



DISTINGUISHED FACOS APPLICATION PROCESS AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES RATING GUIDE

2027 Application Cycle · Deadline: November 16, 2026

American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
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DESCRIPTION

The designation, Distinguished Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons (DFACOS), is conferred upon ACOS members for their considerable involvement, dedication, and contributions to the College and the osteopathic community. Distinguished FACOS are chosen based upon an outstanding and long sustained demonstration of engagement and service to the ACOS, exceptional professionalism, consummate integrity and noted leadership. This honor is bestowed upon the best of our profession.

The recipients of the DFACOS designation have demonstrated their commitment and continued practice of surgery, surgical teaching, authorship of professional papers, and participation in local, state, and national organizations. Recipients also have adhered to the professional and ethical standards established by the ACOS.

DFACOS REQUIREMENTS

- Be a Fellow of the ACOS (FACOS) for 10 years or more.
- Have been an active member of an ACOS committee, an ACOS Mentor, or a lecturer for an ACOS educational program, within the last 10 years.
- Be certified by an AOA or ABMS-recognized certifying board.
- Be a member in good standing of ACOS and local and state osteopathic societies.
- Demonstrate commitment to the practice of surgery through participation in teaching programs and on hospital, local, state, and national surgical society committees.
- Demonstrate a continued pursuit of knowledge through participation in continuing surgical education programs.
- Demonstrate adherence to the professional and ethical standards as established by the ACOS.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To access and complete the DFACOS application online, go to www.facos.org/DFACOS. A formal application is required and must be submitted to the Membership Committee by **November 16, 2026** to be considered in the 2027 application cycle. In addition to completing the application, applicants are required to:

- 1) Sign an authorization for hospitals, medical organizations, and others to release information deemed by ACOS to be necessary to review and consider the application for approval (page 8 of application).
- 2) Include with the application **three letters of recommendation** attesting to the applicant's qualifications as a surgeon, as well as the applicant's professional and ethical standing.

One recommendation letter shall come from a member of the ACOS who has been a Fellow (FACOS) for at least 5 years; and two recommendation letters may come from persons (D.O. or M.D.) who can vouch for the skills, achievements and character of the applicant (may come from non-members, mayor, elected official, chief executive officer of a corporation, hospital administrator, etc.).

- 3) Include with the application a personal statement explaining why the applicant deserves to receive the Distinguished Fellow title (DFACOS).

APPLICATION PROCESS (CONT'D)

- 4) Provide on application (page 7) a signed endorsement from the hospital medical staff administrator / department verifying the hospital appointment and/or committee activities as listed on page 6 of the application. A separate letter of endorsement/verification may be submitted by the hospital in lieu of completing the endorsement section.
- 5) Pay a \$650 nonrefundable processing fee.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Applications satisfying all requirements and received by **November 16, 2026** will be reviewed and acted upon by the Membership Committee. Applicants are notified whether the application is complete and whether, if necessary, any deficient items must be submitted. ACOS will make inquiries to state licensing boards and federal data banks. Applicants also are notified at which meeting the Membership Committee will consider the application and when they will receive notification of the committee's decision.

One of the following actions will be taken by the Membership Committee:

- 1) The application is approved, and the award is bestowed.
- 2) The application is not approved. The applicant did not fulfill all requirements. Applicants who are not approved may submit a new application one year following the membership committee action to not approve the previous application. Reapplication requires the submission of a \$100 reapplication and processing fee and compliance with all other application requirements. Applicants who are not approved are notified of the requirements they have not fulfilled.

The DFACOS designation is an honor. Completion of the DFACOS application does not establish a contract between the applicant and the ACOS. Fulfillment of the requirements for the DFACOS designation is determined by use of a rating system, inquiries to state licensing boards and federal data banks, a personal statement from the applicant and three letters of recommendation. The Membership Committee, at its discretion, may consider other criteria in addition to the stated requirements.

BESTOWAL OF THE DFACOS DESIGNATION

ACOS Distinguished Fellows are recognized in a ceremony during the College's ceremonial conclave in the same year following the approval of the application.

Applicants may choose a person to be their escort to the stage for their induction. Presentation of the award is made by the ACOS President and the Chair of the Membership Committee.

All newly elected ACOS Distinguished Fellows are required to be inducted at the ceremonial conclave held during the ACOS annual conference that takes place following notification of the approval of their DFACOS designation. If the applicant fails to participate in the ceremony to receive the title, then the pending DFACOS title will be withdrawn, except for good and sufficient reason as determined by the Membership Committee.

Upon discontinuation of ACOS membership, the title of DFACOS will be automatically withdrawn.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES RATING GUIDE

To be eligible for approval, each applicant must receive a total of 300 points overall having 1) fulfilled a minimum 100 points in Category I; and 2) demonstrated activity in both Categories II and III. Accumulation of points shall begin upon the year of becoming an ACOS resident member.

CATEGORY I — National, AOA, and ACOS Appointments		
<i>100 point minimum required.</i>		
ACOS ACTIVITIES	POINTS	TALLY
ACOS Membership (points accrue from Resident Membership years)	1/year	
Attendance at ACA, In-depth Review, Urological Discipline Mid-Year Meeting (must have registered for the conference)	3/meeting	
ACOS Committee member for major committee (Awards, Continuing Education, General Surgery In-service Exam, Government Affairs, In-depth Review, Membership, Residency Evaluation and Standards, and Strategic Planning committees)	5/year	
Committee member on other ACOS committees	3/year	
Board of Governor		
Officer (President, President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer)	10/term	
Member	5/term	
Program Chair for ACOS In-depth Review, ACOS Urological Discipline Mid-year Meeting, ACAOS discipline program	15/program	
ACOS Committee Chair	10/year	
ACOS Discipline Officer	5/year	
ACOS Resident Section Governing Council Chair	5/one time	
ACOS Resident Section Governing Council Officer	2/year	
Recruitment of a physician to ACOS resident or full membership (must have signed application)	5/member	
Recruitment of an Associate ACOS Member (must have signed application)	3/member	
Recipient of the ACOS Resident Achievement Award	5/one time	
Recipient of the Robert C. Erwin Literary Achievement Award	5/one time	
Recipient of the ACOS Humanitarian Award	7/one time	
AOA OR ABMS CERTIFICATION	POINTS	TALLY
AOA or ABMS Certifying Boards		
AOA or ABMS Board Certification or Re-certification	10 points	
Secondary or tertiary board certification or certification of added qualifications through AOA or ABMS	5 points	
AOA ACTIVITIES	POINTS	TALLY
AOA Certification Exams		
Clinical Examiner	5/exam	
Oral Examiner	5/year	
Member of AOA Certifying Board	5/year	
Member of an NBOME Level I, Level II, or Level III COMLEX-USA Construction Committee	5/year	
Delegate/Alternate to AOA House	5/per term	
AOA committee membership	2/year	
Chair/President of AOA State Delegates	10/term	
AOA Internship Program Inspector	3/inspection	
AOA Residency Program On-site Evaluator	5/on site	
Category I Subtotal		

Use the Tally column to quickly calculate your points.

CATEGORY II — Educational

Activity must be demonstrated in this Category.

LECTURES	POINTS	TALLY
Lecturer at national or international CME conference (AOA- or ACCME-accredited)	10/lecture	
Lecturer at a local/state CME conference (AOA- or ACCME-accredited)	5/lecture	
FACULTY	POINTS	TALLY
Non-faculty preceptor to medical students (D.O. and M.D.)	2/year	
Non-faculty preceptor to students of advanced-practice provider degrees (N.P.s and P.A.s)	1/year	
Non-faculty preceptor to students of allied health professional programs	2/one time	
Faculty, full-time, AOA-accredited college of osteopathic medicine or LCME-accredited medical school	15/one time	
Faculty, part-time, AOA-accredited college of osteopathic medicine or LCME-accredited medical school	10/one time	
Faculty, adjunct, AOA-accredited college of osteopathic medicine or LCME-accredited medical school	5/one time	
ACOS Student Outreach at College of osteopathic medicine students (college visit to COM to educate students and promote ACOS membership)	1/year	
MENTORING	POINTS	TALLY
Mentor in ACOS Mentor Match Program	2/year	
RESIDENCY TRAINING	POINTS	TALLY
Participant trainer in AOA-approved or ACGME-accredited residency training program (including OGME-1 internship)	2/year	
Program director of AOA-approved or ACGME-accredited residency training program	5/year	
Establishment of an AOA-approved residency training program	10/one time	
Development of electronic teaching aids (i.e., software for residents)	5/per item	
PUBLICATIONS / RESEARCH	POINTS	TALLY
ACA scientific display or poster session (primary exhibitor)	7/display	
Scientific display at CME meetings other than ACA (primary exhibitor)	5/display	
Research project (with article being reviewed for publication)	4/project	
Author or major contributor of published medical text	25/publication	
Primary author of article in journal included in <i>PubMed</i>	15/publication	
Contributing author of article in journal included in <i>PubMed</i>	5/publication	
Primary author for article in state/national journals not in <i>PubMed</i>	5/publication	
Development of electronic teaching aids for patients (i.e., DVDs, pamphlets, illustrations). Must include copy of pamphlet and/or illustrations.	2/item (4 points max)	
Submission of a test item for an AOA written certification / re-certification examination	2/item (4 points max)	
Submission of test item for the General Surgery In-service Examination	2/item (4 points max)	
Submission of a test item for an AOA oral certification examination	10/item	
Category II Subtotal		

Use the Tally column to quickly calculate your points.

CATEGORY III — State and Local Contributions / Appointments

Activity must be demonstrated in this Category.

HOSPITAL POSITIONS	POINTS	TALLY
Member of a hospital committee	1/year	
Chief of hospital staff	10/one time	
Chair of department of surgery	5/year	
Chair of major hospital department	5/year	
Chief of division (subspecialty) within major department	2/year	
Establishment of new hospital department or division	5/one time	
Member of hospital governing board	3/year	
Chair of a hospital committee	2/year	
Member of hospital executive committee	3/year	
DEMONSTRATED COMMUNITY ACTIVITY / SERVICE	POINTS	TALLY
Examples: paramedic education, student premedical education, local/state cancer society, medical speaker to non-medical local groups, school board, etc. A brief description (up to 50 words) may be submitted as supplemental information to describe your community service activities.	1/activity	
HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS	POINTS	TALLY
Humanitarian service in medical specialty to under-served areas or countries	10/one time	
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	POINTS	TALLY
US Military Service	10/one time	
STATE / COUNTY POSITIONS	POINTS	TALLY
Member of state medical licensing board	5/year	
Member of area-wide health planning organization	3/year	
Appointment to state/county health commission/review board	3/year	
Member of college of osteopathic medicine alumni board	1/year	
Member of medical school governing board	2/year	
Trustee of state osteopathic/allopathic medical association	3/year	
Officer of state osteopathic/allopathic medical association	5/year	
Trustee of local/county osteopathic/allopathic medical association	3/year	
Officer of local/county osteopathic/allopathic medical association	3/year	
Delegate to state osteopathic association	1/year	
Program chair of state AOA- or ACCME-accredited CME program	10/program	
Establishment of an AOA State or Local Chapter	10/one time	
Category III Subtotal		

CATEGORY I, II, AND III TOTAL

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