

Music Teachers' Association of California



Provisional Member Point Guide

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I. INTRODUCTION: EARNING POINTS TOWARD ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

The following pages provide a detailed description of how to earn points toward Active Membership within the three-year time limit. Here are some important tips:

- Use your most recent Point Assessment or Point Update form to determine which areas you need to earn points in.
- Remember that you may not repeat previously credited courses, including those listed in your original application. The only exception is private instruction or repeatable courses in the “Other” music courses category (as described in III f.)
- Please keep note of point maximums in each section.
- Points used to earn points in a specific section may not be applied in the “Other” music courses category (as described in III f.)
- If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Member Services Associate in the MTAC State Office.

II. CREDIT: HOW TO RECEIVE PROPER CREDIT

- Step One: Take the appropriate courses/private instruction. Some courses may require pre-approval from the State Membership Secretary.
- Step Two: When completed, arrange for an official transcript and/or written verification (on letterhead with original signatures) to be sent to the MTAC State Office.
- Step Three: The Provisional member will be notified that materials have been received.

Note: Point audits for Provisional Members are conducted every year in March. The results of this audit will be mailed to each Provisional Member.

III. DETAILS: HOW TO EARN POINTS IN EACH SPECIFIC SECTION

Section 1: Major Instrument Instruction

Points can be earned in the following three ways:

- 1) **College/University or Private Instruction:** Points may be earned through the academic or private study of an instrument.
 - a. To count for credit, the instruction must be through accredited college/university enrollment or post-university instruction.
 - b. If the instruction is not verified by academic transcript, written verification from the private instructor (with inclusive dates of instruction and level of accomplishment and/or listing of repertoire) is required. Letters must have original signatures and contact information. Instruction that is not of a reasonable level of advancement will not be accepted for credit. A reasonable level is defined as a strong Certificate of Merit Level 8 (minimum) and above.
- 2) **Major Instrument Recitals (Solo, Ensemble, or Chamber):** Points may be earned for a half-length or full-length recitals. If not verified by academic transcript, then a letter of verification from the Provisional Member's instructor at the time of recital (including the time/location of recital, repertoire performed, performance level, and length of performance) AND a formal printed recital program (including Provisional Member's name and major instrument, date of performance, and repertoire performed) are required. The letter should also have an original signature and contact information.
- 3) **Instructional Ensemble (maximum of 20 points):** Points may only be earned through enrollment in an ensemble at an accredited college/university. This includes large ensembles, chamber ensembles, and accompanying.

Points Earned:

Academic/Private Instruction

College/University course taken in a Quarter System:	2
College/University course taken in a Semester System:	3
Private or post-university instruction:	1 point per two months

Recitals

Full-length (60 minute minimum):	6
Half-length (30 minute minimum):	3

Instructional Ensemble

One year:	2
6 months:	1

Note: A Provisional Member can earn a maximum of 20 points in the "Instructional Ensemble" category, including points earned in the original application.

Section 2: Music History Points

Points can be earned in the following two ways:

- 1) **Take College/University courses in Music History:** These courses must meet the following criteria:
 - a. They must be intended for music majors.
 - i. Examples of acceptable courses:
 - Musicology
 - Music History
 - Music Literature
 - Period Performance Practice

ii. Examples of non-eligible courses:

- Music Appreciation
- Introduction to Music
- History of Rock Music
- Any course that does not count for credit for music majors (including courses which are intended for non-majors or are remedial in nature)

b. The course must not be a repeat of a previously taken course.

2) **Pass a CalPlan proficiency exam in History:** Provisional Members needing to earn six or fewer points should take the Music History and Representative Literature exam. Preparation for this exam can be done through self-study, private tutoring/instruction, or workshops.

Points Earned:

College/University Course taken in a Quarter System:	2
College/University Course taken in a Semester System:	3
Successfully Passing a CalPlan Exam:	6

Section 3: Music Pedagogy Points

Points can be earned in the following five ways:

1) **Take College/University courses in Music Pedagogy:** These courses must meet the following criteria:

a. They must be intended for music majors.

i. Examples of acceptable courses:

- Pedagogy
- Pedagogy Practicum
- Piano Pedagogy

ii. Examples of non-eligible courses:

- Education or Psychology
- Pedagogy courses not related to music
- Any course that does not count for credit for music majors (including courses which are intended for non-majors or are remedial in nature)

b. If the course pertains to a specific discipline, it must apply toward the primary instrument. (Example: a teacher whose primary instrument is piano cannot earn pedagogy points by taking a Vocal Pedagogy course).

c. The course must not be a repeat of a previously taken course.

2) **Teacher Training (3 points maximum):** Only Teacher Training under the direct supervision of an instructor may count for a maximum of 3 points. To receive credit, the supervision must have been for at least one year and completed after high school. If not verified by academic transcript, written verification from the supervising instructor is required.

3) **Pass the CalPlan proficiency exam in Pedagogy:** Preparation for this exam can be done through self-study, private tutoring/instruction, or workshops.

4) **MTAC Convention Pedagogy Sessions:** At the annual MTAC Convention, Provisional Members have the opportunity to earn points by attending pedagogy-oriented sessions. Forms to earn points via this method are available from the MTAC State Office or from the MTAC registration desk at the Convention.

5) **Pedagogy Conferences/Seminars/Workshops:** Attendance at a **pre-approved** pedagogy-oriented conference, workshop, or seminar may count for points (contact the MTAC State Office; verification of attendance is required).

Points Earned:

Courses:

College/University Course taken in a Quarter System:	2
College/University Course taken in a Semester System:	3

Teacher Training

Supervised Teacher Training: .5 point per two months

Note: A Provisional Member can only earn a maximum of three points from Teacher Training, including points earned in the original application.

CalPlan Exam

Successfully Passing a CalPlan Exam: 6

MTAC Convention Pedagogy Sessions

Attending pedagogy sessions at MTAC Convention: .2 point per Pedagogy session; 1 point of "Other" credit for full day of Convention attendance

Pedagogy Conferences/Seminars/Workshops

Attendance a pre-approved pedagogy activity: .5 point for confirmed full day of attendance

Section 4: Music Theory Points

Points can be earned in the following two ways:

- 1) **Take College/University courses in Theory:** These courses must meet the following criteria:
 - a. They must be intended for music majors.
 - i. Examples of acceptable courses:
 - Harmony
 - Counterpoint
 - Form/Analysis
 - Orchestration
 - Courses that are part of the traditional two-year sequence designed for music majors (generally titled "Theory I" to "Theory IV")
 - ii. Examples of non-eligible courses:
 - Introduction to Theory
 - Fundamentals of Music
 - Any course that does not count for credit for music majors (including courses which are intended for non-majors or are remedial in nature)
 - b. The course must not be a repeat of a previously taken course.
- 2) **Pass a CalPlan proficiency exam in Theory:** Preparation for these exams can be done through self-study, private tutoring/instruction, or workshops.
 - a. Provisional Members needing to earn 7 to 12 points are required to take the following:
 - i. Harmonic Practices of the 18th and 19th Centuries
 - ii. Form and Analysis
 - b. Provisional Members needing to earn six or fewer points are required to take Form and Analysis.

Points Earned:

College/University Course taken in a Quarter System:	2
College/University Course taken in a Semester System:	3
Successfully Passing a CalPlan Exam:	6

Section 7: Professional Teaching Points

Written verification of professional teaching is required. Letters from students/parents stating inclusive months/years of study and/or letters from employers stating inclusive months/years of employment are an acceptable form of written verification. All letters should have original signatures and include contact information. Form letters prepared by the Provisional Member are not acceptable. Printed copies of recital programs which include the Provisional Member's name and performance date are acceptable only if accompanied by letters of verification from students, parents, or employers covering the same time period.

Points Earned:

One year of Professional Teaching:

5

Note: A Provisional Member can earn a maximum of 75 points in this category, including points earned in the original application.

Other: Additional Points Needed Beyond Core Requirements

(Core Requirements = Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7)

Points can be earned in the following three ways:

- 1) **Accredited college/university courses or private instruction as described in sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7:** Any points earned in a method described in sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 that are not needed to fulfill another requirement may be used to earn additional points.
 - 2) **“Other” Music Courses:** These courses must meet the following criteria:
 - a. They must be intended for music majors.
 - b. The course must not be a repeat of a previously taken course. The only exceptions are seminars that are specified in the college/university catalog as being repeatable for credit.
 - 3) **MTAC Convention:** At the annual MTAC Convention, Provisional Members have the opportunity to earn a point in the “Other” category for each full day of attendance. Forms to earn points via this method are available from the MTAC State Office or from the MTAC registration desk at the Convention.
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IV. CALIFORNIA PLAN (CALPLAN) INFORMATION FOR PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

MTAC's CalPlan is a three-year self-study program based on a curriculum that establishes the minimum standard of knowledge for the professional teaching of music as an MTAC teacher. CalPlan provides a guide to greater understanding of music theory, history, and pedagogy, and opportunities to strengthen professional skills. Completion of the CalPlan program qualifies a teacher for Active Membership in MTAC. Provisional members of MTAC do not enroll in the CalPlan program. However, they may take the appropriate exams as needed to fulfill requirements for Active Membership. Study guides for the CalPlan exams are available in the *CalPlan Syllabus and Handbook*, which is available for purchase from the MTAC State Office or on the MTAC website.

CalPlan exams are scheduled on an individual basis for Provisional Members. To schedule an exam and pay the fee, please contact the State CalPlan Chair.

The academic areas covered by the CalPlan exams are as follows:

- A. Music Theory
 - 1. Fundamentals of Music Theory
 - 2. Harmonic Practices of the 18th and 19th Centuries
 - 3. Form and Analysis examination
 - B. Music History
 - 1. Music History and Representative Literature
 - 2. Twentieth-Century Music
 - C. Music Pedagogy
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V. CONSIDERATIONS: HOW BEST TO EARN POINTS

There are two primary considerations:

1. Learning Quality and Study Structure

Preparing for a CalPlan proficiency exam is self-study. College/university courses taken on campus are by nature instructor-led, structured, and usually taught in a group environment. The Provisional Member needs to decide if one approach is more suitable than the other. Will one be superior in learning?

There are naturally variants to this. A Provisional Member can hire a private tutor to assist them, thus adding a live instructional element. There are also online college/university courses that are inherently self-study courses (these should be verified by official transcript). The primary consideration should be to choose a study method that will best improve the teacher while completing the Provisional requirements.

To help clarify this consideration, the Provisional Member should ask the following questions:

- 1) Do I learn better in self-study, one-on-one, in a small group, in a large group, or are all of these equally efficient?
- 2) Do I have the self-discipline to pursue a self-study program or do I need more structure? If I need more structure, will a tutor or creating a support group/network be enough or do I need the organization of a classroom to be most effective?
- 3) Where can I maximize my learning to make me a more efficient teacher?

2. Cost

This is the other main consideration. Taking a CalPlan proficiency exam is low-cost, but so are community college courses. In addition, if one hires a private tutor, the price of education rises. There are also the escalating costs of a State or private university.

What do most people do? Currently, no statistical data has been collected on this. The following approaches have been verified and are recommended:

- Earn all points through CalPlan, whether completely self-study or with the help of a tutor
- Enroll at a single college/university and complete all requirements through one school
- Fulfill requirements by taking courses at a variety of schools (courses should be intended for music majors)
- Combine CalPlan proficiency exams and traditional college coursework