



Fellow of National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses (FNAON)

Fellow Designation

The NAON Fellow Designation (FNAON) demonstrates commitment to the orthopaedic nursing profession beyond the normal role requirement and to the highest standards of practice. It is the most distinguished and honorable level of membership, as well as a public hallmark of professional esteem. Fellows are outstanding leaders, leaving behind them an enduring legacy of accomplishment that will continue to shape or guide the profession.

Nurses who are designated as Fellows of the National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses have demonstrated outstanding leadership in orthopaedic nursing, sustained and notable contributions to the specialty beyond their work environment at a regional, state, national, and even global level. Recipients of this designation have achieved success in the field of orthopaedics, provided academic accomplishment, mentorship, advocacy, volunteer service, and demonstrated their commitment to advancing the specialty and the association.

Benefits of FNAON Designation

- Recognition as an accomplished orthopaedic nurse leader
- Use of the FNAON as a professional credential
- Included in the directory as a NAON Fellow
- Signifies your lifelong commitment to improving musculoskeletal health
- Peer and public recognition as an orthopaedic nursing expert
- Opportunities to participate in NAON initiatives to help shape the future direction of orthopaedic nursing
- Represent NAON on a national and global level with other nursing organizations through work groups, panels, or other collaborative initiatives
- A personal sense of achievement

The NAON Board of Directors confers recognition as a Fellow upon the recommendation of the NAON Fellows Selection Committee according to the criteria outlined below. Fellows will be granted the privilege of using the credential FNAON (Fellow of the National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses). The total number of NAON Fellows shall not exceed 10 percent of the total number of NAON members.



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Required Components of the Application:

- I. Professional narrative addressing defined criteria
- II. Submission of Curriculum Vitae (CV) following defined requirements
- III. Two letters of support for the nomination of fellow designation, at least one of which is from a current NAON member
- IV. Letter of Commitment
- V. Non-refundable application fee

Required Eligibility on the Application Form:

- Current membership in NAON; applicants must provide their membership number [Full membership]
- A minimum of three years of NAON membership prior to application submission. Years of membership does not need to be consecutive or at Full level but must be the individual member type at time of application.
- Have a Diploma in Nursing or at least one degree in nursing which may include the following: AA, BSN, MSN, PhD, DNP or other.
- Attendance at a minimum of three NAON Annual Conferences, in-person or virtual.
- Certification in the specialty of orthopaedics required as a recognition of expert in field and demonstrates commitment to the specialty of professional orthopaedic nursing and is one factor considered when evaluating applications (ONC[®], ONP-C[®], OCNS-C, and ONC-A[™]).

I. Professional Narrative

Your narrative submission will be considered and scored based on your description of outcomes that contribute to advancing orthopaedic nursing, as well as to the mission and vision of NAON, and that demonstrate an impact beyond your organization at a regional, state, national, and even global level. The narrative should be clear to the reviewers what you have accomplished and contributed, how these have extended beyond your work setting, and provide supporting evidence



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of the accomplishments/contributions. It should also be clear to the reviewers the influence that NAON has had on your professional growth and leadership evolution and the contributions that you have made to NAON.

There are specific word limits; applications exceeding the word limit will not be accepted. When composing your narrative, ensure its organization and clarity.

The review will include whether:

- The narrative for each criteria item is clear, coherent, focused, and free of grammatical errors.
- The content of the narrative is well developed, organized, and well edited.
- The organization of ideas presented is effective in providing evidence to support the criteria item.
- The reader benefits from the applicant's logic and well-developed descriptions of how the Fellow designation criteria have been met and the narrative connection to the criteria is clear.

A. Criteria

There are five (5) criteria components within the professional narrative that each individual for Fellowship in NAON must meet:

1. Professional Growth and Leadership Evolution (Max 500 words)
 - a. NAON leadership roles (elected or formally appointed roles)
 - b. Awards and honors in nursing beyond employment
 - c. Leadership roles within the orthopaedic community outside of organizational employment
2. Accomplishments and/or Innovation to orthopaedic nursing (Max 500 words)
3. Substantial/Significant contributions to NAON and the orthopaedic nursing profession (Max 750 words)
 - ✓ Broad influence/wide-reaching impact/legacy at the local/state/regional/national/global levels
 - ✓ Outstanding leadership in mentorship, advocacy, volunteer service, community activities
 - ✓ Lasting and enduring impact on nursing practice, education, research, leadership, and/or public policy
 - ✓ Demonstrated commitment to advancing the specialty and the association
4. Academic and/or scholarly accomplishment to include presentations, publication, and research involvement
 - a. Publish substantial works in peer-reviewed journals and textbooks. These may be research, clinical, leadership, or policy articles
 - b. Clearly outlined in CV



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5. Future Professional Development and Leadership Goals Contribute to the Mission/Vision/Strategic Plan of NAON
(Max 500 words)

- a. Describe how you plan to further develop, expand, or evolve your nursing practice to support the orthopaedic nursing profession and member organization to advance the mission and vision of NAON.

II. Submission of Curriculum Vitae (CV)

The CV should not exceed 10 pages, 12pt font, with one-inch margins. Each category should begin with the most current information. Provide dates and details where appropriate.

Please use the template listed below:

HEADER: NAME FOLLOWED BY CREDENTIALS, WORK OR HOME ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER WORK (W) AND MOBILE (C), BUSINESS WEBSITE (if applicable), EMAIL ADDRESS

LICENSES (include license number, state, and renewal date)

BOARD CERTIFICATION(S) (include renewal date)

ACADEMIC/EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION IN NURSING (highest degree first; include any academic degree's earner, formal post-doctoral education, and/or degrees in progress, including institution and year of graduation)

EMPLOYMENT (include relevant employment with year of employment, employer, location, and position(s) held)

LECTURESHIP/PRESENTATIONS

PUBLICATIONS (include any relevant selected written work such as publications in peer reviewed journals, book chapters, clinical practice guidelines, patents, tools, or instruments)

RESEARCH/EBP/QI

VOLUNTEER SERVICE (include relevant voluntary, appointed, or elected leadership roles on boards/committees in nursing, health care, or other organizations outside of your employment with dates of service)

AWARDS/HONORS (include any relevant awards and/or honors)



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III. Letters of Support and Nomination

Two letters of support are required. It is recommended that both letters be written by current NAON members in good standing (membership numbers required); at least one must be a current NAON member. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that at least one letter author is a current NAON member before submitting the letters with the application packet.

The most important characteristic of authors of support letters is their direct knowledge of the applicant. The authors should have sufficient knowledge about the applicant to expand on the contributions and outcomes to both leadership and NAON contributions.

IV. Letter of Commitment

A signed and dated letter of commitment must accompany the application.

I agree to adhere to the responsibilities of Fellow status, including:

- Support NAON's goals, mission, vision, values, and strategic plan.
- Advocate for individuals with musculoskeletal health disparities and chronic health care issues such as osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and osteoporosis in cooperation with NAON and outside the organization to help transform America's health care system
- Offer my talents and expertise to the organization as desired, needed, or requested by the NAON board
- Participate in activities of the Fellows
- Maintain membership in the organization

I understand that I must attend a Fellowship Induction Ceremony to use the FNAON credential.

I understand that if my membership in NAON lapses, the Fellowship ends. Upon reinstatement of membership, I will need to reapply for reinstatement of Fellow status and all applicable fees (application fee).



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V. Application Fee

The application fee of \$100.00 (US) is non-refundable.

Selection Process

Each calendar year, in October/early November, the application cycle opens. A call for application for Fellow status will be sent to all members via email, distributed to all NAON Chapter/Affiliates presidents, and posted on website. All applications, CV, and application fee for Fellow status must be submitted and received by the NAON national office by **January 31, 2026**. Incomplete applications will not be considered. No applications will be reviewed after this deadline.

Application review will take place in March. Members of the Fellows Selection Committee, appointed from members of the Board, will screen, and review all applications and recommend a slate of candidates to the entire NAON Board of Directors for approval. The maximum number of candidates whose applications will be submitted to the Board shall not exceed 1% of the NAON membership annually. Those eligible candidates whose applications are not recommended for approval will be encouraged to resubmit an application the following year. Notification to candidates whose applications are approved and ratified by the NAON Board of Directors will be notified via email in March. A \$250.00 induction fee to be collected prior to using the FNAON credential. The Induction ceremony will occur at the Annual Congress that same year. Annual fee of \$250.00 to maintain credential of FNAON.

The scoring rubric used by the Fellows Selection Committee is available on the website. Applicants are encouraged to use this as a guide for self- assessment to determine whether the applicant has engaged in significant and substantial leadership, scholarly activities, and contributions to qualify to be a Fellow.

If you have any questions about this program or the application process, contact the NAON national office at 443-640-1041 or naon@orthonurse.org.