

How to join the MTAC without a degree in Music

A long standing requirement for Active Membership in the MTAC is a Bachelor Degree in Music or its equivalent. If you wish to become an active member in the MTAC and do not have a Bachelor, Master, or Doctoral degree in music, there are still options available.

Active Membership on points:

A form exists to allow applicants without a music degree the opportunity to show they have the background equivalency of a music degree. This form is available on the MTAC website or via the MTAC State Office.

Note: A minimum of two years teaching experience is also required for Active Membership. Any applicant eligible for Active Membership but does not have two years teaching experience may hold the status of Provisional membership until the teaching requirement is met.

Provisional Membership on points:

Provisional membership is a temporary category, and is granted to one who offers satisfactory evidence of the intention and ability to qualify for Active membership within a three year period. The same form used for applicants to apply for Active Membership on points is also used for those wishing to join as provisional members. This form is available on the MTAC website or via the MTAC State Office.

California Plan (CalPlan):

Purpose: THE CALIFORNIA PLAN (CALPLAN) is a project of the Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC). Through its curriculum a definite minimum standard of knowledge for the teaching of music is established. It offers a guide to greater understanding of music theory, history, and pedagogy, as well as opportunities to strengthen professional skills. The Association formally recognizes achievement of these goals by awarding the California Plan Certificate during the annual state convention. Completion of the CalPlan program qualifies a teacher for Active membership in MTAC.

Eligibility: Enrollment in the California Plan is open to high school graduates who have demonstrated proficiency in playing their instrument at MTAC Certificate of Merit level 8 or higher. They should actively be teaching or seeking to teach within one year of beginning the plan. CalPlan is a three-year self-study program, which includes academic as well as practical requirements. Therefore, applicants should possess sufficient self-discipline and motivation to maintain focus and momentum. Each enrollee is sponsored by an MTAC branch; however, responsibility for achieving CalPlan goals lies with the enrollee and the state CalPlan chair.

Additional Notes: CalPlan is an ideal program for applicants who do not have the required educational background to qualify for Active or Provisional membership. It is also an excellent option for those who may have significant training and/or coursework in music but are unable to provide satisfactory paperwork for verification. More information on this program is available from the MTAC State Office.

If there are any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the MTAC State Office.