

## Association of periOperative Registered Nurses 2022 Fellowship Application Worksheet

This worksheet is designed to assist you in assessing your significant professional contributions to perioperative nursing as you consider applying for Fellowship in the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN). The worksheet will serve as a guide to document your significant impact and measurable effect on clinical practice, administration/leadership, education, or research/evidence-based practice so that you can best determine the focus of your application. Should you decide to move forward with applying for Fellowship, it will be important to share this assessment with your identified sponsor and facility leader. Your two sponsors, one an AORN Fellow (FAORN), an AORN member who is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN) or an AORN Award for Excellence winner, and the other a facility leader will be able to better support you in this process having considered your answers to the questions below. This form may also be used to verify that all steps of the application process have been followed and all required documents have been submitted.

- A. Before you begin the application, please review the AORN Fellowship Criteria:
- Hold an unrestricted and active license to practice registered nursing.
  - Have a minimum of five (5) years of perioperative nursing experience.
  - Be an active member of AORN in good standing for at least five (5) consecutive years prior to application.
  - Hold a master's degree or higher, minimum of one degree must be in nursing. (BSN, MSN, DNP, PhD).
  - Hold a nationally recognized current or emeritus status certification in perioperative nursing or a perioperative specialty (CNOR, CRNFA, CNS-CP, CSSM).
  - Demonstrate commitment to the mission, vision, and values of AORN.
  - Have made significant contributions to the activities of the Association and the advancement of perioperative nursing in the areas of clinical practice, administration/leadership, education and/or research/evidence base practice (EBP).
- B. Review your Curriculum Vitae (CV) to ensure that education, work history, and all contributions such as professional association activity, scholarship and awards, podium and poster presentations, publications, and evidence-based practice projects/research studies are clearly articulated. The CV samples are posted on the AORN Website. [Fellow of AORN \(FAORN\) - AORN](#)
- C. Assess your readiness to apply for AORN Fellowship by reviewing the following questions.
1. Can you identify your most significant contribution(s) to perioperative nursing in either clinical practice, administration/leadership, education and/or research? You will be asked to indicate one of these as your area of focus on the application.
  2. Can you provide specific detailed evidence of outstanding contributions to perioperative nursing at the regional, state, national, and/or international level?
  3. Can you provide evidence of consistent outstanding contributions to AORN or perioperative nursing over time (e.g., innovative new practice, articles, textbooks)?
  4. Is all of the evidence corroborated with your CV?
- D. If you answer "yes" to each of the above questions share your responses with your sponsors to enable them to understand your personal contributions.
- E. Examples of evidence include, but are not limited to clear, concise documentation of the following:
- Consistent outstanding contributions to AORN or to perioperative nursing over time (e.g., innovative practices, textbooks).
  - Contributions with significant impact and measurable effect (e.g., improved patient outcomes, cost reduction, increased satisfaction).

- Dissemination of important information about the contributions (document how disseminated, to whom, etc.).
- Adoption of your evidence-based practice or research findings or innovations that guide changes in clinical practice, administration/ leadership, education, and EBP/research. (e.g., how practices, innovations were adopted, by whom, how many).
- The following are brief samples of evidence. They do not represent the entire required documentation. These may help guide you and your sponsors as they prepare documentation to demonstrate, with evidence, how the criteria were met:
  - **Sponsor Evidence:**
    - The candidate has embraced and developed distance learning at the University and served as the Director of Distance Education for 10 years. She has provided information about distance learning at AORN Expo and in the *AORN Journal* and in poster sessions.
    - The candidate is a fountain of knowledge that she readily shares with others, locally at the state level and nationally. Locally she has sponsored multiple authors within her chapter and hospital, one of whom became AORN President. At state and national level conferences she has presented numerous programs as evidenced in her CV, especially writing for publication.
    - Education is truly a strength of the candidate. She developed the Foundations for Perioperative Practice course and implemented it as a Dedicated Education Unit across Surgical Services in one healthcare system. This course engages nursing students in opportunities of professional perioperative practice. She is frequently invited to present at seminars, webinars, and conferences, which are outlined in her CV.
    - The candidate is also a renowned perioperative nursing researcher, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. She identified gaps in the evidence that could only be filled by the conduct of research. Her program of research is perioperative quality and safety, focusing on the prevention of perioperative hypothermia and prevention of retained surgical items.
  - **Candidate Evidence:**
    - From my first article in 1978 to a current 2020 publication I have shared my experience in more than 30 articles in the *AORN Journal* and many others in complimentary publications.
    - During my Masters, I learned about the dangers of surgical smoke. From that knowledge I conducted a project using published evidence to implement a surgical smoke evaluation program through educational intervention. I chaired AORN committees on Surgical Smoke which resulted in the CDC/NIOSH Hazard Alert on Surgical Smoke
    - My team, via my leadership, data analysis, and evidence review made our hospital surgical services department the first in the state to use an event-related sterility assurance program. I wrote the house-wide policy on the program and provided education for all hospital staff. My report was published in the *AORN Journal*.
    - I have been active in AORN at the Chapter, State, and e-chapter level having served on the Board and numerous committees. I developed the first website, which became the face of the chapter. I presented this prototype to other chapters in AORN and served on the AORN Website Task Force.

F. Writing about your contributions provides you the opportunity to assess your significant impact and measurable effect as a perioperative nurse, and hone your responses to the application questions. The questions on the application require succinct and purposeful responses, with 2,500-character limits.

1. Describe your significant contributions to perioperative nursing in one of the following areas beyond the local level:
  - Clinical;

- Administration/Leadership;
- Education; or
- Scholarship: Research or Translation into Practice

2. Describe how your contributions to the mission, vision, and values of AORN are demonstrated through your active participation in regional, national, or international committees, task forces, and other work.

G. In addition to the online application form, two letters of recommendation (limited to 500 words) must be submitted with your application: (a) one by an AORN Fellow (FAORN), an AORN member who is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN) or an AORN Award for Excellence winner and (b) one by a facility/leader:

- Sponsor's letter of recommendation verifies and amplifies in measurable terms the contributions of the applicant.
- Facility/leader letter of recommendation verifies and amplifies in measurable terms the contributions of the applicant

## Application Checklist:

Review Application Form. Make sure all fields are complete.

**Fellowship Criteria Met**

**AORN Mission, Vision, Values reviewed**

**Selected area of focus identified** (clinical practice, administration/leadership, education and/or research)

**Curriculum Vitae (CV)** CV DOES NOT exceed 20 pages and font no less than 11

**Supporting Essays:** Two essays have been accurately completed and each is within the 2,500-character limit. They cite your:

- Significant contributions to perioperative nursing in at least one of the following areas: Clinical, Administration/Leadership, Education, or Research/Evidence-based Practice
- Commitment to AORN's mission, vision and values through ongoing contributions

**Sponsorship:** Sponsorship sections have been accurately completed and letters of recommendation have been uploaded to the application form (Letters are limited to 500 words):

- Sponsor's letter of recommendation verifies and amplifies **in measurable terms** the contributions of the applicant.
- Facility/leader letter of recommendation verifies and amplifies **in measurable terms** the contributions of the applicant.

**FAORN Pledge Acknowledgement:** All fields are complete and signed.

**\$350.00 Non-refundable Application Fee Paid:** Please make sure you follow payment instructions when submitting the application online.