

## Membership Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to become an active member of the Council, a nominee must be currently engaged in estate planning on a regular basis in the greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and have the ability to collaborate with colleagues in a variety of disciplines to strategically further the client's estate planning goals. Estate planning encompasses the accumulation, conservation, preservation, and transfer of an estate through development, planning and implementation of an estate plan. The overall purpose of the estate planning process is to develop a plan that will maintain and enhance the financial security of individuals and their families. Estate planning facilitates the intended and orderly transfer of property during life and at death, taking into consideration the family unit and the potential costs of different approaches.

A nominee must either: (i) meet the requirements of professional discipline, credential and years of practice or (ii) otherwise be exceptionally well qualified for membership in the Council.

**Professional Disciplines.** A nominee must be practicing estate planning in one of the following disciplines: (i) law, (ii) accounting, (iii) insurance, (iv) financial planning, (v) trusts and estate management, (vi) valuations, or (vii) philanthropic planning. A nominee must be classified for membership under the discipline in which he or she presently is practicing.

**Credentials.** A nominee must be a credentialed professional. A nominee is a credentialed professional if, in any jurisdiction of the United States of America, he or she is: (a) a licensed Attorney (Atty); (b) a licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA); (c) a designated Chartered Life Underwriter<sup>®</sup> (CLU<sup>®</sup>); (d) a designated Chartered Financial Consultant<sup>®</sup> (ChFC<sup>®</sup>); (e) a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER<sup>®</sup> designee (CFP<sup>®</sup>); (f) a licensed Certified Public Accountant accredited as a Personal Financial Specialist (CPA/PFS); (g) a designated Chartered Financial Analyst<sup>®</sup> (CFA<sup>®</sup>); (h) a designated Certified Trust and Financial Advisor (CTFA); (i) a licensed Certified Public Accountant accredited in Business Valuation (CPA/ABV); (j) a designated Accredited Senior Appraiser in Business Valuation (ASA); (k) a designated Certified Valuation Analyst (CVA); (l) a designated Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy<sup>®</sup> (CAP<sup>®</sup>); or (m) an Accredited Estate Planner<sup>®</sup> (AEP<sup>®</sup>).

**Years of practice.** A nominee must have practiced estate planning as a credentialed professional for not less than three full years before his or her nomination for membership can be submitted for consideration. A nominee who has practiced as a credentialed professional in more than one of the Professional Disciplines for at least three years satisfies this requirement. For example, if the nominee practices one year as a CLU<sup>®</sup> and two years as a CFP<sup>®</sup> professional, the nominee meets the three-year requirement for membership under the discipline currently practiced.

**Exceptionally Well Qualified.** A nominee is otherwise exceptionally well qualified for membership in the Council only if he or she is recognized in his or her discipline or profession for distinguished leadership in that discipline or profession and for outstanding service in or to the field of estate planning.