

WFA Examiner Information

Are you interested in learning more about what makes organizations successful? Are you interested in helping other organizations—such as schools, cities, hospitals, non-profits, and businesses—improve their performance? Would you be interested in networking, learning, and sharing with others who feel the same way?

Wisconsin Forward Award offers a robust professional development opportunity that can help you grow your own professional network, and sharpen your skills in systems thinking, leadership, and communication.

About the Wisconsin Forward Program

Through recognizing and promoting high-performance management principals in Wisconsin, WFA has helped hundreds of organizations of all kinds—including manufacturing, business, education, health care, government, and not-for-profit—to get better at what they do. We are always looking for intelligent, motivated individuals to bring new perspectives to our team of Examiners, who directly help our applicant organizations and bring valuable knowledge and skills back to their own jobs. Are you ready to be a part of that team?

What Does an Examiner Do?

Examiners, both individually and as part of teams, review written applications based on the WFA/Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence. Some Examiners participate in virtual and onsite visits to the organizations they're reviewing as well. After an Examiner team completes its reviews, team findings are developed into a feedback report, detailing the organization's strengths and opportunities for improvement.

Time Commitment

Examiners contribute significant time to the WFA application review process. The actual commitment depends on the number of applications received, individual skill level of Examiners, the complexity of your assigned organization, and whether your team participates in a site visit (most often two days at an organization's site, plus significant preparation time). For a new Examiner, a commitment of 120 hours, including Examiner training, is typical over a period of three to four months.

Benefits to You

There are many benefits to becoming an Examiner such as:

- Strengthening your understanding of what drives organizational excellence. The Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence represent a validated set of best practices for organizational excellence and can be useful for improving any organization's performance
- Networking with influential leaders and professionals. The WFA Board of Examiners includes leaders from around the state: executives, middle managers, surgeons and physicians, superintendents and school teachers, non-profit and public sector leaders, quality professionals, consultants, and more.

Questions? Give us a call at **(608) 663-5300** or email us at **info@wisquality.org**.

- Seeing "best practices" deployed within another organization—knowledge that you could use back at your organization and/or in your career.
- Helping Wisconsin organizations—including schools, health care providers, non-profits, public sector agencies, and businesses—improve their performance...simply get better at what they do.
- Developing a set of professional skills that may help you advance your career—skills such as consensus- and team-building, written communication, verbal communication and interpersonal skills, interviewing, analysis, and systems thinking.

Most Examiners consider the experience to be among the most valuable of their careers. In fact, many have claimed that the experience and knowledge gained from this process rivals getting an MBA or advanced business degree.

New Examiner Orientation: Twice each year, WFA offers one-day training sessions augmented by online resources. Examiner orientation familiarizes Examiners with the WFA process and provides an overview of the Criteria for Performance Excellence. Many new Examiners also choose to establish a mentoring relationship with an experienced Examiner during this training phase. WFA's Criteria Seminars and Baldrige 101 workshops are helpful but not required. Training fee for new Examiners \$495

All Examiner Training: New and experienced Examiners attend an additional training for more in-depth review of concepts and processes. Together, you'll practice collaboration consensus activities that you'll apply on your own teams. We continually revise training to provide high value tools and processes that will help you give WFA applicants actionable feedback. Training fee for 2nd year Examiners: \$175.

To Apply

Examiner Guidelines, Training Requirements, Application materials: <https://www.wisquality.org/wfa/board-of-examiners/>

Examiner Application deadlines:
December 15 (WINTER CYCLE)
June 15 (SUMMER CYCLE)

More resources: <https://www.wisquality.org/wfa/board-of-examiners/examiner-resources/>