MEMBERSHIP (JOIN or RENEW)

**Student Members and First Year Professionals**

**Importance of Student Membership**

Student members have an integral role in shaping the Society's future. They provide a reservoir of new talent, fresh ideas and energy. These members must be encouraged to participate in all activities at the national, regional, state and local levels in order to learn, contribute and assist in establishing future goals for the Society and the profession. ASCLS, in turn, is responsible for creating, directing and providing programs and guidance that will be of benefit to its student members.

**Student Member Qualifications**

Student membership shall be open to any person enrolled in a program of clinical laboratory science. The student member is to be enrolled in one of the following:

1. A structured program of clinical education by agencies recognized by this Society (see Article III, 1, d of the Standard Operating Procedures in the Member Qualifications Section of this manual.)
2. A program recognized by this Society at an accredited college or university (see, Article III, 4, b of the Standard Operating Procedures in the Member Qualifications Section of this manual.)

*The student member is eligible for this class of membership for a total period of 5 years.* After 5 years, the student may petition the Membership Development Committee for permission to remain in the student category if the individual is still a full-time student.

**Student Forum and Student Liaison**

All students who qualify for student membership belong to the Student Forum. It provides a mechanism through which student members can interact and express their needs, concerns and opinions to all levels of Society governance while increasing student awareness of the philosophies, policies and procedures of the ASCLS. The Student Forum coordinates the involvement and interests of students in this Society. The Student Forum is governed by guidelines which are approved by the ASCLS Board of Directors. An active or emeritus member of this Society serves as an advisor to the Student Forum. The advisor is appointed by the President of ASCLS with the approval of the Board of Directors. In addition, the interests of student members are represented on the ASCLS Board of Directors by a Student Liaison, a voting member of the Board.

**Dues**

Annual dues for student membership will be defined by the Board of Directors. The dues are printed on the current membership application.

**First Year Professional**

Any student member, upon completion their academic studies will pay 50% of active dues for the first year of active membership (plus appropriate state dues).

*The FYP category is also available to non-member students in their first year after graduating-prior student membership in ASCLS is not a requirement to obtaining a FYP membership.* Contact your state's Program Directors to help you pass the word!

**Benefits**

Student members receive all of the membership services offered to full ASCLS Professional I members, but at a fraction of the cost. These include subscriptions to *Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS), ASCLS Today*, and publications from their respective state and local societies; reduced fees at Society sponsored continuing education programs; and scholarship opportunities through ASCLS's Education and Research Fund. Students will also benefit from networking opportunities and professional contact with leaders/active members of the profession. (These networking contacts often result in employment for the student following their graduation.)

**Student Recruitment**

*Prospective student members can be identified using the following sources:*

1. Healthcare facilities and academic institutions which have clinical laboratory education programs. (Contact ASCLS at the National Office or NAACLS at 8410 W Bryn Mawr, Suite 670, Chicago, IL 60631-3415 for a list of accredited programs.)

2. Lists of registrants at Society-sponsored events.

*Once prospect lists are developed, a recruitment campaign should be initiated. Some suggestions include:*

1. On-site recruitment by student members and/or active members. (Using students to recruit new students serves a twofold purpose:

(a) Students often relate better to one another; and,

(b) Involving student members keeps them involved and thus they are more likely to convert to Professional membership.

2. Local or state societies hosting receptions for students where they can meet the local and state leadership.

3. Invite a student to spend time with an active member at his workplace.

4. See other recruitment ideas in the Recruitment and Marketing sections of this manual.

**Student Retention**

Once students become members, it is critical that they be encouraged to be actively involved. Doing so will insure that the student members will retain membership and understand its importance. Some suggestions include:

1. Assign students to serve on committees. Get them involved in governance activities.
2. Have students participate in career awareness fairs at high schools or other community settings.
3. Contact high school counselors or science instructors and offer to have student members give presentations on career opportunities in the clinical laboratory field.
4. Have students organize lab tours for elementary, middle school, and high school students.
5. Have the students get involved in judging at science fairs.
6. Students should be included in all societal activities and communications. Special correspondence may be sent to them regarding topics of specific interest to students.

Congratulatory letters should be sent to student members upon their graduation. Prior to their membership renewal date, correspondence should be sent to them reminding them of the discounted First Year Professional (FYP) dues and all the benefits that ASCLS has to offer. It is important to retain students as FYPs as they are leaving school. FYP dues are specifically tailored to bridge their membership from student to professional membership.

**Congratulatory Letters to CLT and CLS Graduates**

**ASCLS mails out letters of CONGRATULATIONS to all CLT and CLS graduates only if Program directors respond to the request for addresses from ASCLS in April. States should encourage all schools to comply. States or regions could also send out letters and encourage graduates to join as First Year Professionals (FYP’s).**