Nominator/Nominee FAQs

Learn more about several aspects of the IEEE Fellow Program by reviewing the frequently asked questions answered below. Please also click here for the IEEE Fellow Program brochure. If you have a question that is not addressed, email fellows@ieee.org.

Q: How flexible is the 07 February deadline?
A: The 07 February deadline is not flexible. All forms (nomination, reference, and endorsement) must be received no later than 07 February.

Q: How many new IEEE Fellows may be recommended each year?
A: According to IEEE Bylaw I-305.9, "The total number of Fellow recommendations in any one year must not exceed one-tenth of one percent of the IEEE voting membership on record as of 31 December of the year preceding."

Q: If I'm an IEEE Fellow/Life Fellow, why doesn't my name appear in the IEEE Fellow Directory?
A: Only active IEEE Fellows and IEEE Life Fellows are listed in the IEEE Fellow Directory. You would also have had to opt-in to have your name appear in the directory. To change your status, please notify the Contact Center.

Q: Can I serve as a reference if I'm nominating an individual but don't yet have enough references?
A: No, the nominator may not serve as a reference.

Q: Where can I find my references' member numbers or additional references to support my nominee?
A: Please use the IEEE Fellow Directory to contact those persons you wish to use as Reference supporters of your nominee. Send them an email asking if they agree to serve as a Reference for your nominee, and at the same time ask for their IEEE membership number. Click on the IEEE Fellow Name, then use the "Send message" button.

Q: When are the newly elevated IEEE Fellows announced?
A: Newly elevated IEEE Fellows are announced shortly after the fourth quarter IEEE Board of Directors meeting, which is normally scheduled in late-November/mid-December.

Q: What are the qualifications for being nominated for IEEE Fellow?
A: The Nominee must have accomplishments that have contributed significantly to the advancement of engineering, science, and technology, bringing realization of significant value to society at large.

The Nominee must be an IEEE Senior or IEEE Life Senior Member in good standing who has been an IEEE member in any grade for a cumulative five years (1,825 days) or more preceding 01 January of the year of elevation. Note: IEEE Society Affiliate membership does not apply.

Q: How do I access the Fellow Nomination Process?
A: To access the Fellow Nomination System, an IEEE Primary Web Account must be used. If you need assistance, contact the IEEE Support Center. You can reach the Global Offices directly online at www.ieee.org/contactcenter or by telephone at +1 732 981 0060 worldwide, or +1 800 678 4222 US and Canada.

Q: How do I begin the Fellow Nomination Process?

The Fellow Nomination Process starts when a nominator clicks through to this section on the Fellows webpage: https://www.ieee.org/membership/fellows/index.html and logs in with an IEEE Primary Web Account:

The nomination cycle for the IEEE Fellow Class of 2025 will open in mid-November 2024.

Q: Who can check the status of a nomination, and when can the status be checked?

A: The nominator will be permitted to check the status and/or resend reminders to those references and endorsers who have not responded, up to the deadline of 07 February.

Q: How are the nominator and nominee notified of the outcome of the nomination?

A: IEEE Fellows Staff notifies successful nominees and their nominators via e-mail. Nominators of unsuccessful nominees will be notified via email.

IEEE Fellows Staff will use the preferred email address listed on the Fellow Nomination Form for the nominator and the preferred e-mail address on file in the IEEE membership database for the nominee.

Q: How are the references and endorsers notified?

A: Once a nomination is submitted, the references and endorsers listed on the form will automatically be notified.

Q: How can an IEEE Fellow order a replacement Fellow Pin or Certificate?
A: IEEE Fellows receive a Fellow certificate and pin by mail following elevation. If you do not receive these by the end of January in the year of elevation, please email fellows@ieee.org. If you need a replacement pin and/or certificate, you may click this link to order a replacement Fellow pin and/or certificate. Please note that there is a verification process to ensure your IEEE Fellow status.

Q: What is the difference between a reference and an endorsement?

A: A reference is a required part of the nomination process as it cites specific evidence of the nominee's special qualities and impact of the nominee's contributions. Nominations must include at least three, but no more than five, References capable of assessing the contributions of the nominee. All References must be IEEE Fellows.

Endorsements may strengthen a nomination but are not required. Nominations may also include no more than three optional Endorsements that can attest to the nominee’s field of technical accomplishments.

Q: Can I nominate myself for IEEE Fellow grade?

A: No, self-nomination is NOT permitted.

Q: Can I print the nomination form?

A: The nomination form can be printed up to the deadline of 07 February by clicking on the Printer icon at the top right of the Nomination Form.

Draft forms may also be printed using the print option in your browser.

Q: How/when can I change the Nomination Form?

A: Modifications will be permitted up to the deadline of 07 February. This includes updating core text in the nomination form and email addresses of supporters of the nomination. Adding and deleting a reference and endorsement name, or removing a nomination are also permitted.

Q: What is the deadline for submission of the Fellow nomination forms?

A: All forms (nomination, reference, and endorsement) must be received by 07 February (11:59 p.m. ET). NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

Q: What browsers best support the Fellow Nomination Process?

A: The IEEE Fellow Online Nomination Process is supported by the following browsers:

- Internet Explorer 9, 10
- Chrome, latest version
- Firefox/Safari, latest two versions