

DONA International is proud to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2021 Advanced Doula designation year (initiated in 2015). This designation serves to honor our certified doulas who have made major contributions to the promotion and advancement of the mission and purpose of DONA International, the doula profession and in the maternal-child field.

DONA certified birth and postpartum doulas who meet or exceed the qualifications for this distinguished designation, listed below, are invited to apply<sup>i</sup>. Please also see the Frequently-Asked Questions document [https://www.dona.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Advanced-Doula\\_FAQs\\_8-2021.pdf](https://www.dona.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Advanced-Doula_FAQs_8-2021.pdf) for additional information. Applications will only be accepted **August 1 - August 31, 2021**.

If your application meets all of the eligibility criteria, a member of the review committee will notify you of your acceptance no later than **October 1st, 2021**, after which you may proudly use the credentials, AdvCD(DONA) or AdvPCD(DONA). For those members who are also DONA approved trainers, their credentials will be AdvCD/BDT(DONA) or AdvPCD/PDT(DONA). This designation is valid with your *continuous, uninterrupted membership and certification in good standing*<sup>ii</sup>.

Distinguished doulas will be recognized in DONA International publications and media.

#### Eligibility Criteria:

- DONA certified doula in good standing for a minimum of two (2) *consecutive* recertification periods (i.e., six (6) or more *consecutive* years)
- Pursued additional training, certification and/or licensure in a related field(s) during your tenure as a DONA certified doula
- Outstanding achievement in the field during your tenure as a DONA certified doula by meeting one or more of the following criteria:
  - Published author of a book(s), book chapter, journal article or industry magazine article(s) (blog posts from your own personal or business website or the personal or business blog of a colleague do not meet this criteria) on the topic of doulas, birth, breastfeeding, parenting or postpartum issues written during your tenure as a DONA certified doula
  - Presenting an educational session(s) on the topic of doulas, birth, breastfeeding, parenting or postpartum issues at a local, national or international conference(s), to which you applied to present, during your tenure as a DONA certified doula
  - Other outstanding achievement not listed that the doula feels is equivalent in nature to those listed above
- Made a major contribution(s) locally, regionally, nationally and/or internationally during your tenure as a DONA certified doula to advance the mission and purpose of DONA International and/or the recognition of doulas and/or made a significant contribution to, or as a leader in, the maternal-child field, *other than that which promotes or supports your own personal or business endeavors*

**Application Procedure:**

- Submit the following documentation in electronic format to [certification@DONA.org](mailto:certification@DONA.org) no later than **August 31, 2020**. If you are applying for both the advanced *birth* doula designation and the advanced *postpartum* doula designation, separate documentation relevant to each role and application must be submitted, along with a fee for each application.
  - The completed Application Form, [https://www.dona.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Advanced-Doula\\_Application\\_8-2021.pdf](https://www.dona.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Advanced-Doula_Application_8-2021.pdf) including the details on how you meet all of the eligibility criteria listed above
  - Your resume or curriculum vitae
  - One (1) letter of reference from a person who has worked with you on your contribution(s) in some capacity or who has first-hand knowledge of such
  - Pay the \$100.00 non-refundable application fee in the [DONA Online Member Center](#) and submit evidence of payment (receipt or screen shot) along with your application

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<sup>i</sup> It is the expectation of DONA International that potential applicants will have thoughtfully and objectively considered whether they are eligible for this distinguished designation prior to submitting an application [https://www.dona.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Advanced-Doula\\_Application\\_8-2021.pdf](https://www.dona.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Advanced-Doula_Application_8-2021.pdf). For answers to frequently-asked questions, see Frequently-Asked Questions document [https://www.dona.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Advanced-Doula\\_FAQs\\_8-2021.pdf](https://www.dona.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Advanced-Doula_FAQs_8-2021.pdf). *There are no refunds for applications that are not accepted.*

<sup>ii</sup> The advanced doula designation synchronizes with the recipient's current certification period and does not alter or extend the expiration date. It is the recipient's responsibility to continuously maintain her/his membership and certification and is not contingent upon reminders from DONA International. Should the recipient fail to maintain continuous membership and certification, s/he risks losing the advanced doula designation.