

Why Should Employers Hire a Health Information Professional Who Is a Member of the Academy?

The academy recognizes exemplary professional performance throughout a health sciences librarian's career. Academy membership is awarded to health information professionals who have distinguished themselves in important areas of professional competencies (health sciences environment and information policies; leadership and management; health sciences information services; health sciences resource management; information systems and technology; curriculum design and instruction; and research, analysis, and interpretation) through continuing education, job experience, and leadership in the profession.

In the rapidly changing, technologically driven field of health care information, employers need someone with the proven knowledge and skills to successfully support their institutions' missions and goals.

How Can I Become Eligible for Membership?

To be members of the academy, health information professionals must have a master's degree in library and information sciences, accredited by the American Library Association and the Council of Post-Secondary Accreditation, or other master's degree and documented coursework in professional competencies. Members must be currently working in the field of health sciences librarianship to apply. Members develop and demonstrate leadership skills that carry over to the workplace through activities in local, state, and national organizations. These activities provide opportunities to network with colleagues, chair committees, hold state or national offices, and participate in important decisions that affect knowledge management.

Apply Today

Step 1 Review the requirements, details, forms, and instructions for academy membership at www.mlanet.org/academy/ to determine the level for which you qualify.

Step 2 Complete the required forms located at www.mlanet.org/academy/.

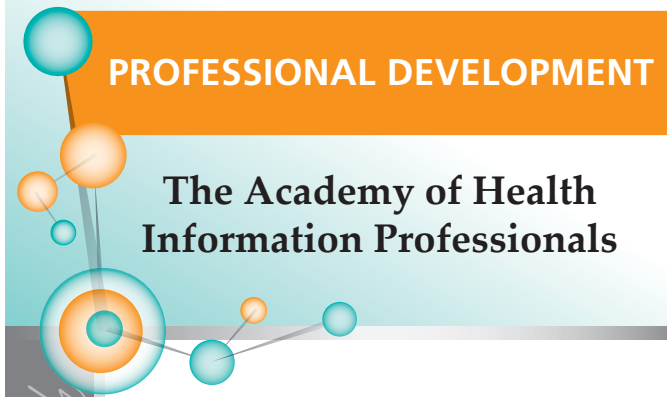
Step 3 If you are applying at the Member level or above, use the LEDGER form to record the points you have earned. When you have finished, check to determine whether you have the required number and distribution of points.

Step 4 Submit your Portfolio of Professional Progress to MLA for processing. Upon approval, MLA will send you a certificate recognizing your level.

Learn more about the academy at www.mlanet.org/academy/ or contact MLA at mlapd2@mlahq.org

MLA MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
 65 East Wacker Place • Suite 1900
 Chicago, Illinois 60601-7246
 312.419.9094; Fax, 312.419.8950
info@mlahq.org, www.mlanet.org

MLA is a nonprofit, educational organization with more than 4,000 health sciences information professional members worldwide. Founded in 1898, MLA provides lifelong educational opportunities, supports a knowledgebase of health information research, and works with a global network of partners to promote the importance of quality information for improved health to the health care community and the public.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Academy of Health Information Professionals



ACADEMY OF HEALTH INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS

Quality information for improved health



MLA MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Quality information for improved health
www.mlanet.org



ACADEMY OF HEALTH INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS



The Academy of Health Information Professionals (AHIP) is MLA's peer-reviewed professional development and career recognition program. Membership is awarded to health information professionals who have distinguished themselves in important areas of professional competency. The academy provides a structure for professional development for all health information professionals, no matter how long they have been in the field. More than 1,100 health information professionals participate in the academy at 5 levels of membership (Provisional, Member, Senior, Distinguished, and Emeritus), based on experience and accomplishments.

Why Should I Apply for Membership in the Academy of Health Information Professionals?

- **Professional Recognition:** Membership in the academy recognizes your qualifications, your knowledge of health information, and your commitment to the profession.
- **Career Planning:** To plan your professional, growth and development in an ever-changing profession, use checklists, evaluation grids, articles, and mentors provided by the academy.
- **Career Advancement:** In a competitive health care environment, membership in the academy can help you advance your career and provide confirmation of your special area of expertise or professional growth. The results of a 2008 Hay salary survey reported that mean salaries of respondents who were members of the academy were 15.5% higher than salaries of nonmember colleagues.

Years of Experience	Academy Level
If you are currently employed in the health information field and have less than five years experience OR are seeking employment in the field and currently have less than five years experience in the field	Provisional
If you have worked in the health information field for five years or more	Member or Senior Member
If you have worked in the health information field for ten years or more	Distinguished Member
If you were a member of the academy at any level (except Provisional) at the time of retirement and were a member for at least ten consecutive years at the time of retirement	Emeritus Member

- **Prestige:** Academy membership adds credibility, professionalism, and excellence to the image and identity of health information professionals. You are perceived by others to be motivated, accomplished, and current in your knowledge in a rapidly changing world.
- **Personal Achievement:** Membership in the academy gives you a way to measure your career progress and gives you a sense of pride in your accomplishments.