



EXPLANATION OF THE POINT SYSTEM SPECIAL CATEGORY CANDIDATES

A point system has been put into place to allow candidates more options to meet the written requirements. Once the candidate has achieved **50 Points**, he or she will be invited to sit for an oral examination at the next Annual Meeting of the Academy. It is the candidate's responsibility to provide their Regional Chair with any documentation requested before consideration for awarding points can be made, and it is the Regional Chair's responsibility to assess whether or not the materials presented satisfy the intent of the category.

Research papers, posters and publications in a vision science related curriculum completed prior to receiving a qualifying degree will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The faculty advisor must provide a statement documenting the student's significant level of involvement in the project. The project must be the candidate's work.

If written work is submitted electronically, only one electronic copy is required. If written work is submitted in "hard copy", the Regional Chair will inform the candidate of the number of copies of each written work required.

SPECIAL CATEGORY CANDIDATES

SPECIAL CATEGORY CANDIDATES may include administrators, executive directors, clinical consultants, librarians, editors, educators or others who have distinguished themselves and optometry by their contributions to optometry or vision science. **This category is reserved for those candidates who are not in active clinical practice or participating in publishable scientific research.**

A combination of points from the following categories which total 50 points is required to complete the written requirements. **At least one original paper (either 1,200 word paper for 10 points or 6,000 word paper for 50 points) is required for all special category candidates. All written work (including posters, papers, lectures, etc.) must have been completed and presented prior to the June 1st deadline.**

PUBLICATIONS (10 Points each)

1. An article published in one or more of the following or *similar* types of peer reviewed journals may be acceptable: *Applied Science, Optometric Education, Optometric Management* or other related fields.
2. When multiple authored published articles are submitted for credit, the article will only be considered if the candidate appears as the **first, second or last author**. If the article is **over ten years old**, it may be acceptable, but a paper describing what changes have taken place on the topic since it was published may also be requested.

3. The Regional Chair will make the decision if a submitted article meets the standards outlined above.

POSTER AND PAPERS (10 Points each)

1. A **research poster or paper** completed prior to the graduation/licensure may be accepted.
2. A poster or paper may be accepted if it was presented at a professional meeting which would include the Academy and ARVO, or any other meeting which has peer reviewed poster or paper sessions with citable published abstracts.
3. When a multiple authored poster or paper is submitted for credit, it will only be considered if the candidate appears as the **first, second or last author**. A poster or paper over ten years old may not be accepted.
4. The Regional Chair will make the decision if a submitted article meets the standards outlined above.
5. Photocopies of the poster or an abstract, which clearly describes the poster presentation, may be requested by the Regional Chair.

ACADEMY LECTURE (10 Points each)

1. A unique lecture given within the past ten years at an Annual or International meeting of the Academy may be accepted if:
 - a. Candidate was sole presenter of a one-hour lecture.
 - b. Candidate presented for at least one hour of a two-hour lecture.
2. Documentation of successful completion of the lecture with dates and location must be provided along with a description of the lecture.

RESIDENCY OR OTHER GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (20 Points maximum)

1. Candidate must document completion of a residency program accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education, or post-baccalaureate degree other than an OD (e.g., MS, MPH, MBA, MEd, PhD) in a vision science related curriculum affiliated with an accredited college or university.
2. Documentation of the successful completion of the program with dates of attendance and location must be provided along with a description of the scope of the program.
3. Copies of any research reports, case reports, thesis, etc., completed within the program may be requested by the Regional Chair.

LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION (10 points maximum)

1. While most candidates are in positions that inherently require leadership skills, points for leadership will only be awarded for activities at the national or state level outside of the scope of the candidate's regular compensated position. Leadership points will only be awarded for those candidates who can document a sustained record of highly significant contributions to the profession or vision science that resulted from the individual's leadership positions.
2. Candidates with accomplishments that might make them eligible for leadership points should seek preliminary approval from the Regional Chair by submitting the organization(s) served, the dates of service, the leadership position(s), and a statement outlining the significant contribution(s) to the profession.
3. After receiving preliminary approval from the Regional Chair, the candidate must complete a 1,200-word essay that demonstrates to the satisfaction of the committee that significant contributions to the profession or vision science resulted from the individual's leadership activities within the position.

PROFESSIONALLY RELATED BOOK (20 Points maximum)

1. A book published that relates to the vision sciences.
2. When multiple authored published books are submitted for credit, an explanation of the candidate's role in writing the book must be provided in order for the book to be considered. If the book is **over ten years old**, it may be acceptable, but a paper describing what changes have taken place on the topic since it was published may also be requested.
3. The Regional Chair will make the decision if a submitted book meets the standards outlined above.

ORIGINAL 6,000 WORD PAPER (50 Points maximum)

1. Candidate is the primary author.
2. The candidate and the Regional Chair will mutually agree upon the topic of the paper.
3. The paper can be based on prior works or projects, but must be a new original work written for the purpose of Fellowship.

ORIGINAL 1,200 WORD PAPER (10 Points maximum)

1. Candidate describes the current work they are doing, what they have learned from their work and what it means to the profession of Optometry.
2. The paper must be a new original work written for the purpose of Fellowship.

SYNOPSIS OF FIVE CONSULTATIVE SERVICES PROVIDED TO PRACTITIONERS

(10 Points each)

1. Candidates who provide consultative services (i.e. Contact Lens Consultant, Practice Management Consultant, etc) can summarize five different cases/situations in which they demonstrate their expertise and represent the depth and breadth of their services.

SYNOPSIS OF EDUCATIONAL COURSE WORK THE CANDIDATE HAS GIVEN RELATED TO THE PROFESSION OF OPTOMETRY (10 Points each)

1. Optometric educators can provide a synopsis of their course objectives, lesson plans, lessons learned. Minimum course duration one quarter/semester.
2. The Regional Chair will make the decision if a submitted synopsis meets the standards outlined above.