

VOSH / INTERNATIONAL

VOLUNTEER OPTOMETRIC SERVICES TO HUMANITY



**VOSH / INTERNATIONAL
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

Committee Manual and Candidate's Guide

VOSH / INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Committee Manual

Purpose

The purpose of this manual is to describe the Fellowship Program for VOSH / International, to define the requirements for fellowship, to present a format for evaluation of fellowship candidates, and to provide materials for distribution to potential candidates.

Mission of the Fellowship Program

The primary mission of the VOSH / International Fellowship Program is to acknowledge and honor those individuals who have successfully met the criteria set forth for fellowship, and to assist those who wish to achieve the fellowship designation.

The fellowship program is designed to encourage the acquisition of knowledge, skills and experience necessary to meet the global challenge of eliminating preventable blindness, and to foster the development of future leaders prepared to carry on the mission of VOSH / International. The primary mission of VOSH / International is to facilitate the provision of eye care worldwide to people who can neither afford nor obtain such care.

Characteristics of a VOSH / International Fellow

Fellows of VOSH / International are expected to exemplify those characteristics which are deemed important for achieving the primary mission of VOSH. Among those characteristics deemed important are:

- (2)
- (a) Demonstrated understanding of the worldwide need for eye care, including: demographics; basic epidemiology; major causes and

geographic patterns of vision loss worldwide; specific challenges for the prevention and remediation of vision loss; the role of VOSH, WHO, and other non-governmental organizations.

- (b) A basic understanding of the philosophical constructs and ethical considerations underlying volunteer, charity, and humanitarian programs.
- (c) A knowledge of and sensitivity to cultural considerations in the delivery of health care to underserved populations.
- (d) A demonstrated level of commitment to the primary mission of VOSH / International, as set forth by the fellowship committee, through participation in a variety of activities listed below.
- (e) Knowledge of the history and organization of VOSH.
- (f) Demonstrated understanding of a VOSH mission, including mission preparation, logistics, the roles of various team members, and philosophy and approach to delivery of care during a mission.
- (g) Membership in good standing of VOSH / International. However, a non-member may be awarded the title of Honorary Fellow of VOSH / International in exceptional cases.
- (f) Successful completion of a written exam and an oral interview to be given at the annual meeting of VOSH / International.
- (g) A completed application for fellowship, including payment of the FVI application fee as set by the VOSH / International Board.

Demonstration of Commitment to the Mission of VOSH / International

The fellowship committee will consider a number of activities as demonstration of a candidate's commitment to the mission of VOSH / International. To qualify for fellowship, a candidate must have accumulated 50 total points from among the following activities:

		(3)	
	<u>Activity</u>		<u>Point Value</u>
(a)	Attendance at annual VOSH / International meetings		1

(b)	Mission participation (may include domestic activity)	2
(c)	Mission leader (per mission)	5
(d)	Executive posts within VOSH / International (per appointed period)	5
(e)	Executive posts within VOSH chapters (per appointed period)	3
(f)	Public speaking on VOSH or other humanitarian eye care programs	1
(g)	Publishable research on delivery of eye care to underserved populations	5
(h)	Other activities deemed acceptable by petition of the Fellowship committee	TBD

Materials documenting demonstrated activities must be submitted to the Committee at least 3 months in advance of the date on which the prospective fellow wishes to have conferred the status of Fellow of VOSH / International.

The Examination Process

The written examination and oral interview will be administered to fellowship candidates at the Annual Meeting of VOSH / International. It is expected that candidates will attend the International meeting during the year they wish to receive the FVI designation. Exception to this attendance requirement may be made only when significant circumstances arise which prevent a candidate's presence at the annual meeting. Candidates wishing to sit for the examination and/or interview must submit completed application materials and notify the committee at least 3 months in advance of the Annual Meeting date.

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At such time as is deemed appropriate by the Fellowship committee, a written exam will be administered to the candidate, proctored by one or more committee members. The examination questions will be drawn from a bank of items contributed by committee members. The subject matter will draw principally, but

not necessarily exclusively, from materials included on the lists of suggested readings and websites of interest which form part of the Fellowship application packet. Candidates must pass the written exam with a 70% score.

Upon successful completion of the written examination, and at a time deemed appropriate by the Fellowship committee, the candidate will be interviewed by a majority of committee members. The interview will focus upon four areas: (a) the candidate's application and curriculum vitae; (b) the candidate's activities which demonstrate commitment to the mission of VOSH / International; (c) the candidate's knowledge and understanding of those items deemed to be important "characteristics" of a fellow (see page 3, a through f); and, (d) any other areas of concern which come to the attention of committee members. At least 50% of interviewers present must approve of the candidate's performance in order to consider this section of the process successfully completed.

Composition of the Fellowship Committee

A committee of VOSH / International members in good standing will be formed to oversee the fellowship process. The Fellowship Committee will initially consist of 5 members, each serving a two-year term, with one member chosen to serve as committee chairman for the two years. The initial committee will be appointed by the Executive Council. Subsequently, members will be chosen by the Fellowship Committee from written applications submitted to the committee by interested members of VOSH / International. Priority will be given to members already awarded the FVI designation, with the expectation that the entire Committee will eventually be comprised of FVI awardees only. The Committee may be expanded in the future, depending upon workload needs and the number of applications submitted for the FVI award.

The Committee's composition may include both health care professionals and non-health care professionals; however the former category must comprise at least 50% of the Committee in order to adequately administer the oral examination to health care applicants for FVI designation. When necessary, the Committee may employ current Board members or Chapter presidents to replace absent Committee members in order to complete the examination process at an Annual meeting.

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Charge of the Committee

The Fellowship Committee's primary purpose will be to administer the fellowship program. This will include processing of applications, administration of oral

interviews to candidates for fellowship, and conferring fellowship status on candidates who have successfully completed the fellowship process.

It will be the Committee's goal to ensure that successful applicants have demonstrated knowledge of, and commitment to, the mission of VOSH / International. It will be the Committee's aim to be conscientious and fair, but not exclusive, when conferring the FVI designation. To this end, the Committee's responsibilities will also include providing aid and guidance to fellowship candidates actively engaged in the program.

Application for Fellowship

The completed application shall be accompanied by a curriculum vitae which may include information on educational background, professional and service organizations, humanitarian activities, presentations, research, publications, honors and awards; and, a completed "Summary of Activities" form. An application fee, as established by the Executive Council, will accompany each application. The purpose of this fee will be to cover the administrative costs incurred by the fellowship program.

Upon submission of an application for fellowship, each candidate will be offered the opportunity for guidance from the fellowship committee in completing his/her fellowship requirements.

After submission, an applicant shall have 5 years in which to successfully complete the requirements for fellowship. If the 5 year time period lapses without successful completion of the fellowship process, then reapplication, including payment of the application fee in effect at the time of reapplication, must be made.

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Fellowship Committee Slate, 2004-2006

Mr. Charles H. Covington, Sr.
Secretary-Treasurer, VOSH / International

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VOSH / INTERNATIONAL

VOLUNTEER OPTOMETRIC SERVICES TO HUMANITY



VOSH / INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Guide for Candidates

Mission of the Fellowship Program

The mission of the VOSH / International Fellowship Program is to acknowledge and honor those individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to the goals of VOSH / International. The primary goal of VOSH / International is to facilitate

the provision of eye care worldwide to people who can neither afford nor obtain such care.

The fellowship program is designed to encourage the acquisition of knowledge, skills and experience necessary to successfully meet the global challenge of preventable blindness; to foster the development of future leaders prepared to meet that challenge; and, to prepare individuals who may be asked to consult with governmental agencies, educational, private, or public institutions, and the media on issues related to the mission of VOSH / International.

The Fellowship Process

The components of the fellowship process are: (a) completion of an Application for Fellowship; (b) demonstration of commitment to the mission of VOSH / International; and (c) successful completion of a written examination and an oral interview to be given at the annual meeting of VOSH / International.

Application for Fellowship (Fellow of VOSH / International)

Prospective fellows should be members in good standing of VOSH / International; however, a non-member may be awarded the title of Honorary Fellow of VOSH / International in exceptional cases.

The completed application should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae, which may include information on educational background, professional and service organizations, humanitarian activities, presentations, research, publications, honors and awards; a completed "Summary of Activities" form, demonstrating commitment to the mission of VOSH / International; and, an application fee of \$150.00, as established by the Executive Council of VOSH / International.

(1)

A completed application, including documentation of activities demonstrating commitment to the mission of VOSH / International, must be submitted to the FVI Fellowship Committee at least 3 months in advance of the date on which the prospective fellow wishes to sit for the written and oral examinations.

Applicants shall have 5 years in which to successfully complete the requirements for fellowship. If the 5 year time period lapses without successful completion of

the fellowship process, then reapplication, including payment of the application fee in effect at the time of reapplication, must be made.

Demonstration of Commitment to the Mission of VOSH / International

The fellowship committee will consider a number of activities as demonstration of a candidate’s commitment to the mission of VOSH / International. To qualify for fellowship, a candidate must have accumulated 50 total points from among the following activities:

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Point Value</u>
(a)	Attendance at annual VOSH / International meetings	1
(b)	Mission participation (may include domestic activity)	2
(c)	Mission leader (per mission)	5
(d)	Executive Posts within VOSH / International (per appointed period)	5
(e)	Executive Posts within VOSH chapters (per appointed period)	3
(f)	Public Speaking on VOSH or other humanitarian eye care programs	1
(g)	Publishable Research on delivery of eye care to underserved populations	5
(h)	Other activities deemed acceptable by petition of the Fellowship committee (TBD = to be determined)	TBD

(2)

The Examination Process

A written examination and oral interview will be administered to fellowship candidates at the Annual Meeting of VOSH / International. It is expected that candidates will attend the International meeting during the year they wish to receive the FVI designation. Exception to this attendance requirement may be made only when significant circumstances arise which prevent a candidate's

presence at the annual meeting. Candidates wishing to sit for the examination and/or interview must notify the committee at least 3 months in advance of the Annual Meeting date.

The successful fellowship applicant will have:

- (a) An understanding of the worldwide need for eye care, including: demographics; basic epidemiology; major causes and geographic patterns of vision loss worldwide; specific challenges for the prevention and remediation of vision loss; the role of VOSH, WHO, and other non-governmental organizations; “VISION 2020”.
- (b) A basic understanding of the philosophical constructs and ethical considerations underlying volunteer, charity, and humanitarian programs.
- (c) A knowledge of and sensitivity to cultural considerations in the delivery of health care to underserved populations.
- (d) Knowledge of the history and organization of VOSH.
- (e) An understanding of a VOSH mission, including mission preparation, logistics, the roles of various team members, and philosophy and approach to delivery of care.

Candidates must pass the written exam with a 70% score. Upon successful completion of the written examination, the candidate will be interviewed by a majority of committee members. At least 50% of interviewers present must approve of the candidate's performance in order to consider this section of the process successfully completed.

(3)
APPLICATION FOR FELLOWSHIP IN
VOSH / INTERNATIONAL (FVI)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Please attach curriculum vitae.

Please enclose a check or money order in the amount of U.S. \$ 150.00 payable to VOSH / International.

Applications must be submitted at least three (3) months prior to the VOSH / International meeting at which the candidate wishes to be awarded Fellowship status.

Please return this completed application form, with attached curriculum vitae and check, to:

Fellowship Program
VOSH / International
c/o Mr. Charles H. Covington, Sr.
Secretary-Treasurer
111 Linda Lane
Lake Mary, Florida 32746-4208

Phone: (407) 328-5825
E-mail: ccovington@cfl.rr.com

Questions may be directed to Mr. Covington or other Committee members.

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Suggestions For Reading

Dandona R., Dandona L, Refractive error blindness. Bulletin of the World Health Organization, 2001, 79(3):237-43.

Dandona L, Dandona R, Naduvilath TJ, et al. Is eye-care policy focus almost exclusively on cataract adequate to deal with blindness in India? Lancet, 1998, 351:1312-1316.

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Gray BH, *World Blindness and the Medical Profession: Conflicting Medical Cultures and the Ethical Dilemmas of Helping*, *The Milbank Quarterly*, 1992, 70(3):535-556.

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Johnson, GJ, Weale, RA, et al. *The Epidemiology of Eye Disease*. 2nd Edition. Oxford University Press, (c) 2003, 432 pp. ISBN13: 9780340808924.

Kassalow, JS, *Why Health Is Important to U.S. Foreign Policy*. Council on Foreign Relations and Milbank Memorial Fund, © 2001. 23 pp. ISBN: 1-887748-45-8.

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Potter AR, *Providing Spectacles in Developing Countries*. *BMJ*, August 29 1998, 317:551-552.

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Thylefors, B, Editorial – A global initiative for the Elimination of avoidable blindness, American Journal of Ophthalmology, vol. 125(1):90-93, January, 1998

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Wharton KR, Yolton RL, Visual characteristics of rural Central and South Americans. JAOA, June, 1986, 57(6):426-430.

World Health Organization, Humanitarian Accountability Project: Medical Ethics and Humanitarian Work Report HAP & WHO Roundtable Discussion, August 29-30, http://www.who.int/disasters/research/Medical_Ethics/Report_Medical_Ethics.htm

World Health Organization. “Elimination of avoidable visual disability due to refractive errors” (WHO/PBL/00.79)

Zasloff T, Restoring Vision: An ethical perspective on doctors curing blindness around the world. University Press of America, ©1995.

Internet Websites of Interest

The Fred Hollows Foundation - <http://www.hollows.com.au>

Helen Keller International - <http://www.hki.org/>

International Centre for Eyecare Education - <http://www.icee.org>

International Eye Foundation - <http://www.iefusa.org/>

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Journal of Community Eye Health: An International Journal to Promote Eye Health Worldwide - <http://www.jceh.co.uk/index.asp>

Lions Clubs International Sightfirst - http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/vision_lcif_sightfirst.shtml

Operation Eyesight Universal - <http://www.giftofsight.com/>

Report on Vision Health in Central America – <http://www.unescovision.org>

Surgical Eye Expeditions International - <http://www.seeintl.org>

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight - http://www.v2020.org/main_page.asp

VOSH / International - <http://www.vosh.org>

World Health Organization - <http://www.who.int>

Fellowship Committee Slate, 2004-2006 ⁽⁷⁾

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FVI SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FORM

	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	DATE	CATEGORY (A-H)	POINT VALUE
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