

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 provides benefits such as preferred consideration for awards and 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 Global Conference, and asked to participate in special taskforces or workgroups once they have advanced.

Senior members are also considered elite member. Those who obtain the Senior member status are awarded the SHIMSS designation. 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 or more 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 Global Conference during the Fellows Reception the year their Life status is granted.

How do I qualify?

To advance to Senior member status you must be a 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 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.

* Online only and Chapter only memberships are not applicable.

I do not have five 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 the active dues rate for the missing year(s) 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?

We strongly encourage you to use the online application. If you are experiencing technical difficulties, contact 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 that these 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?

No, the Fellow and Senior status does not need to be renewed. Continued support and participation within HIMSS is expected, but not required.

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

All applications are reviewed first by a HIMSS staff member and then by a peer reviewer (non HIMSS-staff volunteer group). If applications are found to be incomplete a member of the HIMSS staff will follow-up with you. Final approval of all complete applications is then conferred by the HIMSS Board of Directors, which meets quarterly. It may take up to four months for final approval of your application.

Who reviews my application?

A combination of HIMSS staff member(s) as well as a peer reviewer. Our peer reviewers are Fellow members and have been with the society for several years. They are industry experts and members of other healthcare information and technology associations.

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, even if not as a member, does still 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.

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

No, only awards that are received individually count for this category.

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?

Volunteer to give health information and technology related presentations through your workplace, school, or a local HIMSS Chapter.

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 also asks for volunteers for certain workgroups and taskforces on a regular basis.

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?

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

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

Congratulations! You will be sent a pin, certificate, and letter of congratulations. New Fellows and Life Fellows will also be recognized during the Global Conference.