

AREA

AMERICAN REHABILITATION ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION

127 N. Westwind Drive
El Cajon, CA 92020-2955
1 (800) 317-2732 Fax: 1 (619) 593-9989
Email: area@gasvcs.net
Website: <http://www.a-r-e-a.org>

AN ASSOCIATION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION, FORENSIC VOCATIONAL EXPERT AND FORENSIC ECONOMIC PROFESSIONALS

APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. **Professional Member:** Complete the membership application, checking “Professional member.” Please note the form requires submission of your highest academic degree* (copy) and your current Curriculum Vitae, documenting at least three (3) years of professional experience related to vocational rehabilitation, forensic vocational and/or economic assessment and testimony. If you have a related license or certification, you should document this current professional status.
2. **Associate Member:** Complete the membership application, checking “Associate member.” Please note the form requires submission of your highest academic degree (copy) and your current Curriculum Vitae, documenting any professional experience related to vocational rehabilitation, forensic vocational and/or economic assessment and testimony. If you have a related license or certification, you should document this current professional status.
3. **Student Member:** Complete the membership application, checking “Student member.” Please note the form requires submission of your highest academic degree (copy) and your current Curriculum Vitae, documenting any professional experience related to vocational rehabilitation, forensic vocational and/or economic assessment and testimony. If you have a related license or certification, you should document this current professional status. Additionally, you must provide DATED proof of your current student enrollment, *i.e.*, photo I.D., letter from a professor, copy of your transcripts.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Professional Member	\$125.00
Associate Member	\$125.00
Student Member	\$25.00

* Professional membership requires a minimum of a Masters degree or demonstrated equivalent professional training or certification.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR CERTIFICATION OR REGISTRY

1. **Registered Forensic Vocational Expert (FVE):** The registry process places the burden of proof on you to demonstrate that you have testified at least twice in judicial or administrative proceedings. You must submit (2) two letters of recommendation from attorneys or judges asserting your testimony was competent; official transcripts of your related Masters or Doctoral degree; two (2) work products; and at least one (1) vocational certification.
2. **Registered in Forensic Economics (RFE):** The registry process places the burden of proof on you to demonstrate that you have testified at least twice at either State Superior or Federal Court jurisdictions. You must submit two (2) letters of recommendation from attorneys or judges asserting your testimony was authoritative in determining loss of earnings over time; official transcripts of your Masters, professional or terminal degree in either economics or a related financial profession; and two (2) forensic work products.

NOTE: There will be a peer review process and FVE and RFE candidates may be asked about their written work product(s) by reviewers. This will be done via telephone if needed.

3. **Certified Earnings Analyst (CEA):** Complete the application for the CEA. Please note the application requires submission of an official transcript from the college/university at which you obtained your highest degree (minimum Masters level); three (3) letters of recommendation from attorneys or judges; two (2) forensic work products utilized at trial, including one (1) deposition or court testimony transcript which demonstrates earnings loss and present value calculation proficiency; at least one (1) vocational certification if you are not an economic or financial consultant; and maintenance of your Professional member status. Your submitted materials will undergo review by two (2) **AREA** Board members and/or Certification Committee members.

The CEA certification process **includes a case analysis and written examination** designed to evaluate the candidate's competency in vocational and economic loss assessment. Each exam will be reviewed by a three (3)-person panel of at least two (2) Certified members and one (1) other Certified or Registered Forensic Economic (RFE) member of the Association. The CEA is generally given in conjunction with **AREA**'s Annual Spring Conference. Alternative proctoring arrangements may be made with individual candidates who apply at different times of the year.

CREs certified under the previous process (1989 to 04/15/94) will be able to maintain this status with **AREA**'s backing contingent upon ongoing Professional membership in **AREA** and adherence to the Code of Ethics. CREs may apply for CEA status by submitting an application (no other documents are needed) and passing the case analysis/written examination. There is a \$150 fee to make this switch in certification designation.

REGISTRY/CERTIFICATION FEES

Registered Forensic Vocational Expert (FVE)	\$ 275.00*
Registered in Forensic Economics (RFE)	\$ 275.00*
Certified Earnings Analyst (CEA)	\$ 475.00*

* These fees are a one-time charge, inclusive of Professional membership for the first year.

ANNUAL RENEWAL FEES

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS:

Professional members (<i>no registries or certifications</i>)	\$ 125.00
Professional member registered as an FVE (Registered Forensic Vocational Expert)	\$ 125.00
Professional member registered as an RFE (Registered in Forensic Economics)	\$ 125.00
Professional member certified as a CEA (Certified Earnings Analyst) (<i>must also recertify every 3 years for an additional \$110 Certification fee</i>)	\$ 125.00
Professional member registered as a CRE (Certified in Rehabilitation Economics) (<i>must also recertify every 3 years for an additional \$110 Certification fee</i>)	\$ 125.00

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: \$ 125.00

STUDENT MEMBERS: \$ 25.00

Membership renewals are due by March 31st of each year. Those holding CEA, CRE, FVE or RFE status must renew their membership annually or *forfeit the right to continue using the **AREA** designation* while they remain inactive.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Commitment to the advancement of knowledge in vocational economic practice and research;
2. Graduate level education/training and experience consistent with the applicant's stated area of expertise and level of membership requested;
3. As a general standard, CEAs, FVEs and RFEs will have a Masters or Doctoral degree in their specialty. FVEs must also hold at least one (1) vocational certification. Professional members must have a minimum of a Masters degree or demonstrated equivalent professional training or certification, plus three (3) years of forensic experience. If you are not an economist, documentation of licensure or certification in your professional field is required. Areas of expertise may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| * Vocational Rehabilitation | * Financial Accounting |
| * Vocational Expert Analysis | * Labor Economics |
| * Life Care Planning | * Forensic Economics |

**GUIDELINES FOR WORK SAMPLES IN VOCATIONAL EXPERT (FVE),
FORENSIC ECONOMICS (RFE), AND EARNINGS ANALYST (CEA) CATEGORIES**

A. Evaluation of Work Sample

A work sample consists of two (2) forensic cases that have been prepared by the applicant at the request of an attorney or judge. The work sample will be reviewed by a committee of *AREA* Board members and/or certification committee members. If the first work sample is not satisfactory, then a second work sample will be reviewed as part of one application. To have your work sample accepted, it is necessary for two (2) separate reviewers to accept your work sample during one evaluation. **Please note: Should the applicant fail to submit satisfactory work samples within one (1) year from the date of the application, the application will be considered to have lapsed, and any further action would require an entirely new set of application materials to be submitted, including all relevant fees in effect at such time.**

B. Quality of Work Products

Applicants for **Registered Forensic Vocational Expert (FVE)** should demonstrate practice at an advanced level of competence. Vocational expert practice is not merely rehabilitation or psychological counseling; rather, it is a specialty emphasizing the integrated application of the broad range of vocational rehabilitation, disability consulting, and concepts related to pre-/post-injury earning capacity. The work products should demonstrate that the applicant possesses an explicit knowledge of vocational disability issues, loss of earning capacity assessment, worklife expectancy, and vocational assessment procedures.

Applicants for **Registered in Forensic Economics (RFE)** should demonstrate forensic practice at an advanced level of competence. The work products should reflect a high level of professional skill and maturity. They should also demonstrate that the applicant possesses an explicit and coherent rationale for the work performed, including proficiency in the assessment of lost household services, future medical expenses and present value calculation.

The designation of **Certified Earnings Analyst (CEA)** denotes primary expertise as either a vocational expert or forensic economist with specific competence in the second discipline. The work product should reflect this ability at a high level of professional skill and maturity. The work product should also demonstrate that the applicant possesses an explicit and coherent rationale for the work performed, and was able to generate vocational foundation, loss of earning capacity, worklife expectancy, household services analysis (if appropriate) and present value calculation.

C. Subject Matter of the Work Product

Work products may be evaluation reports, depositions, or other appropriate demonstrations of the applicant's expertise. CEA applicants must submit one (1) official deposition or trial transcript. The subject matter should reflect the capacity of the applicant to contribute to the field at an advanced level.

D. Extension of Time for the Submission of Work Products

Applicants who encounter special difficulties in completing the submission of their work products within the time allowed may request an extension beyond the one (1) year by communicating with the administrative office in writing.

E. Content

1. The Case Analysis

Professional reports alone may not be adequate for evaluation purposes. You may wish to append explanatory notes or provide references to sources or other clarification of your rationale. Reports should clearly identify the relevant characteristics of the client; any background information provided to you by previous psychological, medical, vocational, or other examiners; salient aspects of client or third-party interview material obtained by you; and medical, school, employment or other records if they served as a basis for your opinions.

2. Supporting Material

There is no limit to the amount or kind of supporting material that may be provided, but every effort should be made to be reasonable in the volume of material submitted. These materials might include addendums to your report, demonstrative exhibits, labor market documentation and excerpted trial/deposition transcripts if in your judgment they contribute to an appreciation of your expertise in such situations.

F. Format

A Work Sample SUBMISSION consists of two (2) to four (4) parts:

- 1) Case report #1;
- 2) Case #1 supporting material, if appropriate;
- 3) Case report #2 or sample deposition/trial transcript; and
- 4) Case #2 supporting material, if appropriate

Two (2) copies of each submission are required. Each case should be bound separately. Once Certified or Registered status is established, new membership candidates are given the option of having *AREA* return or dispose of work samples they submitted with their application. Please complete and return the enclosed Confidential Documents Preference Form along with the other documentation requested.