

APA Student Membership Policy

The Communications & Membership Committee was requested to discuss and develop recommendations for a new "Student" category of APA membership. Below are the recommendations from the committee to ensure the new membership category supports the association's growth while maintaining professional standards.

Eligibility and Verification

To maintain the integrity of the professional membership pool, the committee recommends these verification standards:

- **Definition:** Eligibility includes full-time students and part-time students.
- **Proof of Status:** Verification will be conducted via a .edu email address or a redacted transcript/student ID for those without an institutional email.
- **Term Limits:** Student membership is capped at a maximum of four years.
- **Renewal Requirements:** Eligibility must be re-verified on an annual basis.

Governance and Participation Rights

The committee recommends that student members be integrated into the association's community while limiting their influence on official governance:

- **Voting Rights:** Student members will not have voting rights in any APA elections.
- **Leadership Roles:** Students are ineligible to serve on the Board of Directors, as committee chairs, or as chapter leadership.
- **Committee Access:** Students may attend committee meetings to learn and contribute, with the specific exception of the JBMS Committee.

Financial Structure and Benefits

The committee recommends this proposed structure to balance affordability for students with the value of APA resources:

- **Annual Dues:** Set at **\$50 per year**.
- **Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship Integration:** As a benefit for scholarship recipients, the top four ranked scholarship recipients will receive one year of free membership.
- **Continuing Education (CE):** Students will receive the standard APA member discount on CE registration and will not be eligible for free audit of CE courses.
- **Resource Access:** Students will have full access to the APA Mentor Program, online forums, and all standard member resources.

Post-Graduation Transition

The committee recommends the following:

- **Policy:** No "transitional" or "bridge" membership tier will be established.
- **Conversion:** Following graduation or the expiration of the four-year cap, individuals must transition directly to full professional membership to continue their affiliation.