Commercial Music: Recording Certificate

PART TIME

This program roadmap represents one possible pathway to complete the program. **Please see a counselor** to create an education plan that is customized to meet your needs. This roadmap is not a guarantee of course availability or financial aid applicability.

Catalog: 2026-27

Total Units: 39

Start Term: Fall

First Year

Semester 1 (Fall) — 11 Units

CAT.	COURSE	UNIT	PREREQUISITES
Req	MUSM 311 Introduction to Music Business	3	
Req	MUSM 334 Introduction to Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI)	2	
Req	MUSM 342 Recording Studio Techniques I	3	
RE	MUFHL 321 Basic Musicianship	3	

Semester 2 (Spring) — 10 Units

CAT.	COURSE	UNIT	PREREQUISITES
Req	MUSM 344 Recording Studio Techniques II	3	MUSM 342
Req	MUSM 356 Pro Tools 101, Introduction to Pro Tools	1.5	
Req	MUSM 357 Pro Tools 110 Intermediate Pro Tools	1.5	MUSM 356
Req	ET 302 Principles of Electricity and Electronics	4	

Second Year

Semester 3 (Fall) — 9 Units

CAT.	COURSE	UNIT	PREREQUISITES
Req	MUSM 320 Contemporary Songwriting	3	
Req	MUSM 350 Recording Studio Techniques III	3	MUSM 344
Req	MUSM 367 Audio for Video Post Production	3	MUSM 344

Semester 4 (Spring) — 9 Units

CAREER PATH

Career Options:

ARC's Commercial Music: Recording program provides students the core skills needed to enter a career in audio engineering. Foundational classes in the theory and art of recording are coupled with laboratory experiences in order to prepare the student for further study at a four-year institution or for an entry-level career position. Many students work in recording studios or even start a studio/business of their own.

Once students have gained a background in music production, coupled with business and entrepreneurship skills, they are prepared to work in a wide variety of niches in the music industry such as:

- recording studio audio engineer/audio engineering assistant
- music producer
- post-production audio (voiceover, audio FX, Foley and ADR for film/TV)
- mastering engineer
- live sound operator
- acoustic design and installation engineer
- audio/media specialist for houses of worship
- audio engineer for video
- audio gaming engineer

CAT.	COURSE	UNIT	PREREQUISITES
Req	MUSM 362 Mixing and Mastering Music Projects	3	MUSM 350, 356 and 357
Req	MUSM 306 Live Sound Reinforcement	3	MUSM 342
RE	MUSM 361 Advanced Studio Sessions	3	MUSM 350

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES		
Req	Required Core	A course that is required for this program
RE	Restricted Elective	A course selected from a list of elective courses specified for this program in the course list in the catalog, which can be replaced with another course from the same list

- audio multimedia specialist
- audiovisual consultant
- multimedia educators and specialist (K-12, college, university, conservatory, private studio)
- stage technician
- studio manager

Advising Notes:

- Students should meet with a counselor and the Commercial Music program director to ensure they are following an education plan that takes their needs and goals into consideration.
- This map shows the fastest way to complete this program. See a counselor to adjust the coursework to meet your specific needs.
- The courses in this certificate can also be applied to the Commercial Music: Recording A.A. degree.
- This certificate can be started in the spring as well. See a counselor to adjust the coursework.

Scheduling Notes:

- MUSM 356 is scheduled during the 1st 8 weeks and MUSM 357 during the 2nd 8 weeks in the spring, so they can be taken in the same semester.
- MUSM 367 is offered in the fall.
- MUSM 362 is offered in the spring.

Other Notes:

- Students can use this certificate, with additional coursework, to prepare to transfer to earn bachelor's degrees in Audio Recording, Music Production,

Acoustical Engineering, and other related fields.

- At the end of semester 3, students qualify for the **Digital Audio Production certificate**.

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