

## What should I know about financial aid?

### National Financial Aid Protocols for Music Students Beginning a Degree or Diploma Program

You are always free to seek information about the programs of any institution at any time. You are free to attend the institution of your choice. However, good citizenship in the music community means using these freedoms responsibly and ethically.

If you accept admission with talent-based financial aid, please consider your decision carefully. You have important responsibilities to yourself, to other musicians, and to all institutions that teach music.

Take time to consider all admission offers carefully, and be sure about your final choice.

Accept at only one institution. Agreeing to attend more than one institution is not ethical. For example, it harms other music students who are denied the place reserved for you.

Make your final choice no later than May 1 of the year that you plan to enroll in the fall.

When you make a commitment to attend an institution that grants you talent-based financial aid, you are agreeing to

Contribute your talent and effort to the education and development of other musicians by participating in ensembles, classes, productions, and so forth.

Occupy a place and receive financial support that could have been given to another musician

If you make an official commitment to attend and do not keep it,

The education of other music students can be adversely affected because you are not participating in various aspects of the program and there is no one to replace you.

The scholarship funding you were promised is not available to other students who sought it.

The scholarship award reserved for you can be transferred to a student in a field other than music, thus harming the music school or department this year, and possibly in the future.

### **Pursue admission responsibly and ethically; remember and act on the following:**

Under the rules of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) and the [National Association for College Admission Counseling](#) (NACAC), you have the right to wait to respond to an offer of admission and/or financial aid until May 1. Any offer you accept before May 1 is not binding before May 1.

When you accept an offer from an NASM member institution that includes talent-based financial aid, you will be asked to sign a statement that includes the following or similar language: *In accepting this offer of*

*financial aid from (Institution) , I understand that there is a mutual commitment on the part of myself and the institution. Therefore, I agree that after May 1 of the calendar year of matriculation into an undergraduate-level program or after April 15 of the calendar year of matriculation into a graduate-level program, I will not consider any other offer of financial aid from an institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music or any other institution for the purpose of enrolling in a music major program for the academic year \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ except with the express written consent of the music executive of the above named institution.*

Once you have made your decision, inform the single institution that you have selected of your acceptance. Inform all other institutions that have offered you admission that you are rejecting their offer. Make these notifications as soon as you have made a final decision about the institution you wish to attend, but no later than May 1.

An institution may not ask you for a deposit or a commitment to attend as a condition of placing you on a wait list.

It is not ethical for any institution or any of its personnel to recruit you from an institution at which you are enrolled, registered, or to which you have submitted a tuition or matriculation deposit, especially with an offer of financial aid.

Remember, you may seek information about the programs of any institution at any time, and the institution may respond to your inquiry. You are free to attend the institution of your choice at any time you are accepted, as long as certain protocols associated with talent-based financial aid are observed.

Your considerations, choices, and commitments are important to you and to the field of music. Make them carefully and with full consideration of other student musicians who will join you in shaping the field during your lifetime. By following the steps outlined above, you can achieve your own goals and help others achieve theirs as well. Working together is natural to musicians, and when applied to areas in addition to performance, it strengthens the field to the benefit of all.