

HIMSS Member Advancement Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the benefit of the advancement program?

The purpose of the advancement program is to recognize those members who have provided substantial service and contributions to HIMSS, with an emphasis on the member's professional growth and participation. In addition the HIMSS advancement program recognizes members for their contribution of knowledge and experience to the healthcare industry as a whole. Advancing within HIMSS also makes the individual eligible for leadership opportunities within the society, such as the Board of Directors.

What is the difference between a Fellow, Senior, and Life member?

Fellow members are considered leaders within HIMSS. Those who obtain the Fellow member status are awarded the FHIMSS designation, are recognized at the Annual Conference, and asked to participate in special taskforces or workgroups once they have advanced. Senior members are also considered elite members, but a designation is not associated with this advanced member level. Once achieving senior member status, many move on to Fellow status once they meet the appropriate criteria.

Life members are considered the most elite members of the society. They have been members of the society for 30 consecutive years. An applicant may apply for Life member status by sending a letter advancement@himss.org. The letter should be addressed to the HIMSS Board of Directors stating their 30 years of service and desire to advance. Life members use the LHIMSS designation. Life members who are also Fellow members are awarded the LFHIMSS designation. Life and Life Fellow members are also recognized at the Annual Conference Awards and Recognition Banquet the year their Life status is granted.

How do I qualify?

To advance to Senior member status you must be a National member of HIMSS for a minimum of three consecutive years and you must have a minimum of 100 total points. Please see the application for point information.

To advance to Fellow status, you must be a National member of HIMSS for a minimum of five consecutive years, have a minimum of 100 HIMSS points, and a minimum of 200 total points. Please see the application for point information.

I do not have 5 consecutive years of membership, but have been a member on and off for several years. Can I still apply for advanced status?

HIMSS allows members who do not have 5 consecutive years of membership to pay back dues at \$140 per year in order to be eligible for advancement purposes. HIMSS records must indicate the member has been involved for at least 5 years in order for this exception to be made.

Do I qualify for advancement if I have only been a chapter member?

Those applying for advanced status must be National HIMSS members. Chapter only membership is not accepted.

I have completed the online applications, but I need to make edits. How may I do so?

Staff can make edits on the application. Contact advancement@himss.org with the changes.

There is a PDF and online version of the application. What is the preferred method?

Either is acceptable. The online application will time out after 45 minutes, therefore some prefer the PDF version. Please send the PDF application electronically to advancement@himss.org.

I've completed my application. What else is required for the application to be complete?

HIMSS requires supplemental materials in order for the application to be complete. We request if possible for these to be sent electronically to advancement@himss.org The required materials are:

- Organizational Chart
- Job Description
- Copy of Highest Degree
- Copy of any Certifications earned
- Letter of recommendation from a HIMSS Fellow (This is only necessary for those who are applying to advance to Fellow)

Once achieving Fellow or Senior status are there renewal requirements?

Fellow and Seniors do not need to renew their status. Continued support and participation within HIMSS is expected but not required.

What information does HIMSS national have on file to assist to assist with my application?

- Committee, workgroup, taskforces, and roundtable participation
- Chapter participation
- Community of profession, User Group, and SIG participation
- Attendance at HIMSS conferences from 2008-current

**We currently do not have speaking engagements at HIMSS conferences, but staff can assist in researching if need be.*

I submitted my application, how long does the process take until approved by the HIMSS Board of Directors?

Upon HIMSS staff receiving the completed application and supplemental materials the application is sent to a peer reviewer who approves or denies the

application. The reviewers have approximately 2 weeks to review the application. Staff is then notified of the status of the application and the Board of Directors has the final approval at their next scheduled Board meeting. Please allow 1-3 months.

I spoke at a HIMSS Conference prior to being a member. Would this count towards the publication/presentation category?

Yes, presenting at a HIMSS conference, although not as a member, does count for HIMSS publication/presentation points.

I am a member of HIMSS through CHIME. Does this count toward my advancement application?

Yes, joint membership through CHIME does count for application purposes. Please see the application for other associations HIMSS recognizes for advancement purposes.

My HIMSS Chapter was a recipient of an Innovation Award. Can I count this on my application?

Only awards that are received individually count for this category.

Who reviews my application?

Our peer reviewers are Fellow members and have been with the society for several years. They are industry experts and members of other Healthcare IT associations.

If I have an insufficient number of points, can a mentor be appointed to help me to achieve where lacking?

Yes, a mentor can be assigned to assist with achieving points in the categories in which the applicant is lacking. Chapter leaders are also great resources for this purpose. Staff will review and make recommendations in any area where points are needed.

I am lacking in the presentation/publication and professional participation categories. How can I gain more points?

Contact your local chapter to join a committee, if they have any open spaces available. Also, visit our [committee page](#) on the himss.org website to join a workgroup or taskforce. The HIMSS Weekly Insider asks for volunteers for certain workgroups and taskforces.

I presented at a conference in which HIMSS was a co-sponsor Can I count a presentation at a conference that HIMSS co-sponsored toward my HIMSS presentation points?

Presentation and conferences that HIMSS co-sponsors may be used for HIMSS presentation points.

What is the preferred method of submitting an application?

If you did not apply online email the pdf to advancement@himss.org . We prefer all supplemental materials (Letter of recommendation, copy of highest degree, proof of any certification, job description and organizational chart) to be submitted electronically. These can be emailed to advancement@himss.org

How many Fellow, Senior, and Life Members are advanced within the society?

- 456 Fellows
- 172 Seniors
- 72 Life and Life Fellows

I am now a Senior or Fellow within HIMSS. What next?

Congratulations! You will be sent a pin, certificate, and letter of congratulations from our President and CEO. New Fellows will also be recognized during the Annual Conference on the walk in slides at each keynote session. We will recognize you for this outstanding achievement in the Chapter E-News and HIMSS Weekly Insider.