



Music Teachers' Association of California[®]

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www.mtac.org

HOW TO JOIN MTAC WITHOUT A DEGREE IN MUSIC

If you would like to join MTAC and do not have a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in music, you have two options:

1. Provisional Membership or Active on Points Membership using the **Provisional Membership Application Form** (*Membership on Points*)
2. The California Plan (Cal Plan) Program

Option 1: Provisional Membership and Membership on Points

General Information: There are two types of membership in this category:

1. **PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** Provisional Membership is a transitional membership category for applicants who have completed a significant portion of the requirements for Active Membership and who are able and willing to complete the remaining requirements within a three-year period. Provisional Members are able to participate in MTAC programs, such as *Certificate of Merit*. Applicants must be able to document a minimum of two years of college-level instruction in their Primary Instrument. (*Please note that this requirement means the **applicant has received individual instruction**; this requirement is separate from the professional teaching requirement*). They must also have a total of 102 points overall in order to qualify.
2. **ACTIVE ON POINTS MEMBERSHIP:** Achieving *Active on Points Membership* with the **Provisional Membership Application Form** (*Membership on Points*) is for applicants who can fully document a music background which meets the MTAC requirements for a music degree equivalency as outlined on the form. Applicants will need to document completion of ***all core area point requirements and meet the minimum total of 138 points***. Active on Points members will enjoy all rights and privileges of Active membership in MTAC, including eligibility for participation in State Programs such as *Certificate of Merit*.

How to apply

Please use the [Provisional Membership Application \(*Application on Points*\)](#), which allows applicants to show and document their background, coursework, and experience in music. Points are granted in five core categories:

- ***Primary Instrument Instruction*** (12 point minimum; two year equivalency)
- ***Music Theory***
- ***Music History***
- ***Music Pedagogy***
- ***Professional Teaching Experience*** (in Primary Instrument)

Other points may be earned for additional music and music-related courses, as described on the form. The [Provisional Membership Application](#) is available online at mtac.org, or by request from the MTAC State Office.

Required documentation

Official academic transcripts or acceptable written verification must be provided for all points claimed on the Membership Application on Points Form. Please refer to the instructions on the form for specific information about types of acceptable documentation and follow the guidelines closely; any documentation that does not follow the guidelines will not count for points. No exceptions or substitutions will be made.

Option 2: The California Plan (Cal Plan Membership)

General Information

Cal Plan is a three-year self-study program designed to transition into Active membership. It is an ideal option for applicants who lack qualifying academic background (or who are unable to provide acceptable documentation) for Active or Provisional membership. Cal Plan Members participate in practical activities, independent studies and exams to demonstrate and develop knowledge and skills in music theory, music history, and music pedagogy, and professional experience. Activities also include participation in *Certificate of Merit*. Cal Plan members who complete the requirements within the time limit will qualify for Active Membership.

Eligibility

Cal Plan Membership is available to high school graduates who have demonstrated proficiency in playing their instrument at *MTAC Certificate of Merit Level 9 or higher*. They should actively be teaching or seeking to teach within one year of beginning Cal Plan membership. Because Cal Plan is self-study program with academic and practical requirements, applicants must be willing and able to complete the requirements independently within three years; therefore, members will need to plan their studies and activities accordingly. Each Cal Plan member is sponsored by an MTAC Branch; however, responsibility for achieving Cal Plan goals lies with the member and the State Cal Plan Chair. Additional information about Cal Plan is available from the [Cal Plan webpage](#), MTAC State Office or the State Cal Plan Chair.

Curriculum

The Cal Plan curriculum consists of study in five academic areas and a program of vocational experience for teachers and their students.

Academic Subject Areas

- Music Theory
- 18th – 20th Century Harmonic Practices
- Form and Analysis
- Music History
- Pedagogy

Vocational Experience

- The Cal Plan Member must attend concerts, workshops, State Convention, and study privately with an approved instructor
- The Cal Plan Member must enter two or more students in Certificate of Merit®

Cal Plan Membership Requirements

- Currently teaching professionally in your preferred instrument
- Successful completion of entrance audition

- Sufficient mastery of the primary instrument equal to an early advanced level (*Certificate of Merit® Level 9*)
- Participation in the Certificate of Merit® (CM) program
- Attendance of two annual MTAC Conventions (*includes discount*)
- Ability to study music history, theory and pedagogy independently

Application Process

It is very important that applicants follow the steps by the deadlines in order to qualify for required programs. Application for Cal Plan membership involves three phases:

1. Preparing for your entrance audition by selecting repertoire from the list entitled “**Cal Plan Repertoire Requirements for Audition**” and submitting your selections for approval using the “**Cal Plan Repertoire Approval Form**”. (*We recommend completing this between January and April to allow sufficient time to prepare and schedule your audition.*)
2. After your audition repertoire has been approved, you will need to submit a “**Cal Plan Audition Request Form**” (*available through the MTAC State Office*), with audition fee, by the May 31 deadline. The Cal Plan Chair will schedule your audition with you; you will need to have completed and passed your audition by the June 15 deadline.
3. Once a successful audition has been confirmed, you will need to submit a “**Cal Plan Membership Application Form**” (*available through the MTAC State Office*) along with payment of all application fees by July 31. You must meet the final application deadline of July 31 in order to participate in Certificate of Merit®, a Cal Plan requirement.

For assistance with membership applications, please contact the MTAC State office at 800-834-3340. To download applications, please visit the [Membership page](#) at the MTAC website at mtac.org.