Qualifications for Academy Associate Membership

1. A dentist or dental technician of the highest caliber, who is respected for his/her clinical/technical competency and has made significant contributions to the profession in his/her specific discipline
2. A person who demonstrates the highest moral, ethical, and professional standards, and conforms to the Academy’s Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct document
3. Is respected in the community in which he/she lives and serves
4. Is active in professional organizations of stature, which will enhance the reputation of the Academy
5. Is in good standing in the dental profession for a minimum of five (5) years
6. Applicant must have attended 2 AAED annual meetings prior to submitting membership application
7. Must be nominated with written endorsement from at least three (3) eligible Academy Fellow or Life Fellow members
8. Satisfy minimum point requirement on the AAED Application.

Membership Privileges/Obligations

- Annual dues, as set by the General Assembly, are required for membership. For reference purposes, dues for the 2017 calendar year are $1400, inclusive of the registration fees for the 2017 Annual Meeting. A one-time initiation fee of $250 will be assessed to newly elected Associate Members.
- Attendance at the annual meetings is required for all Fellow and Associate Members. Any member with two (2) consecutive unexcused absences may be subject to termination from the membership.
- Associate Members are not members of the General Assembly, are not eligible to vote or to hold elected office. They may serve as members of Academy Committees and Task Forces.
- Associate Members may request Fellowship status after three (3) years according to the established eligibility requirements; however, reaching Fellow status is NOT a requirement to remain a member of the Academy.

Application Process

1. Associate Membership in the Academy is by invitation only. A Fellow or Life Fellow in good standing must initiate the application process for membership of a prospective Associate Member.
2. Completed applications, including three (3) written sponsor endorsements, a current CV, and a photograph must be submitted to AAED Headquarters no later than March 1. Only Fellows and/or Life Fellows are eligible to submit an endorsement, and may be called upon to speak on behalf of the applicant prior to final action by the Membership Committee, Executive Council and/or General Assembly. One of the three required members must serve as the prospective member’s primary sponsor.
3. Applicant must have attended two (2) AAED annual meetings prior to submitting membership application.
4. The Membership Committee reviews and scores the applications, and determines who is eligible. Their recommendations are then forwarded to the Executive Council for preliminary approval.
5. The information is then sent to the voting General Assembly members and posted online in a ‘Candidates Proposed for Membership’ section– comments are solicited within 30 days of the initial posting.
6. Eligible candidates must attend the August Annual Meeting in the year their candidacy is proposed.
   - The primary sponsor is responsible for introducing the candidate to members during the meeting.
   - Proposed candidates and their sponsors will arrive 30 minutes before the Opening Reception and remain in the designated area for an additional 30 minutes so that members can meet them and ask any questions they may have.
7. Written questions and concerns are returned to the Membership Committee within 30 days of the meeting.
8. The vote on the candidate’s membership will occur at the Annual Meeting the year following their application and introduction (those who apply during the 2017 cycle will be voted upon at the August 2018 annual meeting).
9. If the candidate does not attend the meeting the year the application for membership is filed, the vote on their membership is deferred one additional year.