

WRITTEN WORK FOR SPECIAL CATEGORIES CANDIDATES

Written work for the Special Categories is designed to demonstrate proficiency in the candidate's area of expertise.

When the application is received, the regional Chair determines if there is a reasonable chance of the candidate showing adequate evidence of a history of superior achievement and substantial contribution to the advancement of optometry. Such decision shall be based upon the brief description of the case for candidacy included therein the response of the proposer and any other information contained in the application. The RC may contact the proposer for a more detailed recommendation if warranted.

In some cases where the candidate is not an O.D., he or she may, be required to show additional evidence of a substantial contribution to optometry or visual science in addition to that submitted with the application. This additional evidence, e.g., published papers, innovative techniques, authored books, and a patent in appropriate fields is reviewed in terms of its quality and its contribution to the objectives of the Academy. The chair may use expertise outside the Special Categories Committee, if need be, to assist in such review.

Once the chair accepts the application for candidacy, the candidate is asked to provide their written work. For the required written original papers:

- If the candidate elects to complete the 1,200 word paper for 10 points, then the candidate should describes the current work they are doing, what they have learned from their work and what it means to the profession of Optometry.
- If the candidate elects to complete the 6,000-word paper for 50 points, then the candidate and the RC will mutually agree upon the topic of the paper and can be based on prior works or projects.

Both the 1,200-word paper and the 6,000-word paper must be new, original work written for the purpose of Fellowship.