

Fellow of the Society of Surgical Oncology Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the FSSO designation?

The FSSO designation stands for Fellow of the Society of Surgical Oncology. This designation is defined in the SSO Bylaws. SSO Bylaws are available to all members by logging into their member account.

There is tremendous value in being an SSO member. Membership in SSO demonstrates a level of commitment for continued learning and skill development in the field of surgical oncology. Generating awareness about the existence of the FSSO designation and encouraging members to use the designation is one easy and effective way to publicly display affiliation to the Society.

2. Am I eligible to use the FSSO designation?

SSO members in good standing in the ACTIVE, ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL and EMERITUS categories may use this designation. Candidate members who are currently in a fellowship program are not eligible to use this designation. However, upon successful completion of the fellowship training program, Candidate members who change their membership status to ACTIVE may begin using the designation. Members in the Associate, Resident or Student categories are not eligible to use this designation.

3. Does the FSSO designation have any relationship to the Complex General Surgical Oncology or the Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship programs?

There is no relationship between the FSSO designation and any type of fellowship training program. Completion of these fellowship programs is not required to use the designation.

4. Does usage of the FSSO designation imply unique credentialing or board certification status?

Usage of the FSSO designation does not imply any unique credentialing or board certification status. As a matter of reference, individuals seeking to become an SSO member must meet specific requirements as defined in Section 1 of the SSO Bylaws*. All applications are reviewed by the SSO Membership Committee.

5. In what ways may I use the FSSO designation?

You may use the FSSO designation on physician directory listings, practice websites, office stationery and business cards. If you have questions regarding how to display this designation, contact SSO Membership at membership@surgonc.org.

6. I've been an SSO member for years. Why am I now just learning about this?

As a result of the 2018 – 2021 Strategic Plan, renewed interest in actively using this designation came to the forefront as a way to support rebranding initiatives and expand the reach of the Society among all cancer surgeons, including the global community of cancer surgeons. The FSSO Task Force was created approximately two years ago to explore various facets of this designation and help define the usage of it. In fact, a Town Hall meeting was conducted in October 2018 at the annual American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress. More recently, the FSSO designation was thoroughly discussed during the Society's strategic planning meeting held in July of 2019 and

recommendations were presented to and approved by SSO Executive Council in October 2019.

7. If I am no longer an SSO member, may I keep using the designation?

No. Once your membership lapses for non-payment of dues, your membership status is not in good standing and you may no longer use the designation. The designation is the exclusive intellectual property of the SSO.

8. Is there a fee to use the FSSO designation or any associated paperwork to complete?

We are pleased to announce that the FSSO designation is included in your membership and there are no additional fees or paperwork required in using this designation.

ARTICLE II Membership. Section 1: Active Members, Section 2: Emeritus Members, 2B Rights: An Active Member shall have the right to vote and shall be eligible to hold any office within the Society. Active Members shall have the right to attend, participate in and submit abstracts for presentation at meetings of the Society. **An Active Member [Emeritus Member] shall be designated as a Fellow of the Society of Surgical Oncology.*