

2026 HBA Global Ascension Awards Submission FAQs
(Specific to the Woman of the Year, Honorable Mentor & STAR Awards)

Do award nominees need to be members of the HBA in order to be considered?

There is no HBA membership requirement for the Woman of the Year or the Honorable Mentor awards. However, the judges look favorably upon the contributions the candidate has made to the HBA and our vision of *Creating Leaders for Life*, so HBA membership would represent an indicator of that support.

The HBA STAR candidates will be expected to be active HBA members, as the assessment of the candidate is fully focused on their contributions to the HBA.

Should the person submitting the nomination have a working relationship with the nominee (i.e., same organization, colleague and/or mentor)?

This is not necessary.

Are there specific criteria/requirements for who can be nominated?

Yes, please share:

- Specific examples of how the nominee has made significant contributions and driven impactful progress in the healthcare ecosystem.
- Details on how the nominee has demonstrated exceptional leadership and established an environment of workplace innovation and creativity.
- How the nominee has initiated and fostered practices that help champion and develop talent and advanced the future of the workforce pipeline.

Is it expected that the honoree will be in attendance to accept their award?

Yes, it's expected that honorees attend the HBA's event at the JP Morgan Healthcare Conference (12 January 2026) and at the HBA's Spring signature event, the Global Ascension Awards (24 April 2026 in San Diego)—to accept their award in person. This requirement adds a personal touch to the occasion and allows for a direct acknowledgment of their achievements.

The HBA Global Ascension Awards Judging Process:

- Submissions are reviewed by an awards selection committee of seasoned industry executives dedicated to the HBA's mission. The selection committee is confidential.
- Each committee member reviews the submissions and independently ranks candidates against defined criteria.

- The judging committee considers the summarized ratings, debates the merits of each submission, and selects the honorees.

Can we submit the same person for multiple awards?

There is no limit to the number of awards someone is submitted for, or the number of times they are resubmitted (i.e., in future years). It is not uncommon to have candidates submitted again in subsequent years.

Is there a cost for this award submission?

To begin the nomination process, please submit the applicable fee: \$500 for HBA members or \$650 for non-members.

Does the person submitting the nomination (on behalf of the nominee) carry weight or help determine the winner (in addition to the nomination and letters of recommendation)?

No. The letters of recommendation from prominent and influential leaders are a testament to the support of the nominee and their influence.

How many letters of recommendation?

Typically, nominations include 4-5 letters of recommendation.

Where can I find out about the nomination process and timeline for the 2026 HBA Global Ascension awards?

The latest information about the submission and judging processes can be found on the [HBA website](#). For the 2026 award, submissions open on 26 August and will be accepted until 22 October, 11:59 PM ET.

This year, an extended deadline is available until 30 October for an additional \$100 administrative fee.