for review and appropriate action. The ACP Governor and/or the Credentials Subcommittee may request, at their discretion, sponsoring letters for Membership candidates.

FACP® Fellowship

Fellowship is an honor achieved by those recognized by their peers for personal integrity, superior competence in internal medicine, professional accomplishment, and demonstrated scholarship. It may be achieved by either advancement from Membership or by direct election.

All candidates for Fellowship are sponsored from their local jurisdictions. All materials should be submitted (with the application) to ACP Member Credentialing at national headquarters in Philadelphia; staff will forward the application and all materials to the appropriate ACP Governor for evaluation and transmittal to the national Credentials Subcommittee. The recommendation of the sponsoring Governor is given great weight by the Credentials Subcommittee.

Direct election to Fellowship in ACP without having previously been a member is considered an exceptional honor and can be achieved only in select situations. The candidate must have graduated from medical school at least 10 years previously and must clearly demonstrate having made outstanding scholarly accomplishments and significant contribu-

tions to the medical literature. Candidates should discuss their credentials with the appropriate ACP Governor before applying for Direct Fellowship. The national Credentials Subcommittee reviews the credentials of candidates and submits recommendations to the Board of Regents, which makes the final decision. Fellows must be inducted in person at a Convocation ceremony held during one of the three annual Internal Medicine meetings following their election, unless excused by the President of ACP.

Fellows are authorized to use the letters FACP (Fellow of the American College of Physicians) in connection with their professional activities for as long as their membership remains current. They have the right to vote, hold office, sponsor candidates for Membership and Fellowship, and exercise all other privileges of membership.

FACP(Hon) Honorary Fellowship

Currently, Honorary Fellowships are granted to presidents, or their equivalents, of medical societies abroad who participate upon invitation in ACP's Convocation ceremony at ACP's annual Internal Medicine meeting. Honorary Fellows are designated as Honorary Fellows of the American College of Physicians and are authorized to use the letters FACP(Hon) in connection with their professional activities for as long as their membership remains current.

MACP® Mastership

Masters comprise a small group of highly distinguished physicians, selected from among Fellows, who have achieved recognition in medicine by exhibiting preeminence in practice or medical research, holding positions of high honor, or making significant contributions to medical science or the art of medicine. ACP activities are considered very important but are not required. Candidates are recommended by the Awards Committee for election to Mastership by the Board of Regents. Candidates for Mastership cannot be self-nominated and are usually sponsored by ACP Fellows and Masters and supported by the appropriate ACP Governor, if applicable.

Masters are authorized to use the letters MACP (Master of the American College of Physicians) in connection with their professional activities for as long as their membership remains current. Masters enjoy the same privileges as Fellows. For more information about Mastership, please visit the College's Web site at www.acponline.org/awards.

Guidelines for Applying for Membership and Fellowship

Members applying for advancement to the next class of membership must be current in their dues. The candidate should complete the form, enclose the appropriate payment, and submit all the necessary documentation and background material, including sponsoring letters (when needed) and an updated curriculum vitae to Member Credentialing at national headquarters. Detailed instructions are printed on the back of each form. Staff will then forward applications to the appropriate ACP Governors as applicable.

The national Credentials Subcommittee, at its discretion, may waive any requirement, even Board certification, in response to special circumstances. Final judgment on all matters of credentials rests with the national Credentials Subcommittee, the Membership Committee, and the Board of Regents.

Requirements for Membership

The Candidate Must:

- Hold a degree of Doctor of Medicine, Bachelor of Medicine, Master of Surgery, or Doctor of Osteopathy acceptable to the Board of Regents.
- Have an active medical license in good standing (if in clinical practice).
- Present evidence of one of the following:

Candidates in the United States:

- Satisfactory completion of an approved program in internal medicine, a combined internal medicine residency program, or neurology.
- Candidates certified in internal medicine, a combined internal medicine specialty, or neurology may instead present evidence of certification by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine (AOBIM), or the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) in neurology.

Candidates in ACP Chapters outside the United States:

- Certification in internal medicine by their country's certifying board, or by the ABIM. Those in Québec Province have the option of being certified by the Collège des Médecins du Québec. Candidates in Canada and Japan must be certified in internal medicine.
- If not certified as described above, candidates must provide proof of satisfactory completion of an internal medicine residency or a letter from the Chair of Medicine of their institution. Membership applications from these candidates will be sent to the appropriate ACP Governor for review and recommendation. ACP Governors may, at their discretion, require letters of support from two current ACP Masters or Fellows.

Candidates in other countries (not ACP Chapters):

- Approval of the local society of internal medicine, if applicable.
- Evidence of certification in internal medicine or a subspecialty of internal medicine (or the equivalent) by an appropriate agency or society in their country of residence or origin, or evidence of certification by the ABIM.
- If not certified as described above, candidates must provide:
 - Documentation of having satisfactorily completed at least three years of training in internal medicine (whatever is customary or nationally accepted) after medical school in an institution recognized by local authorities. A letter from the Chair of Medicine at the candidate's institution may be submitted in lieu of this documentation.

- Letters of support from two current ACP Masters or Fellows. One of the sponsors may instead be the President or Past President of the local internal medicine or subspecialty society.
- Curriculum vitae that is chronologically complete since graduation from medical school.

Candidates outside of an established ACP Chapter must be approved by the Credentials Subcommittee.

Note: All candidates applying for Membership must include dues payment with their application.

Membership Guidelines

Associates in ACP chapters outside of Japan whose dues are paid are automatically advanced to Membership in the College upon certification in internal medicine, a combined internal medicine specialty, or neurology, or submission of documentation of successful completion of an approved program. Associates in Canada must, however, be certified in internal medicine before election to full Membership. Associates may choose not to advance to Membership, or may request an extension of Associateship in lieu of automatic election to Membership.

Those elected to Membership via an application form are informed of their election by mail and receive an official Membership certificate signed by the ACP President. Those elected from Associateship via automatic election are sent a Membership certificate upon receipt of a completed questionnaire. Benefits are activated as soon as the dues are received.

If a Membership application does not fulfill requirements, it will be referred to the appropriate ACP Governor and the national Credentials Subcommittee for review and appropriate action. The ACP Governor and/or the Credentials Subcommittee may request, at their discretion, sponsoring letters from current Masters or Fellows of the College for Membership candidates.

Contingent upon favorable review of their credentials, candidates are deemed elected to Membership by the Board of Regents.

A Membership application may be requested from the local ACP Governor or by calling the Customer Service Department (M-F, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. ET) at 800-523-1546, extension 2600, direct at 215-351-2600, or by e-mailing to custserv@acponline.org. An application can also be accessed from ACP Online (www.acponline.org). Questions about eligibility requirements should be directed to Member Credentialing, 800-523-1546, extension 2704, or can be e-mailed to mbrservices@acponline.org.

Basic Requirements for Advancement from Membership to Fellowship

The Candidate Must:

- Have been certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine (AOBIM), the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) in neurology, or be certified in internal medicine by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPS[C]). Members residing in Québec Province have the option of being certified by the College des Médecins du Québec. Physicians residing outside the United States and Canada must be certified by the internal medicine board of their country, if one exists.
- Have been a member (as an Associate or Member) in good standing for two years in ACP and in practice or in an academic position (including subspecialty training) for at least two years since completion of residency.
- Have an active medical license in good standing (if in clinical practice).
- Have confined his or her professional activity to general internal medicine, subspecialties of internal medicine, combination of internal medicine and other related specialties, or neurology.
- Be sponsored by two current Masters or Fellows of the College with reference to character, ethics, and medical activities. The sponsors must each write detailed letters of support for the candidate, outlining professional contributions and accomplishments.
- Be reviewed by the appropriate ACP Governor.
- Have shown continuing scholarship and professional accomplishments. College activities and leadership at both the Associate and Membership level are respected and significant and will be considered along with other accomplishments.
- Document continuing professional activities, including teaching, both institutional and community-based; hospital committee work; community service, especially the voluntary provision of medical care; and participation in continuing medical education activities as teacher or student.
- Include payment of the Fellowship initiation fee with application materials. See Dues and Fees Section for more information.

The current guidelines acknowledge a range of professional activities in addition to the basic requirements that indicate continuing scholarship and professional achievement. Recognizing different kinds of professional growth and continuing scholarship permits four different pathways for advancing to Fellowship. In the pathways below, involvement with ACP is always understood to include involvement in either or both ACP and ASIM prior to their merger in July 1998.

Special Note

These four pathways are not intended to be mutually exclusive and are provided only as guidelines to the types of activities necessary to attain Fellowship. Some candidates, including medical administrators and physicians working in industry, will be accepted for Fellowship by combining two or more pathways. The national Credentials Subcommittee examines the qualifications of each candidate and weighs all evidence of scholarly activities and professional accomplishments in evaluating candidates for Fellowship. Excellence is the overriding consideration.

All qualified members are encouraged by the Credentials Subcommittee to consider applying for advancement to Fellowship. Members with questions about their eligibility for advancement to Fellowship can call the Credentials Administrator at 800-523-1546, extension 2709, or e-mail mbrservices@acponline.org.

PATHWAY 1 — The Published Academician

The candidate must meet basic requirements for advancement to Fellowship with an emphasis on demonstrated skill in written medical communication. Skill in written communication is defined as the ability to organize scientific data clearly and to communicate these data accurately in writing. The candidate does not have to provide reprints of articles (to which he or she contributed the major part of the work and that were published in journals requiring critical peer review), but reprints may be requested by the national Credentials Subcommittee.

In the case of multiauthored articles, the candidate should indicate his or her contributions to the articles in the bibliography, even if he or she is listed as the first author. Articles published in peer-reviewed journals are given more weight.

These medical publications will be considered in conjunction with other professional accomplishments, such as teaching, both institutional and community-based; hospital committee work; community service, especially the voluntary provision of medical care; participation in continuing medical education activities as teacher or student; and ACP activities. All of these activities must be documented in the curriculum vitae.

PATHWAY 2 — The Physician with Multiple Certifications or Advanced Degrees

The candidate must meet basic requirements for advancement to Fellowship with an emphasis on significant and continuing certification activity and teaching, both institutional and community-based. Recertification; subspecialty certification; participation in the Medical Knowledge Self-Assessment Program® (MKSAP®) for CME credit. Certificates of special competence in adolescent medicine, critical care medicine, clinical cardiac electrophysiology, geriatrics, or sports medicine are usually required for this pathway but by themselves are not adequate. Advanced degrees such as a PhD, MPH, or MBA also can be considered under this pathway.

Exceptional candidates with outstanding scholarly and/or teaching and/or community activities and ACP activities may qualify without fulfilling the recertification, subspecialty certification, or MKSAP requirement.

These certification activities will be viewed as significant scholarly achievements and will be considered in conjunction with other professional accomplishments, such as teaching, both institutional and community-based; hospital committee work; community service, especially the voluntary provision of medical care; participation in continuing medical education activities as teacher or student; and ACP activities. All of these activities must be documented in the curriculum vitae.

PATHWAY 3 — The Active ACP Member

The candidate must meet basic requirements for advancement to Fellowship with an emphasis on active membership in ACP for at least five years, with substantial participation in ACP programs and activities, as well as demonstration of other professional accomplishments.

Such participation can be demonstrated by attendance at ACP's annual Internal Medicine meeting, chapter scientific meetings, postgraduate courses, and other meetings sponsored by ACP. Participation in the development of educational materials (for example, scientific exhibits and audiovisual materials) exhibited at national and international meetings of ACP or other recognized societies is considered. Participation in ACP's Leadership Enhancement and Development (LEAD) program, as well as participation in ACP councils, networks, committees, or task forces on the local and national level is also considered significant. Weight is given to the completion of the Medical Knowledge Self-Assessment Program (MKSAP), submitted for CME credit. Candidates also must document their teaching, both institutional and community-based; hospital committee work; community service, especially the voluntary provision of medical care; and participation in continuing medical education activities as teacher or student.

Participation in a community-based teaching program is heavily weighted as an ACP-sponsored activity. All of these activities must be documented in the curriculum vitae.

PATHWAY 4 — The Senior Physician

The candidate must meet basic requirements for advancement to Fellowship with an emphasis on distinguished professional activity in teaching, patient care, or professional service over many years.

This category is designed for senior practitioners who have not been active in ACP. These candidates have gained prominence and respect for professional contributions to the practice of medicine in their communities over a significant period.

In this pathway, the national Credentials Subcommittee gives weight to substantial contributions to the professional education of other physicians, medical students, or allied health professionals through teaching, both institutional and community-based; scientific presentations; or the organization of scientific or clinical training programs on a continuing basis. Also recognized are scholarly presentations at scientific meetings or local hospital staff meetings and participation in the organization of scientific activities of local, state, national, and international societies.

A candidate may wish to describe and document active participation in hospital affairs, such as advancement in hospital staff appointments, election to office on the medical staff, and committee activities. Civic activities that are also considered include work with voluntary health organizations and medical societies, especially the voluntary provision of medical care, community health planning, and public education, as well as nonmedical community service activities. All of these activities must be documented in the curriculum vitae.

A Fellowship application may be requested from the local ACP Governor, by calling the Customer Service Department (M-F, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. ET) at 800-523-1546, extension 2600, or direct at 215-351-2600, or by e-mailing custserv@acponline.org. This form can also be downloaded from ACP Online (www.acponline.org). Questions about eligibility requirements should be directed to Member Credentialing, 800-523-1546, extension 2709, or can be e-mailed to mbrservices@acponline.org.

Requirements for Direct Election to Fellowship without Previous Election to Membership

Direct Fellowship is a singular honor conferred on fewer than five percent of Fellowship applicants. Qualifications nearly always include status as an academician or researcher with a national reputation, extensive publications, and an outstanding career.

The Candidate Must:

- Fulfill all qualifications and requirements for advancement to Fellowship (except the requirement that he or she be a member for two years) and have graduated from medical school at least ten years before completing an application.
- Be sponsored by two current Masters or Fellows of the College with reference to character, ethics, and medical activities. The sponsors must each write detailed letters of support for the candidate outlining professional contributions and accomplishments.
- Be reviewed by the appropriate ACP Governor.
- Have shown extraordinary scholarly achievement and professional excellence in several areas, including teaching; medical education; scientific presentations to national and international meetings; significant involvement in a hospital or appropriate medical institution or clinical or scientific research; and community activities, either medically or nonmedically related, with special consideration given to the voluntary provision of medical care.
- Have, additionally, made substantial published scientific contributions to prominent peer-reviewed journals and be able to present other evidence of extraordinary scholarly accomplishments since completion of graduate training.
- Include payment of dues and the Fellowship initiation fee with application materials. See Dues and Fees Section for more information.

Special Note

All physicians who wish to be considered for Direct Fellowship should discuss their credentials with their ACP Governor before submitting a Fellowship application. Physicians in areas with no ACP Governor can contact the Credentials Administrator at 800-523-1546, extension 2709, or by e-mail at mbrservices@acponline.org to discuss their eligibility for Direct Fellowship.

Advancement and Direct Fellowship Guidelines

Fellowship applications must be accompanied by written statements by two sponsors (both of whom must be current Masters or Fellows of the College) that describe the qualifications of the candidate. The support letters should be addressed to the Chair, Credentials Subcommittee, in care of Member Credentialing at national headquarters. The candidate should submit both letters with their application. It is recommended that the sponsors submit their letters to the candidate in sealed envelopes to ensure confidentiality, but it is not required. The current ACP Governor in the candidate's chapter/region is not permitted to act as a sponsor for the candidate, nor are a candidate's family members. The sponsors must be prepared to add any further information requested by the national Credentials Subcommittee. Candidates who currently belong to the College are encouraged to use the online membership directory, "Member Connection," at www.acponline.org for help in obtaining eligible sponsors. Lists of ACP Masters and Fellows in the candidate's area can be obtained from Member Credentialing upon request. All Fellowship applications require review by the appropriate ACP Governor.

Normally, the sponsors should be in the ACP Governor's jurisdiction in which the candidate resides or is employed. As an alternative for candidates in areas with very few or no ACP Masters or Fellows, a seconding letter from a supervising physician or a physician leader who has knowledge of the individual's practice and quality but is not an ACP Master or Fellow (ex: chief medical officer, chief of staff, medical director) would be acceptable. If the candidate works or resides geographically closer to another Governor's jurisdiction and is better known there, a sponsor in that ACP chapter or region is acceptable. In such a case, the Governor of the neighboring chapter or region may review the application, if this is agreeable to the Governor in whose jurisdiction the candidate actually practices or resides. If the candidate has moved within the last year or so and does not know any Masters or Fellows in his or her new location, the sponsors may be Masters or Fellows from the former area. The Governor in the new area must be advised and grant permission for this action.

A candidate from the Medical Corps of the Army, Navy, or Air Force must be endorsed by the Governor of the respective service. In some instances, it may be desirable to have the candidate sponsored by Masters or Fellows living in the locality where the individual is assigned, rather than by Masters or Fellows in the same service. The Governor for the service must approve this action. A local credentials committee consisting of Masters or Fellows, appointed by the Governor and acting at the Governor's request, may recommend the election of Members and Fellows to ACP for the Governor's endorsement.

For Fellows, the national Credentials Subcommittee makes appropriate recommendations to the Board of Regents. Candidates are officially notified of their election or deferral by mail. Those elected receive an official Fellowship certificate signed by the ACP President.

General Guidelines

Withdrawal of Applications

Applicants for Associate membership who are not elected within one year of submission must submit a new application. Membership and Fellowship candidates who fail to meet the requirements within one year of date of application may be withdrawn after suitable notification.

Member Connection

College members are offered the exclusive benefit of access to “Member Connection.” This is an online directory of College members (unless they asked not to be included) that is accessible to members only via www.acponline.org. The information is taken directly from the main database at ACP head-quarters and is updated daily. Members who wish to be excluded from Member Connection should submit the exclusion form.

Release of Information on ACP Members

The organization’s current policy is to verify a member’s current member class and date of election to that membership class upon request. However, through “Member Connection,” information on members who allow their names to be listed is available to all members.

Ethics and Professionalism

ACP members are expected to uphold the ethics of medicine as exemplified by the standards and traditions of ACP, including those in the *Ethics Manual*, which can be accessed through ACP Online (also available in Spanish). A booklet version can be ordered through Customer Service. Members should also be familiar with the College’s current procedures for addressing ethical complaints against ACP members (available through ACP Online at www.acponline.org/running_practice/ethics/manual). The staff of ACP’s Center for Ethics and Professionalism is available as a resource for questions concerning ethics (also available in Spanish).

ACP Diversity Policy

ACP values diversity and views it as one of its greatest strengths. ACP strives to encourage internists and subspecialists of internal medicine from diverse groups to join the College, participate in chapter activities, and seek to attain positions of leadership. ACP’s diversity goals within the College are:

- To increase the membership of the College to better reflect diversity within the physician population.
- To increase involvement at the chapter level by involving members from diverse groups.
- To increase attainment of leadership positions within the College, whether at the level of chapter, Board of Governors, or Board of Regents, by involving members from diverse groups.
- To increase attainment of College awards by members from diverse groups.

Special Adjustments to Requirements for Physicians Outside the United States and Canada

For physicians who reside outside the United States and Canada, there are adjustments to some of the membership requirements. The most important adjustment is that the national Credentials Subcommittee will be sensitive to the wishes of the international ACP Chapter or of the local society of internal medicine if it is involved in the processing of Associate membership, Membership, and Fellowship applications of candidates from that country. Spanish versions of the model curriculum vitae and the memorandum for sponsors are available on the College's Web site. Visit ACP's International Section of ACP Online at www.acponline.org/about_acp/international.

Medical Degree

Degrees from a medical school recognized by the country of origin and included in the International Medical Education Directory may be acceptable to the Board of Regents.

Board Certification

Internationally trained physicians living abroad who have not been certified by the ABIM, AOBIM, ABPN in neurology, one of the Royal Colleges of Physicians, or the JSIM must submit evidence of certification in internal medicine or a subspecialty of internal medicine (or the equivalent) by an appropriate agency or society in their country of residence or origin if such boards exist. Physicians not certified must submit documentation of having satisfactorily completed at least three years of training in internal medicine (whatever is customary or nationally accepted) after medical school in an institution recognized by local authorities.

Sponsorship and Endorsements

If there are no local sponsors known to the candidate, the sponsors may be Masters or Fellows from the United States or from other countries where the candidate may have trained or worked. One sponsor may be the President or Past President of the internal medicine or subspecialty society of the country in which the candidate resides, whether or not he or she is a current member of ACP. Lists of sponsors can be obtained from national headquarters if needed.

Candidates for Membership and Fellowship from Bolivia, Poland, and Switzerland should be approved by their respective national internal medical society.

ACP Governor Endorsement for Chapters in Mexico, Central America, Brazil, Chile, Venezuela, and Japan: National headquarters will obtain the recommendation of the appropriate ACP Governor for Fellowship candidates from these areas. International Associate and Membership applications should be used and can be obtained from the ACP Governor or from Member Credentialing. In Japan, the Associate application should be accessed via the College's Web site.

All Other Countries: Physicians in countries other than those listed need not obtain an ACP Governor's recommendation, unless they know an ACP Governor from the United States, Canada, Latin America, or Japan and choose to request his or her endorsement. In all other respects, physicians residing outside the United States and Canada must meet the normal requirements for Membership and Fellowship.

Dues and Fees

ACP dues are generally based on membership class and years since graduation from medical school. The annual dues entitle each member to the privileges of their membership class, as determined by the Board of Regents. All membership benefits, including subscriptions to publications, are activated upon receipt of annual dues.

All ACP dues are subject to change annually. The allocation for chapter dues is waived for newly elected members. Upon membership renewal, annual dues will include fees to support both the national ACP and the member's local chapter. For the current dues rates, please visit www.acponline.org/dues.

For More Information

For information on becoming a member of ACP, or on any of ACP's programs or products, visit www.acponline.org or call Customer Service at 800-523-1546, ext. 2600, or direct at 215-351-2600 (M-F, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. ET).

