



FCSI Frequently Asked Questions – Becoming a Professional Member

Why should I become a Professional Member?

Becoming a Professional Member of this Society confirms you have experience providing foodservice consulting services, subscribe to a high ethical standard and code of [professional conduct](#), and have agreed to continue your professional knowledge through continuing education. This serves as notice to the industry that, as a consultant member, you are serious about serving your clients and the industry as well as continuing to improve as a professional.

How do I become a Professional Member?

- [Upgrade your FCSI membership to Senior Associate](#), at which time you have three years to become a Professional Member. Upon approval as a Senior Associate Member, you will receive the *Packet for Examinations* which will help you understand and prepare for two examinations.
- Review the available resources included in the [Body of Knowledge \(BOK\) on the FCSI website](#). Aside from investing in the textbooks as part of the Body of Knowledge, there are several resources available free online.
- Prepare for and pass the Industry Knowledge Exam (IKE), which is a multiple-choice exam.
- Prepare for and pass the Professional Skills Exam (please note only the PSE Track #2 is being offered as of December 2019), which includes written and oral presentation components.

Are there knowledge and skills that Professional Members must demonstrate?

As specified in [FCSI's Bylaws](#), a Professional Consultant Member of FCSI shall demonstrate a high level of competence in and knowledge of the following:

- The Foodservice and Hospitality Industry
- Consulting Assignment Management
- Professional Specialism
- Business Management
- FCSI Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

What is FCSI's Body of Knowledge for the Industry Knowledge Exam (IKE) and Professional Skills Exam (PSE)?

The Body of Knowledge (BOK) is a list of resources to help Senior Associates prepare for the IKE and the PSE. The knowledge and skills assessed by the IKE and PSE are referenced specifically to the resources in the BOK.

How does FCSI support me as I'm working toward professional membership?

Upon becoming a Senior Associate, FCSI's Director of Education is available to answer any questions you may have as you move through the Professional Membership Process.

What is involved in preparing for the Industry Knowledge Exam (IKE)?

The IKE questions are created specifically from sections of the resources defined by the Body of Knowledge. These sections are spelled out in the [Candidate Information Manual for the Industry Knowledge Exam](#). Successfully completing this exam is achieved by implementing a personal study plan based on your own learning skills.

Where and when can I take the Industry Knowledge Exam (IKE)?

This multiple-choice exam can be proctored by a current staff member or any FCSI Professional Member with whom you do not work. The Director of Education can help you identify and schedule a Professional Member in your area to proctor your exam. In addition, the IKE is offered at the FCSI The Americas Conferences (typically April in even years) and Symposiums (just prior to the NAFEM Show in February on odd years).

What is involved in preparing for the Professional Skills Exam (PSE)?

Two activities are included in the PSE. The requirements for your written summary report and your oral presentation are defined by sections of the Body of Knowledge. These sections are spelled out in the [Candidate Information Manual for the Professional Skills Exam](#). Successfully completing this exam is achieved by reading the Body of Knowledge and creating two submittals, one for the written summary report and the other for the oral presentation.