Frequently Asked Questions: New ACS Membership Packages, ACS Section, Division, and Chapter Leaders

Q: How will Community Associates with the Basic Package affect Local Sections, Technical Divisions, and Chapters (Component Groups)?

There will be no additional work placed on Component Groups to service non-paying Community Associates. The (free) Basic Package does NOT include automatic assignment to a Local Section or three free Technical Division memberships (for the first year). Community Associates do not impact Council representation or funding allocations, which are tied to the number of members.

Community Associates, similar to non-members, can work directly with a Local Section or a Technical Division to become an affiliate of a Local Section or Division, respectively, and pay whatever dues requirements are autonomously specified by the component. Similarly, Community Associates can interact with ACS International Chemical Sciences Chapters and pay the same dues rate as a non-member.

Q: What will happen to Component Group memberships if a member has either the Standard or Premium Package and does not renew their national membership?

Component Group memberships will terminate for Regular Members or Affiliates with either the Standard or Premium Packages if the individual does not renew their ACS [National] membership before or by their current expiration date. By not renewing into one of the two paid packages, those individuals will be automatically transferred to the Basic Package as a Community Associate where, as an associate, they are ineligible to receive the member rates afforded by ACS Local Sections and Technical Divisions.

As stated above, Community Associates can work directly with a Local Section or a Technical Division or other Component Group to become an affiliate member and pay the same dues rate as a non-member to maintain status.

Q: Is there a package to help Component Groups recruit and retain members?

The new packages provide tools and resources to ensure a vibrant and thriving ACS membership community for all. They have been specifically designed to increase value, choice, and retention. The reduced pricing for the Premium Package and the introduction of the Standard Package should be beneficial to the retention of paid members, which could potentially impact Component Groups accordingly. Members with either the Premium or Standard Packages will be assigned to Local Sections and offered three free memberships to Technical Divisions for their first year. The reduced price of dues across the board and the half-priced option of the Standard Package could result in an increase in net new, non-student ACS members.

Q: Will members with the Basic Packages be allowed to serve either in elected or appointed positions?

No, Community Associates with the Basic Package are not allowed to serve as Councilors, on National committees, as National Officers, or as Local Section or Division Officers, and their affiliation at the
National Level will not alter the number of Councilors appropriated nor count towards budget allocations.

Regular Members with either the Standard or Premium Packages are allowed to serve in an elected or appointed position and vote, the exceptions being Society Affiliates and Student Members. The changes to the membership packages do not affect or change the leadership rules for Student Members and Society Affiliates.

Undergraduate Student Members may hold an elective position other than Councilor or Alternate Councilor if the bylaws of the Local Section or Division permit.

**Q: How is ACS promoting the new membership packages?**

ACS will continue to advertise as it has always done with targeted paid ads, outreach activities, events, and engagement through programs, products, and services such as C&EN, SciFinder®, and Publications. These efforts will be focused on Regular Membership for both the Premium and Standard Packages.

The Standard Package will be an option on the new member application as well as on renewal forms and mailings. All existing members will also be made aware of the convenient new auto continuation rule. If they choose not to renew their membership, they will automatically become a Community Associate with the Basic Package.

The Basic Package will be offered as an option on the ACS membership webpage. It will also be offered to non-members via high traffic and engagement points within select ACS programs, product, and services.

**Q: How are years of service accrued per package?**

Community Associates with the Basic Package do not accrue years of service. For the purposes of ‘Years of Service’ calculations, individuals with the Standard and Premium Packages are treated identically: One year of service earned per year of dues.

If an individual downgrades to the Basic Package for any period, they will not accrue years of service during that time. If they choose to upgrade back to the Standard or Premium Package, they will resume accruing years of service where they left off.

**Q. How will budget allotments for Local Sections and Divisions to conduct yearly activities be impacted by the new membership model?**

To assure Local Sections and Divisions will not be negatively impacted by the new model, a Board Resolution guarantees that the dues pool remains funded at the 2018 level of $3.04M until 2025. Traditionally, the total allocations are pegged at a rolling 20% of the total net dues revenue. Should the new model increase the dues to the point where the traditional 20% calculation becomes larger than the floor, the greater number will be used.

For some background, allocations that Local Sections and Technical Divisions receive are taken out of the total dues pool, which contains all membership revenues for the year. The Standard and Premium Packages dues, as well as any student and affiliate dues, are first pooled together, then disbursed according to the formula overseen by the ACS Committee on Local Section Activities and the ACS Committee on Division Activities, respectively, for both Local Sections and Divisions.
Q: How will the new model and packages affect the monthly eRosters?

All eRoster files will be received in the same excel spreadsheet format as in previous years; the new membership model will not significantly affect the monthly delivery of eRosters. Community Associates are not assigned a Local Section, Student Chapter, or International Chapter and are not offered three free joins to Technical Divisions, so those members will not be included in the eRoster. Members that do not renew, and therefore become Community Associates, will be reflected in the Monthly Activity Report along with lapsed members.

ACS will be proactively testing the impacts to eRosters starting in January 2022 and will make any necessary changes to ensure full transparency and the conveyance of all relevant and valuable information about members and their status as needed.

Q: Will contact information for Community Associates be provided?

Initially, the only contact information available to groups will be tied to lapsed members who have continued into the Basic Package, and therefore become Community Associates. That contact information will be included in the eRoster files, reported as lapsed members.

Community Associates that joined ACS in 2020-21 were not required to provide a zip code during their sign-up process. Starting in 2022, zip codes will become part of the registration process, and ACS will work to establish a good process for turning over and disseminating contact lists to Local Sections of new Community Associate joins.

Q: Are Component Groups required to contact Community Associates?

No, there are no requirements for any group to message Community Associates. In the future, contact based on member preferences, geographic location, and other appropriate factors will be permissible. More information will be provided in the coming months.

Q: Are Community Associates permitted to attend Component Group events?

As it pertains to events where registration is required, Community Associates should be treated in the same way as non-members.