

Financial Aid Policies and Procedures

2026-2027

How to Apply for Financial Aid

Students/families wishing to apply for need-based financial aid may obtain an application online or from the PCM office. Applications will be available in March for the subsequent school year. The application and required accompanying forms must be submitted to the office by June 1. Notification of financial aid awards for the school year will be sent by email.

Principles of Good Practice

1. Pasadena Conservatory of Music admits students of any race, color, national/ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, and ability. It does not discriminate in its admission, retention, financial aid, scholarship, educational policies, or school administered programs.
2. The Conservatory continues to provide, insofar as possible, financial support to awardees as long as financial need is demonstrated and awardees continue to make musical progress and reapply every year.
3. The Conservatory makes and communicates financial aid decisions in a manner that permits families to make timely, careful, and fully informed enrollment decisions.
4. The Conservatory establishes administrative and accounting procedures that distinguish need-based financial aid from tuition assistance not based on financial need.
5. The Conservatory safeguards the confidentiality of financial aid applications, records, and decisions.
6. The Conservatory expects the same standards of behavior and musical performance for recipients of financial aid as it does for all other students.

Financial Aid Calendar

- **March:** Financial Aid applications posted for subsequent school year.
- **May:** Current students must pay off their current school year tuition or make arrangements with the office to be considered for financial aid.
- **June 1** Financial Aid applications and all supporting documents due to the PCM office.
- **Mid-June:** PCM Financial Aid committee reviews all applications.

- **Late June-Early July:** All applicants are notified by email. Accepted applicants receive a scholarship contract.
- **August 11:** Accepted students' contracts and co-payments due. For students unable to pay in full, monthly automatic payments must be arranged with the office by August 11.

Financial Aid Policies and Guidelines

- Families must apply for financial aid each year; it is not automatically renewed. Students must be in good standing to be considered for the new school year.
- All parents, including noncustodial and stepparents, must furnish the Conservatory with a copy of their current tax return with all the schedules and the accompanying W-2s, 1099s and other documents verifying income.
- The Conservatory reserves the right to request copies of divorce decrees, court orders and/or statements from uninterested parties to verify custody arrangements.
- In situations where couples are living together but not married, financial information will be required from both parties. Resources of a stepparent will be considered in making award determination. Individual circumstances will be considered.
- A business statement (income statement or tax return) must be submitted if parents own a business. Families must submit required forms and tax returns by the specified deadline or the request for financial aid may not be considered.
- The Conservatory reserves the right to withdraw financial aid at any time should the student fail to remain continuously enrolled for the school year, fail to attend lessons or classes regularly, fail to practice consistently, for nonpayment or failure to pay the co-pay on time.
- The Conservatory reserves the right to withdraw financial aid at any time during the school year should inaccuracies be discovered in the information provided.
- Instructors are required to evaluate student progress throughout the year.

Merit Scholarship Policies and Guidelines

- Merit scholarships are offered to current PCM students by invitation only.

- Merit scholarships are limited in number and amount awarded.
- A recipient of a merit scholarship must demonstrate exceptional musical promise and strong commitment to music study. This commitment requires enrollment in theory classes at PCM. Students may contact the office to schedule a theory exam to potentially test out of the theory class requirement.
- A recipient of a merit scholarship must participate in an ensemble at PCM if invited to do so by the chair of the department. In this case, the recipient will be awarded a merit scholarship for both the ensemble and private lessons. Non-participation in the ensemble will void the private lesson scholarship.
- The Conservatory reserves the right to withdraw a merit scholarship at any time during the school year should a student fail to attend lessons or classes regularly, to practice consistently or to make musical progress.
- Instructors are required to evaluate student progress throughout the year.

Applicants for a merit scholarship must present a letter of recommendation from a music teacher familiar with the student's ability and meet the following departmental requirements:

Piano Department

Student must demonstrate the ability to perform late intermediate to advanced repertoire.

Strings Department

Student must demonstrate balanced posture, beautiful tone, and excellent intonation in intermediate to advanced repertoire.

Woodwinds/Brass/Percussion Department

Student must demonstrate the ability to perform late intermediate to advanced repertoire.

Guitar Department

Student must demonstrate the ability to perform late intermediate or advanced solo repertoire with solid technique, musicality, and artistry.

Chamber Music Department

Student must be at a high intermediate to advanced technical level and able to play standard literature accurately and musically.

Other Departments

Scholarships are offered at the discretion of the Conservatory.