National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
Clinical Nurse Specialist Institute

Fellows Program
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CNSI Mission

- The CNSI serves to develop and promote the charitable, educational, innovative clinical practice, and scientific purposes of NACNS
Created in 2019, the CNSI Fellows Program recognizes clinical nurse specialists whose achievements and contributions advance the unique expertise and value the clinical nurse specialist contributes to healthcare as evidenced by the following:

- Demonstrate leadership in the CNS role;
- Provide impactful CNS work;
- Increase the visibility of the CNS role;
- Promote the full scope of CNS practice;
- Conduct and disseminate data-driven or evidence-based projects to advance nursing science and improve outcomes;
- Disseminate knowledge about the CNS role and activities.
Value of Fellow Recognition

- An earned honor based on leadership, clinical expertise, scholarly activity, and/or advocacy
- An earned credential, FCNS, that benefits one in terms of promotion, tenure, or other advancement opportunities
- Opportunities to contribute time and energy to CNSI to shape the organization and its programs including service as a peer reviewer for research or EBP/QI grants and Fellow selection process
- Be part of an elite and prestigious group of CNS’s
Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a current member of the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS) for at least 2 years prior to applying;

- Must have 5 or more years of experience working in a CNS role after completing graduate education;
Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be credentialed by their state as a CNS
  - OR
  - Educated as a CNS
    - PLUS
  - Have significant past or current contributions as a CNS
Criteria

1. Demonstrates impact of CNS work beyond employer organization;
2. Evidence of leadership with national impact that supports CNS activities or role;
3. Evidence of CNS activities that support visibility of CNS role;
4. Conducts data-driven &/or evidence-driven projects to improve patient care, safety, health outcomes, health system processes or educational processes (e.g., QI, EPB, Research, other).
5. Engages in activities to promote the full scope of CNS practice and role at the local, state, and/or national level;

6. Disseminates knowledge that demonstrates the value of the CNS role and CNS-related activities (e.g., practice, outcomes, research, legislation/regulatory, education, etc.).
Criteria Assessment

- CNSI Fellows demonstrate outstanding achievements on the criteria previously described.
  - Individual applicants do not have to be outstanding in all criteria, but they do go beyond the “ordinary” CNS work role in most of the criteria.
- Fellows have made significant and impactful contributions to advance the CNS role.
Application Process

- Submit 2 letters of endorsement from professional colleagues.
- Provide a 750-word statement, addressing the criteria (use brief headings) with evidence of outstanding contributions as a CNS.
- Write a 180-word professional biography.
- Provide a Curriculum Vitae (10 pg limit).
- Submit a color headshot photo (high resolution, jpg file).
- Complete the application form (last page in application instruction document – available on line)
- Submit an application fee of $250.
Endorsement Letters

- Two Letters – that address the 6 criteria;
  - 2-page maximum
  - Typed on organizational letterhead & Signed.
- Preferably one letter from a supervisor or other person in a position to supervise or oversee your work; &
- Second letter from another peer/colleague who is knowledgeable about the applicant’s work as a CNS.
Statement

- 750-word limit (including headings)
- Use brief headings for each of 6 criteria to organize the statement:
  - (1) Leadership; (2) Visibility; (3) Impact;
  - (4) Improvement Projects; (5) Full Scope of Practice; (6) Dissemination
- Describe your outstanding contributions and provide evidence of these activities
- Provide clear exemplars to support your statement
Professional Biography

- 180 words (Think “high points”)
- The biography will be used in the program materials;
- The biography should start with the applicant’s name; followed by CNS role or title; and employer (the easy part).
- Then write the hard part: Summarize your most outstanding contributions to the CNS role/practice/education, etc. List major honors & awards.
Curriculum Vitae

- Typed, single-spaced, 12-point font, 10 page maximum
  - May need to limit exemplars to recent years in some sections
- Follow directions of what requirements to include and how to format:
- Name (as you want it to appear)
- Credentials (highest degree, licensure, certifications, designation), e.g.
  - Name, PhD, RN, CCRP, FCCM
  - Name, MSN, ACNS-BC, CCNS, CCRN, FCCM
- Education – list most recent degree, followed by earlier degrees earned:
  - University, degree earned, year awarded
CV, Con’t.

- Employment History
  - Employer, role, dates of employment
  - Do not list work activities here
- Honors and Awards
  - Name/title of award, organization, year
- Research/EBP/QI projects
  - Title of project, applicant’s role on project, if funded – list the $ amount, & years project was active.
CV, Con’t.

- Dissemination
  - Use full reference citation for articles, book chapters
  - Selected presentations (authors, presentation title, organization, date)

- Service Activities
  - Sort by local, state, national and/or international
  - Include committees, professional activities, leadership activities & roles/positions.

- Legislative/Regulatory Activities –
  - Sort by local, state, national
  - List those that promote the CNS role
$250 Application Fee (US Currency)

- Pay by check, made out to: Clinical Nurse Specialist Institute
- & Mail to:
  - Clinical Nurse Specialist Institute
  - Attn: CNSI Fellows Program
  - 401 Edgewater Place, Suite 600
  - Wakefield, MA 01880

- OR – Pay by credit card on CNSI Fellowship webpage: https://nacns.org/cns-institute/
- Look Under the “donate” tab – fee payments are on that webpage.

- Fee must be received with completed application.
Projected Timeline

- Applications are due by: **September 30**
- Applications assigned to reviewers who do not have conflicts of interest (good or bad) with the applicant
- Reviews completed by mid-October;
- Scores collated;
- Review panel meets in Oct/Nov;
- Letters to applicants by mid-November.
If Selected

- You must be able to participate in the induction ceremony held during the annual NACNS Conference (e.g., March 2022).
  - You may defer induction for one year (e.g., attend 2023); but
  - If you do not participate in the induction ceremony in this year or next year, then you must re-apply to be considered for fellow status.
If Selected

- Pay Fellows fees:
- Induction fee that
  - Covers the cost of formal dinner;
  - Certificates,
  - FCNS pin
- First year’s fellowship fee of $100 – due in March
- Fellow’s fees are paid by check or via the CNSI Fellowship webpage (look at ‘Donation page’)
- You must maintain your membership in NACNS and pay an annual fellowship fee to retain your Fellow status.
Other Details

- Guests are welcome to attend the Induction Ceremony which includes dinner
- Guest tickets for the event cover the cost of dinner/service
- See NACNS conference registration brochure for details
Questions?

- For additional clarifications:
- Contact us at cnsi@nacns.org