The SPY reviewers utilize a scoring rubric in the conducting of their review of candidate materials. This scoring rubric assigns points to categories based on the materials submitted in the nomination packet.

Candidates are assigned points for the degree to which their professional practice reflects each of the ten domains of the NASP Practice Model and the following additional criteria:

- Exemplary Job Performance
- Earning the Respect of colleagues, parents and students
- Professional memberships
- Professional leadership activities and positions
- Publications
- Professional presentations

All criteria are scored on a 6-point scale that is operationalized by the number of examples or documented activities that are reflective of a given criteria.

Candidates also submit two essay questions and these questions are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Innovation
- Evidence-Based Practice
- Realm of impact

Each essay criteria are scored on a 5-point scale that is operationalized based on the degree in which the candidate’s practice reflects exemplary effort, qualities and/or characteristics.