

Use and Maintenance of Distinguished Fellow (DFASAM) Designation FAQ's

1. Is ASAM membership now a requirement to continue using the DFASAM designation?

Yes. In order to qualify as an ASAM Distinguished Fellow, you are required to be a Member for at least five consecutive years, and therefore members who are approved as Distinguished Fellows of the American Society of Addiction Medicine are required to retain ASAM membership in order to use the DFASAM designation.

2. I am a current Distinguished Fellow, who is not eligible to sit for the ABPM subspecialty exam in addiction Medicine, will I lose my privilege to use the DFASAM designation?

As a current Distinguished Fellow member, you will be able to maintain the use of the DFASAM designation as long you remain current with your membership dues, however if you allow your ASAM membership to lapse for greater than one membership cycle, you must re-apply for the Distinguished Fellow designation and meet the current DFASAM criteria. The continuous membership criteria will restart from the point you rejoin ASAM as an active member.

3. What does “Distinguished Fellow in good standing with the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)” mean?

The term “in good standing” indicates that you are an active member of ASAM as stated in the ASAM Bylaws Section 3. Active Membership Categories (Regular, International, Early Career Physician, Resident, Student and Provisional)

Active members shall maintain a valid active allopathic or osteopathic medical license or certification of residency, fellowship, or student status. A valid active medical license shall be issued by the appropriate agency and shall certify that a physician is permitted to practice medicine within that country, province or state. The Society shall consider a medical license to be valid where stipulations and/or conditions have been placed on the license. The Society shall not consider a license to be valid if it has been revoked, suspended, surrendered, or made subject to a sanction similar or equivalent to revocation, suspension, or surrender, until such time as 1) the physician has notified ASAM that the sanction has expired or been removed, and 2) ASAM has confirmed the expiration or removal of the sanction with the state licensing board. These provisions shall apply equally to all licenses held by a physician. All active members shall submit the required dues and license certification at the time of joining, rejoining, or renewing, or shall forfeit membership.

4. What happens if I want to change my membership status from “Regular” member to a “Retired” Member of ASAM?

Active Distinguished Fellow members may retain the DFASAM designation when they convert to ASAM Retired member status only if active membership is maintained up to approval of change in status.

5. What happens if my membership has expired?

Effective January 2019, if an active Distinguished Fellow member allows his/her ASAM membership to lapse for greater than one membership cycle, the member must re-apply for the Distinguished Fellow designation. The continuous membership criteria will restart from the point the member rejoins ASAM as an active member and he/she must meet the current DFASAM criteria to reapply.

6. What if I am a Distinguished Fellow and my membership lapsed in 2017?

Members who were approved as Distinguished Fellows prior to January 2019, and whose membership is not current will be notified and provided a one-time 60-day grace period to renew their ASAM membership and retain the privilege to use the DFASAM designation. If membership is not renewed within that 60-day grace period, the member must re-apply for the Distinguished Fellow designation and the continuous membership criteria will restart from the point the member rejoins ASAM as an active member and he/she meets the current DFASAM criteria to reapply.