



## **FAQ - Becoming a Professional Member**

*(updated 8.1.20)*

### ***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 *IKE Candidate Packet* which will help you understand and prepare for The Industry Knowledge Exam.\*\*
- 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.

### ***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)***

The [Body of Knowledge \(BOK\)](#) is a list of resources to help Senior Associates prepare for the IKE. The knowledge and skills assessed by the IKE 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 TA Staff is available to answer any questions you may have as you move through the Professional Membership Process. You may also request a current Professional Member to serve as a mentor while you work through the PMP.

### ***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 Industry Knowledge Exam Candidate Information Packet. 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. FCSI TA Staff 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 Biennial Conferences and Symposiums.

***Have questions or need assistance?***

FCSI TA Headquarters will be happy to assist:

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*\*\*Upgrading to Professional Membership would typically include passing both the Professional Skills Exam (PSE) and the Industry Knowledge Exam (IKE). The PSE is currently under review so The Board of Trustees has suspended that portion of the PMP through 2021. Therefore, Senior Associates who pass the Industry Knowledge Exam (IKE) before 12.31.21 will be upgraded to Professional Member and will not be required to complete the PSE. If a candidate does not take and pass the IKE before 12.31.21, he/she will be required to complete the revised program before the three year PMP window expires.*