

Certificate of Merit®



Certificate of Merit® Program 2024 Updates

The new MTAC year is here and as you prepare your students for the 2024 CM Evaluations, the State Board and CM Council have some exciting updates for the upcoming year.

New Application Period

To accommodate the in-person and online testing scheduling, teachers will now create CM applications in September and parents need to submit their payments by October 5, 2023. Here are the new registration dates below:

- CM Application Period opens: September 1, 2023
- CM Application payment opens: September 1, 2023
- CM Application Period closes: September 30, 2023*
- CM Application payment closes: October 5, 2023
- CM Grade/Level Change Requests Close: October 5, 2023

**This includes applying to all levels of CM, Panel and YAG, and submitting Special Needs Accommodation Requests.*

The full CM calendar is now available in your Teacher Portal.

New CM Application Process

According to the bylaws that were voted on 2022 by the Branch delegates, students and parents will be able to choose if they will take their CM Evaluation in person at a Regional Testing Center or online through the Testing Portal. Parents and Adult students will be able to make this selection when they are submitting their payment for their CM application. A full guide will be provided in late August 2023.

CM Online Regional Testing Dates

The CM Regional online testing dates will be available on your Teacher Portal beginning on August 1, 2023. These dates are only for students taking the online CM Evaluations. As stated in the CM Policies and Procedures, these dates are subject to change every year. Please note, these dates do not apply to Panel and YAG Regional evaluations; Panel and YAG Applicants have a separate testing period.

CM In-Person Regional Evaluation Dates

In-Person Evaluation dates and locations are still being finalized with potential locations. They will be announced as soon as they become available.

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Panel and YAG Testing Dates

Panel and YAG Applicants have a separate Regional evaluation period. Students who no longer wish to be considered for Panel or YAG designation but still complete their regular CM Evaluation will still be required to submit all components of their evaluation during the Panel and YAG Regional Evaluation dates.

New Repertoire Editing Dates

New for the 2024 year, Teachers will need to enter repertoire to their students' applications by December 15, 2023 to avoid the applications being deleted from the system. Teachers will be allowed to edit the repertoire after this date.

After the repertoire has been entered, Teachers will be able to edit their students' repertoire up to 5 days before their student's testing period. This includes:

- Updating the piece's movement or syllabus page information
- Adjusting which piece will be the submitted Syllabus piece
- Adjusting which piece will be the student's Convention piece
- Correcting any typos in the repertoire's title or composer
- Applying for a CM Convention Recital

New CM Technique Recording Process

All CM Online Students must use the Official CM Technique chart found on the MTAC Online System in their recordings. The students using the official CM Technique Chart need to show their technique chart to the camera at the beginning of their recording. Students who utilize any other technique charts (i.e. from the CM Syllabi) will receive an "Ineligible for Certificate" rating.

In-person students will be provided with an official Technique chart when they arrive for their evaluations. No outside charts will be allowed.

Recording Cover Sheet for all CM Repertoire Videos

All online CM Students will need to hold up an official MTAC recording cover sheet at the beginning of each repertoire video recording. The Recording Cover Sheet will be posted on the CM Teacher Resources and the CM Parent Resources page.

Theme for CM Theme Recitals

The CM recital theme for the 2024 Convention will be Women Composers. More information about the theme is posted on the CM Resources section of your Teacher Portal.

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Using Photocopies for Page Turns

MTAC Policy states that students who use a photocopied score during their video recordings or live evaluations will receive an automatic Remain at Level rating for their evaluation. The only exceptions are copies to facilitate page turns (an original score must be on the music stand during the video recording or the live evaluation) and copies for confirmed out-of-print material. If the original score is not on the music stand, the student will receive the Remain at Level rating.

CM Syllabi for CM 2024 - 2025

As stated in Fall 2022, the new CM Syllabi for all instruments will not be released until the late spring of 2024 to be used for CM 2025. Please continue to use the current CM syllabi for CM 2023 - 2024.

Duets/Ensembles No Longer Accepted for Evaluation

As of 2023-24, ensembles are no longer part of the CM program. If students are interested in performing in an ensemble, it is recommended their teacher discuss one of the following MTAC programs with them: VOCE, Contemporary Music Recital, and if applicable, Friends of Today's Music.

CM Policies and Procedures for CM 2023 - 2024

The updated CM Policies and Procedures will be posted in August 2023 to both the Teacher and Parent Portals. This will include:

- Updates to this year's programming
- Updated Panel and YAG guidelines
- Updated CM Convention Recital guidelines
- General reminders

All new updates and deadlines are listed in red in the policies.

Contacting Your Regional Coordinator

If you have questions about repertoire or technique, you can contact your CM Regional Coordinator through the red "Help" button located on the CM page of your Teacher Portal.