



2025 - 2026 NAfME Collegiate Recognition Awards

Chapter of Excellence Award

The National Association for Music Education (NAfME) is a collaborative community that supports music educators and advocates for equitable access to music education.



The Chapter of Excellence recognition was developed to encourage chapters to plan and execute successful chapter advocacy, music program, professional development, recruitment strategy, and service projects. Recognition of excellent projects is conferred annually and is based on activities completed by the chapter the prior year (January through December) or during the current spring semester prior to the submission of the application.

All eligible NAfME Collegiate Chapters may apply for one or more of the following annual awards in the **Small Chapter** (1-25 members), **Medium Chapter** (26-50 members), and **Large Chapter** (51+ members) categories: **Advocacy**, **Music Program**, **Professional Development**, **Chapter Recruitment**, and **Service**.

Chapters who have won an award are ineligible to apply for an award **in the same category** for one year. In addition, applications must provide evidence of new or differing projects/outcomes as any previous winning application.

Chapter of Excellence Criteria

Applications demonstrating a comprehensive mindset will promote curriculum, activities, musical practices, policies, and/or pedagogies which promise to make music classrooms fully representative of the schools and communities they serve.

Chapter Participation, Commitment, Creativity, Impact, Organization, Uniqueness, Visibility

Advocacy: This award recognizes a program that implements an effective advocacy strategy for a targeted audience, demonstrates success in advocacy, and promotes a vision of music education for all. Areas of demonstration include civic engagement, legislative action, undergraduate research, or creative use of social media to advocate for music education.

Music Program: This award recognizes collegiate programs that have demonstrated musical excellence in their areas of formal study, outreach ensembles, community music events, or creative use of music media. Areas of demonstration could include advising/mentoring of local schools, chapter performances, clinical placements, social media contributions, and awards/honors received.



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Professional Development: This award recognizes a chapter that demonstrates significant contributions to the state, campus, and chapter experience through providing and participating in professional development. Areas of demonstration may include workshops, virtual events, or conference participation.

Recruitment: This award recognizes a chapter that demonstrates significant growth in membership during the year. Chapters should be able to demonstrate a record of outreach, social activities, and marketing that contributed to their increase in membership.

Service: This award recognizes a program that exemplifies outstanding service. Areas of demonstration may include outreach to their on- and off- campus communities through volunteerism, programs to increase participation in music, and creating affiliations with new organizations.

Chapter of Excellence Award Rubric

5 - Highest Score	4	3	2	1 - Lowest Score
All criteria were met with several areas exceeding in breadth of creativity and effectiveness. New or innovative projects/strategies from previous submissions.	All criteria were met with one area exceeding breadth of creativity and effectiveness.	Partial criteria were met with several areas exceeding in breadth of creativity and effectiveness.	Partial criteria were met with one area exceeding breadth of creativity and effectiveness.	An attempt to meet criteria was made, but lacked substantial evidence. No/little new/innovative content from previous submissions.



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Professional Achievement Award Criteria

This award recognizes individuals who demonstrate exemplary musicianship and contributions to the field of music education such as volunteering, work experience, and publications. The award recipient is expected to have consistently attended State and/or National conferences, held leadership positions and, through personal example, encouraged other collegiates to work toward the highest level of professional development.



Criteria for application: (all requirements apply)

1. Student must be currently enrolled in an active NAfME Collegiate chapter.
2. Student must be a current NAfME Collegiate member and have been a member the previous school year (i.e., the year of application submission *and* the year prior to application submission.)
3. Student must possess an overall minimum grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or equivalent in their music content area during the year of the application.
4. Student must verify participation and involvement in chapter activities.

Professional Achievement Award Rubric

5 - Highest Score	4	3	2	1 - Lowest Score
<p>All criteria were met with several areas exceeding in breadth of creativity and effectiveness.</p> <p>New or innovative projects/strategies from previous submissions.</p>	<p>All criteria were met with one area exceeding breadth of creativity and effectiveness.</p>	<p>Partial criteria were met with several areas exceeding in breadth of creativity and effectiveness.</p>	<p>Partial criteria were met with one area exceeding breadth of creativity and effectiveness.</p>	<p>An attempt to meet criteria was made, but lacked substantial evidence.</p> <p>No/little new/innovative content from previous submissions.</p>



2025-2026

NAfME Collegiate Recognition Awards

Application Questions

Chapter of Excellence Award

Application Questions

Awards Submission Open Date: January 26, 2026 12PM (ET)/9AM (PT)

Awards Submission Close Date: February 27, 2026 12PM (ET)/9AM (PT)

Name of College/University

Chapter Number

Chapter Advisor First and Last Name

Chapter Advisor Mailing Address

Chapter Advisor Email Address

(include city, state, and zip/postal code)

Chapter Advisor Phone Number

Chapter Advisor Phone Number

Student Representative First and Last Name

Student Representative Email Address

NEW to 2025-2026 Awards Application

Has your chapter won a Chapter of Excellence Award in the last three (3) years?

Do the chapter's activities/outcomes reported differ from previous winning applications?

Yes

Partially

No

If so, in which category did you win? (check all that apply)

Advocacy

Music Program

Professional Development

Recruitment

Service

Please indicate your Chapter Category

Small Chapter (1-25 members)

Medium Chapter (26-50 members)

Large Chapter (51+ members)

How many members are associated with your chapter?

What percentage of chapter members participated in this project?



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Application Questions continued

For which category of recognition are you nominating this chapter?

Advocacy (projects promoting the importance of music education for all, or to assist in an advocacy efforts taking place in their community)

Music Programs (musical performances organized and/or presented by the chapter)

Professional Development (projects organized and/or presented by the chapter to further the professional development of its members)

Recruitment (successful strategies to recruit students to join the chapter)

Service (projects organized and/or presented by the chapter to benefit its school or community)

(file upload) **Upload a document with materials details the chapter's project or activities. Please link photos, posters/flyers, videos, and other supporting materials from the chapter's projects or activities within the document. Please submit a document describing the chapter's success within the area in which you are applying. This application must be signed by the Dean or Music Department Chair, Chapter Advisor and Chapter President. Please submit as a pdf.**

(Checkbox) **Acknowledge that this application contains a signature from the Dean or Music Department Chair, Chapter Advisor, and Chapter President.**



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Student First and Last Name

Student NAFME Member ID#

Student Mailing Address *(include city, state, zip/postal code)*

Student School Email Address

Student Personal Email Address

Student Phone Number

Student Year in School

Name of College/University

Chapter Number

Chapter Advisor First and Last Name

Chapter Advisor NAFME Member ID#

Chapter Advisor Email Address

Acknowledge that the student meets ALL of the following criteria by checking each box.

Student is a NAFME Collegiate member in good standing

Student was also a NAFME Collegiate member in the prior academic year

Student has a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale in music content area

Student has exhibited leadership, service, and significant involvement in their chapter for an extended period of time

(file upload) **Upload a letter detailing the student's involvement in the chapter and other professional activities. This might include leadership positions, service projects, fundraising, membership efforts, retention efforts, or new initiatives. Please provide a linked headshot of the student within the letter.**

This letter should be submitted on your institution's letterhead, describing the student's involvement in the chapter and other professional activities. This might include leadership positions, service projects, fundraising, membership efforts, retention efforts, or new initiatives. This letter must be signed by the Dean or Music Department Chair, Chapter Advisor, and Chapter President. In the event the Chapter President is being nominated, please have another student leader in the chapter sign in the place of the president. Please submit as a pdf.

(Checkbox) **Acknowledge that this application contains a letter signed by the Dean or Music Department Chair, Chapter Advisor, and Chapter President. Upload the signed letter above.**