



The AMS Fellows Program

[Goals of the Fellows Program](#)

[I. Program](#)

[II. Initial Implementation](#)

[III. Selection Process](#)

[IV. Resignation of a Fellow](#)

[V. Revocation Policy](#)

[Footnotes](#)

[Appendix A: Change history](#)

This is a document describing the Fellows program that was approved by the AMS membership in 2011 and subsequent changes approved by the Council. As specified in the member-approved proposal, details of the program may be changed by the AMS Council, keeping in mind the intent of the membership when the initial program was approved.

A change history to this document is available in Appendix A.

Goals of the Fellows Program

The goals of the Fellows Program are to:

1. Create an enlarged class of mathematicians recognized by their peers as distinguished for their contributions to the profession.
2. Honor not only the extraordinary but also the excellent.
3. Lift the morale of the profession by providing an honor more accessible than those previously available.
4. Make mathematicians more competitive for awards, promotion and honors when they are being compared with colleagues from other disciplines.

5. Support the advancement of more mathematicians in leadership positions in their own institutions and in the broader society.
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I. Program

- A. The Fellows program of the American Mathematical Society recognizes members who have made outstanding contributions to the creation, exposition, advancement, communication, and utilization of mathematics.
- B. The responsibilities of Fellows are to:
 1. Take part in the selection of new Fellows.
 2. Present a “public face” of excellence in mathematics.
 3. Advise the President and/or the Council on public matters when requested.
- C. The target number of Fellows will be determined by the AMS Council as a percentage of the number of members. [1] The target percentage will be revisited by the Council at least once every ten years and may be increased or decreased in light of the history of the nomination and selection process. The intended size of each year’s class of new Fellows should be set with this target size in mind.
- D. Following a selection process (see below), individuals are invited to become Fellows. They may decline and they may also resign as Fellows at any time.
- E. Fellows receive a certificate and their names are listed on the AMS website. The names of new Fellows are also included in the Notices each year.
- F. If they are not already Fellows, the AMS President and Secretary are made Fellows when they take office.

II. Initial Implementation

- A. In the initial year of the program, individuals who were AMS members during both the years 2010 and 2011 and who had done one or more of the following were invited to become AMS Fellows: [2]
 1. Given an invited AMS address (including at joint meetings). [3]
 2. Been awarded an AMS research prize. [4]
 3. Given an invited address at an International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) or an International Congress of Industrial and Applied Mathematicians (ICIAM). [3]
- B. An additional 50 individuals who were AMS members during both the years 2010 and 2011 were selected to become AMS Fellows. These were chosen by a committee appointed by the President with the advice of the Executive

Committee of the Council. Attention was paid to selecting AMS members recognized for their contributions beyond research.

III. Selection Process

- A. New Fellows are selected each year after a nomination process. The nomination process is carried out under the direction of the Secretary with help from the AMS staff. The procedures for nominating AMS Fellows are available on the AMS website.
- B. The Selection Committee will consist of twelve members of the AMS who are also Fellows, each serving a three-year term, and with four new members appointed each year. The AMS president, in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Council, appoints the new members of the Selection Committee in November of each year. At the same time, the President nominates a continuing member of the Selection Committee to serve as Chair.
- C. The Selection Committee accepts nominations for Fellows between February 1 and March 31 each year. Nominations are made by members of the AMS. A member can nominate no more than 2 nominees a year. Current members of the Selection Committee are not allowed to participate in a Fellows nomination either as a principal nominator or as a supporting member.
- D. To be eligible for nomination to Fellowship, an individual must be an AMS member for the year in which he or she is nominated as well as for the prior year. Self-nominations are not allowed.
- E. A principal nominator must supply a package with the following information on the nominee:
 1. A Curriculum Vitae of no more than five pages.
 2. A citation of fifty words or less explaining the person's accomplishments.
 3. A statement of cause of 500 words or less explaining why the individual meets the criteria of Fellowship.
 4. The signatures of the principal nominator and three additional (supporting) AMS members who support the nomination, with at least two of these individuals current Fellows. Each supporting member is required to explain in a sentence or two why they are supporting the nomination. Their remarks will be very helpful to the selection committee.
- F. Any person who is nominated and is not selected a Fellow will remain an active nominee for a further two years.
- G. Each year the January Council provides a guideline for the number of Fellows to be selected. [5] The Selection Committee chooses Fellows from the nominations bearing in mind this guideline, diversity of every kind, and the quality and quantity of the external nominations.
- H. Those members who are chosen by the Selection Committee are invited by the President to become new Fellows of the AMS.

IV. Resignation of a Fellow

The April 2019 Council agreed that any Fellow has the right to resign and approved the following procedures in the event of such a resignation:

- Resigning a Fellowship will remove the Fellow's name from the Fellows database and from the list of Fellows posted here: <http://www.ams.org/profession/fellows-list> but not from any historical records, such as previous announcements of new classes of Fellows.
- No special indication will be made on the Fellows website of a resignation, only the removal of the name.
- A resignation is permanent. If the individual resigning Fellowship desires to become a Fellow again, they would need to be renominated and go through the usual process.

V. Revocation Policy

Fellows of the AMS represent the Society and are expected to maintain a high standard of professional ethics. The Society reserves the right to revoke the title of AMS Fellow from those Fellows whom it deems to have fallen below this standard.

Behaviors that may result in Fellowship revocation include research misconduct, as well as actions that betray the promise of an inclusive environment. The former includes offenses such as plagiarism or theft of intellectual property. Examples of the latter include sexual harassment, racial discrimination, and retaliation (or the threat thereof) for the reporting of these or other ethical lapses. The revocation policy is primarily but not exclusively directed toward professional ethics: the AMS reserves the right to consider ethical standards in other venues insofar as the Fellow's behavior may reflect poorly on the Society and the profession.

Evidence for deciding on Fellowship revocation will consist exclusively of findings by institutions such as employers, colleges and universities, government agencies, other societies, and the AMS itself when the issue arose under AMS jurisdiction. The AMS will not perform any independent investigation of ethical violations not occurring under its own auspices.

The process of Fellowship revocation is initiated by a request to the Prize Oversight Committee (POC), which can be made anonymously via the AMS website. The POC will contact institutions to corroborate their findings. Should the POC deem the findings to be sufficiently grave, the respondent will be contacted, presented with the evidence, and given the opportunity to make a statement; the respondent may also choose to resign the AMS Fellowship.

The POC will then vote on a recommendation to the Council. The final decision will be taken by the AMS Council and is not subject to appeal.

Footnotes

1: The original proposal's recommendation to Council was 5% of members. At that time there were about 30,000 members so the number of Fellows would be about 1,500.

2: It was anticipated that the seeding process described in II.A would produce offers of Fellows status to approximately 800 current AMS members.

3: An invited address is one given at the invitation of the program committee and delivered before January 1, 2012.

4: These are the Birkhoff, Bôcher, Cole, Conant, Doob, Eisenbud, Fulkerson, Moore, Robbins, Satter, Steele, Veblen, Whiteman, and Weiner prizes. Again, the prize must have been awarded before January 1, 2012.

5: It is anticipated that during a transition period of approximately 10 years about 75 new Fellows will be appointed each year. In the steady state of 1500, it is anticipated that about 40 new Fellows positions will occur annually due to attrition.

Appendix A: Change history

Change history for the Fellows program document. Each row represents a Council action.

A

Date of Council Action	Reference to Minutes	Change required	Location in this document where change is found
January 2021	Section 4.11.1	Add revocation policy to Fellows webpages	Newly added Item V
		[update table in date-descending order, most recent first]	
April 2019	Section 6.3	Procedure in the event of a Fellow's resignation was added as Item IV	Newly added Item IV
Jan 2019	Section 4.19.1, p. 15	Each nomination for the AMS Fellows program requires supporting statements from three current members of the AMS. After being identified by the nominator, those individuals are asked to confirm their support and explain in a sentence or two why they are supporting this nomination. Council approved making the field for supporting statements mandatory	Item III, E, 4 Changed the word "asked" to "required."
Jan 2014	Section 4.10.2, p. 11	Council approved the sentence "Current members of the Selection Committee may not make nominations for Fellows." Council voted to clarify this by replacing this sentence with "Current members of the Selection Committee may not participate in a Fellows nomination either as a principal nominator or as a supporting member."	Item III, C.
Jan 2014	Section 4,10.3, p. 12	Council approved amending the proposed request to supporting nominators to read "Please explain in a sentence or two why you are supporting this nomination. Your remarks will be very helpful to the selection committee".	Item III, E, 4 updated with "Each Supporting AMS Member is asked to explain in a sentence or two why they are supporting the nomination. Their remarks will be very helpful to the selection committee."

Jan 2014	Section 4.10.1, p. 13	Council approved the Fellows Selection Committee recommendation that self-nominations no longer be allowed.	Item III, D.
April 2012	Section 4.6.1, p. 8	In the Selection Committee charge, Council approved removing the sentence "The Selection Committee has the discretion to make nominations to fulfill the general goals of the Fellowship". This document was also updated to reflect the same information as the charge.	Item III, G.