

# SOCIETY OF TOXICOLOGY

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### Instructions to Applicants for Membership in the Society of Toxicology

**Please read carefully before completing any portion of this application.**

To assist the applicant in determining eligibility for membership, the Council of the Society of Toxicology developed the following definitions and criteria for admission. The SOT Membership Committee is charged with the responsibility of evaluating each application according to these criteria.

#### Deadlines

The deadlines for the receipt of all applications by the Executive Director's Office are **September 1st and April 1st**. Applications lacking the proper supporting documents, as outlined below, by the deadline date will not be considered, but when complete will be reviewed at the next scheduled meeting of the Membership Committee.

#### Qualifications

Each applicant must be a *qualified person* with a *professional scientific interest* in toxicology, in addition to meeting the requirements for the specific category of membership.

**A Qualified Person** is defined as an individual who is competent, by virtue of training and experience, to function as a scientist and professional in toxicology.

The candidate should have, as a minimum, an earned baccalaureate degree in a physical or biological science that is generally acknowledged as being pertinent to the determination of health or environmental effects and hazard evaluation or assessment.

**A Professional Interest** is defined as involvement in scientific activity characterized by or conforming to the ethical standards commonly accepted by toxicologists.

The evidence of involvement should document the applicant's experience in one or more of the following areas: teaching, research, testing, consulting, or evaluating data for hazard and risk assessment. Attendance at SOT meetings is also an indication of professional interest. Each applicant must also provide sponsorship in writing from Full members of the Society of Toxicology.

Note: Members of SOT Council and the SOT Membership Committee are prohibited by the Society of Toxicology Bylaws from sponsoring applicants.

#### Available Memberships

##### Full Membership

Individuals may qualify for Full Membership in SOT based either upon:

- a record of peer-reviewed publications; or
- documented professional experience in toxicology without peer-reviewed publications.

Each applicant for Full Membership based upon publication record must have at least three years of post-graduate experience prior to the date at which the application for membership is considered. In the absence of peer-reviewed publication, five years of such experience is required. Formal post-doctoral training, but not full-time enrollment in graduate education, will be considered in meeting the requirement for three or five years of experience.

Those applying on the basis of publication record must have authored or coauthored a minimum of two peer-reviewed, toxicology-related research publications which are not the result of graduate research experience (avoid submitting publications on which the graduate advisor is named as an author unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the research was initiated following completion of degree requirements).

Examples of unacceptable publications include, but may not be limited to, abstracts, letters to the editor, commentaries, technical notes, book chapters, and review articles. Do not submit manuscripts in preparation. If manuscripts are in press, but not yet in print, indicate this and submit a copy of the letter of acceptance. The applicant must also submit a complete bibliography (including thesis and dissertation titles). It is essential that exact bibliographic citations be given (title, authors, journal name and volume, inclusive page numbers, and year of publication).

Those applying on the basis of experience in toxicology, but without peer-reviewed publications, must clearly document activities and accomplishments supportive of the applications such as: relevant professional experience; appointment to expert toxicology committees; awards for scientific endeavor; certification in toxicology; invited participation in toxicology meetings, seminars, symposia, and workshops; contributions to toxicology literature, such as review articles, monographs, and text book chapters demonstrating a scholarly and/or innovative approach by the applicant.

**NOTE:**

**Sponsors may not be members of SOT Council or the SOT Membership Committee.**

Two Full members must sponsor those applying based upon publication record by submitting completed and signed sponsorships forms (forms provided). Three Full members must sponsor those applying on the basis of experience without peer-reviewed publication by submitting completed, signed sponsorship forms (forms provided); no two sponsors may be from the same institution. Letters of support should be forwarded directly from the sponsor to the attention of the Membership Committee of SOT Headquarters.

**Associate Membership**

Individuals who have demonstrated professional, scientific activities in toxicology but who do not qualify for Full Membership shall be eligible for Associate Membership. Evidence of such activities may include attendance at toxicology scientific meetings, employment responsibilities that require an understanding of toxicologic principles, or a beginning career in toxicologic research. All items of the application must be completed in full with special emphasis on evidence of continuing professional activities in toxicology. Two Full members must sponsor the application (forms provided).

**Student/Postdoctoral Fellow Membership**

Students with an interest in toxicology who are enrolled full-time in a graduate degree program or who are within a 12-month period following termination of appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow shall be eligible for Student/Postdoctoral Fellow Membership. Two Full members must provide completed, signed sponsorship forms (forms provided). In addition, the applicant's faculty advisor/post-doctoral mentor must provide assurance the applicant is a full-time student/fellow (or has completed the degree program or fellowship within the past 12 months). If the faculty advisor/mentor is a Full member, the advisor can serve as one of the two required sponsors. A third sponsor who is a Full Member of SOT is required as sponsor if the advisor/mentor is not a Full Member of SOT.

**Candidates - Make Sure You:**

- Sign Your Application.**
- Submit 1 copy of your completed application and resume or C.V.**
- Arrange for sponsors to complete, sign, and mail the Sponsorship form by deadline.**