

# Demystify IEEE Fellow Nomination Process

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Chair, MTT-S Fellow Search Committee

- **Fellow Search Committee operates under the Awards Committee**
- **Independent of the Fellow Evaluating Committee (FEC)**

# IEEE Fellow

- A distinction reserved for select IEEE members whose extraordinary accomplishments in any of the IEEE fields of interest are deemed fitting of this prestigious grade elevation.
- Can only be achieved by successful nomination going through a rigorous evaluation process.
  - Not an “application” process like the one for Senior Member)
- New IEEE Fellows each year is limited to 0.1% of total members – 338 this year.
- We (Fellow Search Committee) want to do our best to help our members achieve this prestigious recognition.

# 2025 MTT-S Fellow Search Committee

- Jenshan Lin (Chair), R1-7, government
  - Kate Remley, R1-7, Standards, government
  - Charlie Jackson, R1-7, industry
  - Edward Rezek, R1-7, industry
  - Robert Caverly, R1-7, education
  - Victor Fouad Hanna (past chair), R8, education
  - Vicente Boria-Esbert, R8, education
  - Almudena Suárez, R8, education
  - Tzyy-Sheng (Jason) Horng, R10, education
  - Wenquan (Cherry) Che, R10, education
- **Main POC: Jenshan Lin, [jenshan@ieee.org](mailto:jenshan@ieee.org)**
  - **Feel free to reach out to anyone of us!**

# Our Mission

- Look for potential nominees and nominators
- Encourage and help nominations
  - (primary) nominations evaluated by MTT
  - (secondary) nominations of MTT members evaluated by other societies or technical councils
- The goal is to help MTT increase the number of new Fellows each year.

# My background

- Chair, MTT-S Fellow Search Committee (2024-2025)
- Past Member and Vice Chair of MTT-S Fellow Evaluating Committee (2014-2018)
- Past Chair of MTT-S Fellow Evaluating Committee (2021-2022)
  
- Bell Labs (1994-2003)
- University of Florida (2003-2022)
- U.S. National Science Foundation (2016-2020, 2022-present)

# Myth #1

- This Fellow Information Session is for those preparing for upcoming nomination deadline this year: Feb. 7, 2025.
- No, this session is for **EVERYONE**. All are welcome to attend!
  - Senior members ready for Fellow nomination
  - Senior members not sure if ready for Fellow nomination
  - Nominators, current or future
  - Members (all grades, including YP) curious about Fellow nomination and evaluation process.

# Tip #1

- Always good to start planning early, even if the potential nominee is in early career stage.
- Don't wait till a few months before nomination deadline. It could take years to properly plan.

Important: If you are not a Senior Member yet, please "apply" to become a Senior Member.

- Senior Member status is required for Fellow nominee.

# Myth #2

- To become a Fellow is to “apply” for Fellow elevation, much like the Senior Member application process.
- No! It is not an “application”. Self-nomination is not accepted. You need to be “nominated”.
- And, the nominator is very important.



# Tip #2

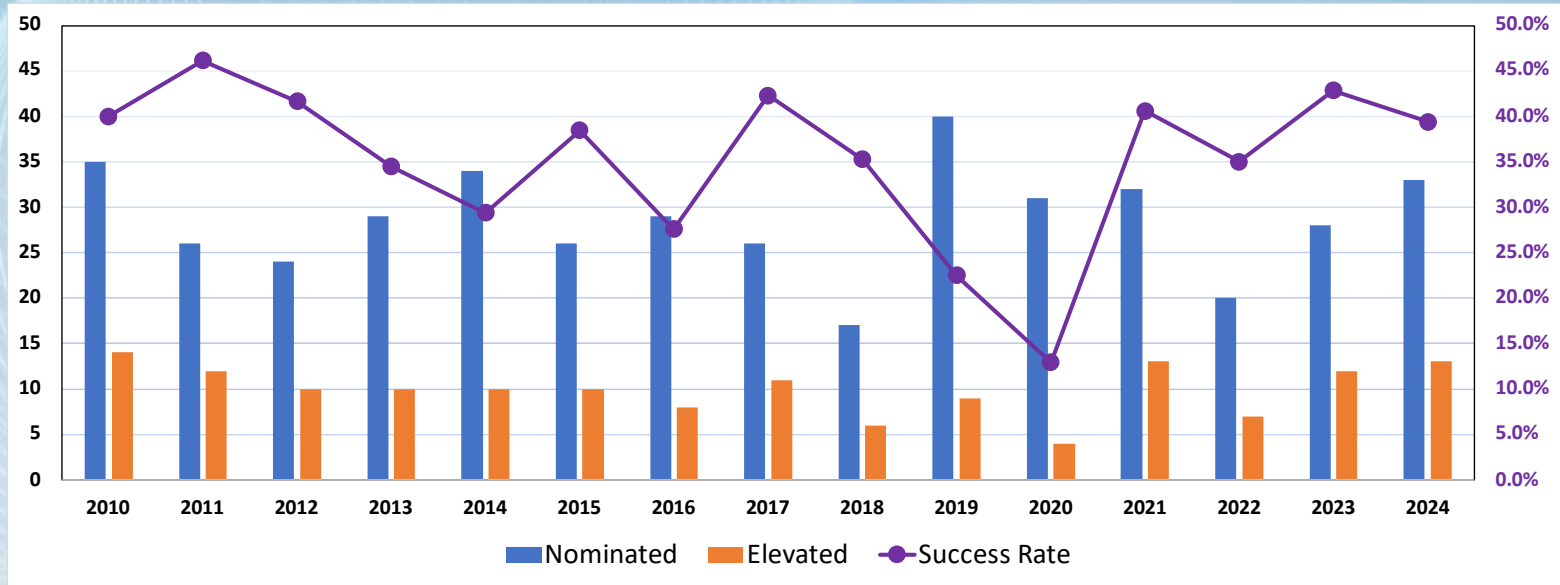
- Nominator plays a very important role (not trivial).
- Nominator should work closely with nominee to build a very strong case.

Important: Unlike Senior Member application which is relatively very easy to get approved, to become a Fellow is much harder and very competitive, and its success rate is much lower.

# Fortunately, MTT success rate is better than IEEE average

- MTT success rate over the past 15 years: 34.7% (149/430)
- MTT success rate over the past 4 years: 39.8% (45/113).
  - 40.6%, 35.0%, 42.9%, 39.4%
- IEEE overall success rates in the past 4 years:
  - 30.2%, 32.1%, 34.0%, 31.9%
- (MTT success rate) > (IEEE success rate) in the past 4 years.

# Historical Data – Evaluated by MTT



Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021-2024	Since 2010
Fellow Class	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025		
Nominated	35	26	24	29	34	26	29	26	17	40	31	32	20	28	33	113	430
Elevated	14	12	10	10	10	10	8	11	6	9	4	13	7	12	13	45	149
Success Rate	40.0%	46.2%	41.7%	34.5%	29.4%	38.5%	27.6%	42.3%	35.3%	22.5%	12.9%	40.6%	35.0%	42.9%	39.4%	39.8%	34.7%

# Comparison with other S/C

Evaluated in 2024 for Elevation on 1 January 2025

Society/Council	Voting Membership	Nominations Received	Nominees Elevated	% of Total Voting Membership	% of Total Nominations Received	% of Total Nominees Elevated	% Success
IT	3,353	9	5	1.0%	0.9%	1.5%	55.6%
ITS	2,712	7	1	0.8%	0.7%	0.3%	14.3%
MAG	2,422	12	6	0.7%	1.1%	1.8%	50.0%
MTT	11,198	33	13	3.3%	3.1%	3.8%	39.4%
NANO	Not Reported	11	2	Not Reported	1.0%	0.6%	18.2%
NPS	2,774	11	4	0.8%	1.0%	1.2%	36.4%
OE	1,761	4	2	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%	50.0%
PEL	10,632	24	7	3.1%	2.3%	2.1%	29.2%
PE	31,560	103	33	9.2%	9.7%	9.8%	32.0%
PC	554	0	0	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
PHOT	6,597	45	10	1.9%	4.3%	3.0%	22.2%
PSE	748	1	0	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
RFID	Not Reported	2	1	Not Reported	0.2%	0.3%	50.0%
RL	1,792	3	2	0.5%	0.3%	0.6%	66.7%
RA	13,333	20	8	3.9%	1.9%	2.4%	40.0%
SEN	Not Reported	7	2	Not Reported	0.7%	0.6%	28.6%
SP	16,441	67	22	4.8%	6.3%	6.5%	32.8%
SIT	1,434	2	1	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	50.0%
SSC	10,397	11	5	3.0%	1.0%	1.5%	45.5%
SMC	5,175	22	6	1.5%	2.1%	1.8%	27.3%
SysC	Not Reported	1	0	Not Reported	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
TEC	Not Reported	1	1	Not Reported	0.1%	0.3%	100.0%
TEM	2,322	1	0	0.7%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
UFFC	2,079	11	4	0.6%	1.0%	1.2%	36.4%
VT	6,241	22	7	1.8%	2.1%	2.1%	31.8%

Thanks to MTT FEC's efforts!

Check IEEE Fellow website for full list:  
<https://www.ieee.org/membership/fellows>

# Myth #3

- IEEE Fellow recognition is for those publishing a lot of papers. For those in industry or government not allowed to publish, there is no chance of becoming an IEEE Fellow.
- No! That's why there are 5 categories of contributions in Fellow nomination form:
  - Research Engineer/Scientist (RE/S)
  - Technology Innovator (TI, was called AE/P)
  - Technical Leader (TL)
  - Educator (EDU)
  - Standards Contributor (STDC)

# Tip #3

- Review the IEEE Fellow Contribution Categories Matrix published in August 2023.

<https://www.ieee.org/content/dam/ieee-org/ieee/web/org/about/fellows/fellow-committee/ieee-fellow-nomination-contribution-matrix.pdf>

# Evidence of Contribution and Impact

- Evidence of contribution can be research publications, peer-reviewed materials (tutorials, survey papers, position papers, white papers, articles in popular press, internal reports, books, etc.), designs, products, processes, algorithms, systems, and public/industrial contributions, patents, trade secrets, and standards.
- Not only evidence of contribution, but also evidence of its impact (not speculation of impact).
- How significant is the contribution?
- How significant is the impact?

# Myth #4

- Nominees in academia should be nominated in RE/S, and nominees in industry should be nominated in TI.
- No, not necessary. It depends on the contributions. Each case is unique.
- In addition, it is about the contributions made, not about the nominee's employment/position.



# Tip #4

- Nominee (in industry, academia, or government) can have contributions in any of the 5 categories:
- In fact, the nomination form asks for two individual contributions, and they can be in different categories.
  - Research Engineer/Scientist (RE/S)
  - Technology Innovator (TI, was called AE/P)
  - Technical Leader (TL)
  - Educator (EDU)
  - Standards Contributor (STDC)

# Read published information

- Nominators/references/endorsers need to pay attention to information on IEEE Fellow website:  
<https://www.ieee.org/membership/fellows/>
- This presentation will also be uploaded to MTT website:  
<https://mtt.org/fellow-search-committee/>

IEEE Fellow is a distinction reserved for select IEEE members whose extraordinary accomplishments in any of the IEEE fields of interest are deemed fitting of this prestigious grade elevation. Review the sections on this page to learn about the history of the IEEE Fellow grade, the elevation process, and how the program evolved through the years to become the program it is today.

- The Fellow Portal - Electronic Fellow Nomination System is now open for the IEEE Fellow Class of 2026.
- The deadline for nominations for the IEEE Fellow Class of 2026 is February 7, 2025.
- IEEE Fellow Class of 2025 has been announced. See the list of 2025 Fellows [here](#).

#### On this page:

- > [IEEE Fellow Directory](#)
- > [Statistics](#)
- > [Committee Information](#)

#### IEEE Fellow resources

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**NOMINATIONS**  
> Fill out the online nomination form

**GUIDELINES**  
> Find Fellow governance and guides

**S/TC SCORING PROGRAM**  
> Access the S/C and Cohort Scoring

**FELLOW COMMITTEE SCORING PROGRAM**  
> Access the Committee Scoring Program

**FAQs**  
> View all frequently asked questions

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## IEEE Fellow Guidelines

### Governance

- › [IEEE Bylaws \(PDF, 2 MB\)](#)
- › [Fellow Committee Operations Manual \(Effective November 2024\) - \(PDF, 393 KB\)](#)

### User Guides

- › [Nomination Quick Help Guide](#)
- › [Sample Nomination Form](#)
- › [Reference Quick Help Guide](#)
- › [Sample Reference Form](#)
- › [Endorsement Quick Help Guide](#)
- › [Sample Endorsement Form](#)
- › [IEEE Fellow Contribution Categories Matrix - NEW](#)

### Operational Guides

- [Fellow Committee Handbook - Updates Pending](#)
- [Society/Council Fellow Evaluating Committee Handbook - Updates Pending](#)



## Fellow Program FAQs

[Related information](#) >

### Nominator/Nominee FAQs

Learn more about several aspects of the IEEE Fellow Program below. Please download the [IEEE Fellow Program brochure](#). [fellows@ieee.org](mailto:fellows@ieee.org).

- › [Nominator/Nominee FAQs - Updated \(PDF, 166 KB\)](#)

### Society and Council FAQs

These FAQs were developed to help Societies and Councils in the implementation of the IEEE Board approved recommendations and provide additional information.

- › [Society and Council FAQs - New \(PDF, 164 KB\)](#)



# Additional Tips

- Nomination form: 1<sup>st</sup> individual contribution and impact, 2<sup>nd</sup> individual contribution and impact, and their verifiable evidence.
  - **Contributions need time to show impacts.**
- Nomination narratives should match well with the category.
  - Choose proper category (RE/S, TI, TL, EDU, STDC).
- All references and endorsements need to show very strong support.
  - Endorsements are optional, but they should show strong support if included.
- Avoid last minute rush, typos, formatting issue, missing endorsement/reference, etc.

# Very Important Rules

- FEC members cannot discuss any nomination and evaluation outside the committee.
- However, FSC members can help nominations.
- “There shall be neither collaboration nor exchange of any information related to the Nominations referred to a S/TC between the S/TC-FEC and any other committee in its or other S/TCs, such as for example Technical Committees or Fellow Search Committees... No person external to the S/TC-FEC shall receive information on the Nominees or provide input of any kind to the S/TC-FEC.” (Society/Technical Council Fellow Evaluating Committee Handbook, Section 5).

# FSC would like to help!

- Point of Contact: Jenshan Lin, [jenshan@ieee.org](mailto:jenshan@ieee.org)
- One-on-one online meeting can be scheduled.
- I use Zoom, WebEx, Teams.