



ACSM Fellowship Service Guide

All applicants should complete and document their service to the American College of Sports Medicine (Section I) and their service to the Sports Medicine and Exercise Science Community (Section II.) Regardless of track, applicants are required to have a minimum of four (4) ACSM service points (Section I). Candidates are encouraged to have more than the minimum.

Research Path – Members who have published in peer-reviewed (refereed) journals—such as those indexed in Index Medicus or Citation Index—may be considered for advancement based on a distinguished record of scholarly publication. As part of the application, please include four principal author publications from peer-reviewed journals that best represent your contributions to sports medicine or exercise science research. In addition, applicants must demonstrate a minimum of 4 ACSM service points in Section I, earned across a variety of activities (not solely through presentations). Please note: Meeting only the minimum criteria is rarely sufficient for advancement. Candidates are strongly encouraged to exceed the minimum to demonstrate a sustained and meaningful commitment to ACSM and the field.

Service Path – Members who do not publish research in indexed, refereed, peer-reviewed journals may be considered for fellowship based on distinguished service to both ACSM and the broader sports medicine and exercise science community. This service may include notable contributions in medical practice related to sports medicine over a minimum of three years—such as serving as a team physician, participating in sports injury prevention, or working in exercise testing or rehabilitative medicine. To qualify under this pathway, candidates must demonstrate service to both ACSM and the wider professional community, earning at least 4 points in Section I and 10 points in Section II, for a combined minimum score of 14 points. Applicants pursuing advancement through service are expected to exceed the minimum point thresholds, as meeting only the minimum criteria is rarely sufficient for advancement.

While the vast majority of applicants (approximately 95%) apply through the Research or Service tracks, there are **three additional pathways** outlined in the [Fellowship Objectives and Minimum Benchmarks](#). Applicants are encouraged to review these guidelines to determine the most appropriate path based on their experience and professional contributions.

Section I – Service to ACSM (and EIM)

This section captures direct service to ACSM, which is tracked and verified by ACSM staff. To be considered competitive, applicants should demonstrate well-rounded involvement across multiple areas of service. For example, all service points should not come solely from professional presentations. A minimum of four (4) ACSM service points is required for an application to be reviewed. However, meeting only the minimum is rarely sufficient for advancement. Applicants are strongly encouraged to exceed the minimum requirement to reflect a sustained and meaningful contribution to ACSM.

Professional Presentations where you were the presenting speaker and/or first presenting author.

Presented at an ACSM Conference (1 point per conference, 2 points max per conference if presented more than once)

ACSM Advanced Team Physician Course

ACSM Annual Meeting and World Congress

ACSM International Health and Fitness Summit

ACSM Jointly Sponsored Conference

ACSM Regional Chapter Meeting

ACSM Team Physician Course / Sports Medicine Essentials

Committee Work

Completed Service Appointment on an ACSM Committee (2 points max per each item below)

Full term on an ACSM Regional Chapter Board

Full term on an ACSM Regional Chapter Committee

Three-year appointment on an ACSM National / Exercise Is Medicine Committee, Ad hoc, Task Force, or Strategic Health Initiative

Publications and Reviews

Served as an Editor, Associate Editor, or Co-Editor for an ACSM Publication for at least one-year (2 points max per item listed below)

ACSM's Health & Fitness Journal®

Current Sports Medicine Reports

Exercise and Sports Science Reviews

Exercise, Sport, and Movement

Medicine & Science Sports & Exercise®

Translational Journal of ACSM

Completed three Manuscript Reviews for the same ACSM Journal (1 point max for each journal that you have completed at least three manuscript reviews)

ACSM's Health & Fitness Journal® (completed 3 reviews)

Current Sports Medicine Reports (completed 3 reviews)

Exercise and Sports Sciences Reviews (completed 3 reviews)

Exercise, Sport, and Movement (completed 3 reviews)

Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise® (completed 3 reviews)

Translational Journal of ACSM (completed 3 reviews)

Other Publications and Reviews

Completed a full term of service on a writing group for an ACSM book or pronouncement at the request of ACSM (2 points)

Reviewed or wrote at least three pieces of published content at the request of ACSM or EIM (e.g. - ACSM's Sports Medicine Bulletin/ACSM Bulletin; ACSM's Certified News; ACSM Current Comment; Fit Society, ACSM Position Stand, etc.) (1 point)

Reviewed two chapters in an ACSM book or ACSM endorsed book at the request of ACSM (1 point, 2 points if three or more chapters)

Served as an abstract reviewer for a Regional Chapter Meeting for at least two years (1 point)

Served as an abstract reviewer for an ACSM Annual Meeting; meaning invited by the Program Committee topical rep and verified to use scoring database. This is not associated with Special Interest Groups (1 point; 2 points if two or more years)

Served as a chair / discussant for a Regional Chapter Meeting of free communications / slide, thematic poster, or clinical case session. This is not associated with Special Interest Groups. (1 point; 2 points if two or more meetings)

Served as a chair / discussant for an ACSM Annual Meeting of free communications / slide, thematic poster, or clinical case session. This is not associated with Special Interest Groups. (1 point; 2 points if two or more meetings)

Served as a Credentialed Evidence Analyst for at least three years (2 points)

Served as a reviewer for ACSM's Travel and Research Awards; these are not applications associated with the official Research Award Committee and not associated with Special Interest Groups (1 point for reviewing 1-19 applications; 2 points for reviewing 20-39 applications; or 3 points max for reviewing 40+ applications)

Network Programs / Outreach

Hold a current ACSM Certification (1 point)

Hosted an original ACSM Webinar at the request of ACSM (1 point, 2 points max if hosted more than one)

Served as a Chair or Co-Chair for an ACSM Special Interest Group for at least three years (2 points)

Served as an ACSM Media Referral Network Volunteer for at least two years (1 point)

Served as an EIM Emerging Leader for at least two years; meaning selected by the EIM Governance Board and EIM Advisory Panel as a participant (1 point for completing a 2 year term in the program)

Served as an ACSM Certification Workshop Director or Examiner (1 point; 2 points if more than once)

Total Points for Section I:

For each of the four underlined sections above where points are claimed, applicants must provide detailed documentation at the end of each section to support the service claimed. This documentation should include specifics such as dates, titles, and other relevant information.

For example, if the max 2 points are claimed in the *Committee Work* section for completing a full term on an ACSM Regional Chapter Committee, applicants should document **all** relevant committee service. This means listing each completed term, including the name(s) of the committee(s) and the start and end date(s). If the applicant is currently serving on a committee, that service should also be listed (although no point value is awarded for incomplete service). The goal is to provide the reviewers with a comprehensive overview of your ACSM engagement.

Section II – Service to the Sports Medicine and Exercise Science Community

All applicants should document any service activities relevant to Section II – Service to the Sports Medicine and Exercise Science Community (i.e. - non-ACSM service).

For applicants pursuing the service path, contributions to **both** ACSM and the broader sports medicine and exercise science community (in the US or internationally) **are required**. A minimum of 10 points must be documented in Section II, along with at least 4 points in Section I.

Professional Presentations

Presented at an Exercise Science or Sports Medicine Meeting (1 point; 2 points if delivered more than one distinct presentation)

Committee Work

Completed a Full Term of Service (1 point per item, 2 points max if served on more than once)

On the Board of Trustees / Directors of an Exercise Science or Sports Medicine Association

On the Standing Committee of an Exercise Science or Sports Medicine Association

Publications and Reviews

Published a paper (first author) on an Exercise Science or Sports Medicine topic in a peer-reviewed journal (1 point per distinct paper, not to exceed 4 points)

Published an article (first author) on an Exercise Science or Sports Medicine topic in a lay publication ($\frac{1}{2}$ point per distinct article, not to exceed 2 points)

Served as a reviewer for a peer-reviewed journal focused on Exercise Science or Sports Medicine for at least two years (1 point; 2 points if more than two years)

Wrote a chapter (first author) in a published book on an Exercise Science or Sports Medicine topic including publications in your native country (1 point; 2 points if more than one chapter)

Wrote a published book on an Exercise Science or Sports Medicine topic (4 points)

Network Programs / Outreach

Served as a Committee Member for the National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity, or for another Health-Related Coalition or Sports Medicine Organization in your native country (for international members) for at least two years (2 points)

Served as an Accreditation Site Visitor for CAAHEP (Committee for Accreditation of Exercise Science Programs) (1 point; 2 points if served two or more sites)

Clinical and Lay Service

Served as a team physician (MD or DO) for a community, high school, collegiate, professional athletic team, or performance organization (e.g., Ballet Company) (2 points per year, not to exceed 6 points)

Conducted distinct tutorials / grand round lectures related to Exercise Science or Sports Medicine in a clinical educational setting (1 point; 2 points if conducted more than one)

Established a permanent education service to the community as a whole in the area of Exercise Science or Sports Medicine (e.g., television program, newsletter, clinical education program, etc.) (3 points)

Presented a lecture to the lay public on a health-related issue (1 point per talk, not to exceed 4 points; presentations must be distinct lectures)

Served as a physician for any Health-Related or Sports Medicine Organization for a period of at least three years (3 points)

Served as an athletic non-physician team consultant (e.g., Sport Psychologist) for a community, high school, collegiate, or professional athletic team, or performance organization (e.g., Ballet Company) for at least one year (1 point per year, not to exceed 3 points)

Total Points for Section II:

As in Section I, for each of the five underlined sections above where points are claimed, applicants must provide detailed documentation at the end of each section to support the service listed. This documentation should include specifics such as titles, dates, and other relevant details.

For example, if 2 points are claimed in the *Committee Work* section for completing a full term on a standing committee of an Exercise Science or Sports Medicine Association (non-ACSM), applicants should document **all** such non-ACSM standing committee service. This includes listing the name(s) of each committee, the start and end dates of the term(s), and any ongoing service. If service has been completed on two separate committees, both should be documented. If the applicant is mid-term on a third committee, that should be noted as well. The goal is to provide the reviewers a complete and accurate picture of your non-ACSM service history.

Note: *This guide is intended to help prospective fellow candidates assess their current service point totals. While ACSM strives to include all available service opportunities, this document may not reflect the most recent updates. For the most accurate and up-to-date information on service opportunities and point values, please refer to the fellowship application in the Member Hub. Please note - the fellow application will be unavailable during the review period. Once the review is complete, the link to the application will be reposted online.*