Sheridan College Certificate of Completion & Associates of Fine Arts Degree in Music Technology
F.A.Q.

The Sheridan College Music Technology Program offers a comprehensive course of study that leads to a Certificate of Completion in Music Technology or an Associates of Fine Arts Degree. The curriculum focuses on recording arts, digital audio production and editing, music engraving, live sound operation, performance and self-promotion. Our students have access to the latest hardware and software in our multimedia lab and recording studio located in the Whitney Center for the Arts. They also enjoy a low student-to-teacher ratio, affordable tuition rates, and scenic campus situated at the base of the Big Horn Mountains.

Why music technology?
Technology has transformed nearly every aspect of our lives. Many fields and disciplines have been radically effected by new technologies, and music is one of the best examples. Independent musicians are creating and recording music with powerful tools that were once accessible only to well-funded recording studios. Quality recordings created with consumer and "prosumer" hardware and software can be indistinguishable from those made in dedicated studios, saving independent musicians hundreds of dollars in hourly studio rental fees. There's never been a better time to explore what technology can do to help you create, refine, and distribute your music.

Why choose this program?
The program's curriculum is focused on fundamental concepts and skills that can be applied to any number of software apps and hardware setups, regardless of publisher or manufacturer. Students work with some of the most popular and affordable equipment currently available on the market today. Our students not only develop valuable practical skills in digital music production, but they also leave with a clear idea of how to begin building their own personal music-making studio optimized for any budget.

By completing the sequence of the four core classes and two electives listed below, students explore the fundamentals of music technology including audio recording, sound editing, live sound reinforcement, MIDI implementation, synthesis, computer-generated notation, and multimedia applications. Upon completion they receive the Music Technology Certificate as validation of their experience with these concepts and techniques.

Suggested Course of Study (2-Year Sequence)	Suggested Course of Study (1-Year Sequence)
Fall Semester, Year 1: • MUSC 1415 - Intro to Music Technology (3 credits) • Music Literacy Elective [choose from MUSC 1010 Fundamentals of Music *or* MUSC 1030 Written Theory I] (3 credits) Spring Semester, Year 1: • MUSC 2430 - Intermediate Music Technology (3 credits) • Creative Music Elective [choose from MUSC 1070 Composition *or* MUSC 1272 Songwriting] (2 credits) Fall Semester, Year 2: • MUSC 2410 - Techniques for Live Sound (2 credits) Spring Semester, Year 2: • MUSC 2500 - Music Portfolio (2 credits) Total Credit Hours: 15	Fall Semester: • MUSC 1415 - Intro to Music Technology (3 credits) • MUSC 2410 - Techniques for Live Sound (2 credits) • Music Literacy Elective [choose from MUSC 1010 Fundamentals of Music *or* MUSC 1030 Written Theory I] (3 credits) Spring Semester: • MUSC 2430 - Intermediate Music Technology (3 credits) • MUSC 2500 - Music Portfolio (2 credits) • Creative Music Elective [choose from MUSC 1070 Composition *or* MUSC 1272 Songwriting] (2 credits) Total Credit Hours: 15

For students interested in an expanded two-year degree, we offer the Associates of Fine Arts Degree in Music Technology. This combines the certificate's core classes with a traditional minor in music, which includes courses in music theory, history, and keyboard skills, as well as participation in ensembles and private lessons study of the student's primary instrument. Transferrable general education courses and a few additional tech-related offerings round out the degree to a total of 60 credit hours.

Who is this program for?

In short, it's for anyone with an interest in music! Our multi-faceted approach to music technology offers relevant training to students of all experience levels. Both music majors and non-music majors are welcomed in the certificate program.

> **For Music Majors…**Whether you're planning to major in music performance, education, composition, theory or musicology, study of music technology will augment your traditional Associate's or Bachelor's degree. Music-related software and hardware pervades today's classrooms at all levels, and it's frequently implemented in private teaching studios. Once primarily the tools of composers, engraving and recording applications have become an increasingly important part of every musician's set of skills. Our program also assists students in preparing self-promotional materials like an audio portfolio, a website, and a curriculum vitae. Whatever career path you choose, the Music Technology Certificate or A.F.A. Degree will give a head start on your road to success.

> **For Non-Music Majors…**No prior music training is required for entry into our certificate program. Traditional music notation literacy is helpful, but not a prerequisite. Only an interest in using technology to create and record music is needed to begin. Even if you've never played a traditional instrument, today's software allows you to indulge your creativity right away. Our curriculum introduces universal concepts of music tech and emphasizes mastery of fundamental techniques that are applicable to a variety of musical styles. We don't, however, advocate one style over another. So, you'll learn how to apply technology to the genre of music that most interests *you*.

What are some music tech-related careers?

The possibilities are almost endless! Music technology is a viable profession unto itself and it integrates with many other disciplines as well. With a background in music technology, your career options might include:

> Audio Engineer (specializing in studio, film, television, video, internet or radio)
> Audio Producer
> Audio Technician
> Educational Music Technology Specialist
> Electronic/Electroacoustic Composer
> Film/Media Composer
> Hardware/Software Instrument Designer
> Live Sound Engineer
> Mastering Engineer
> Music Lab Administrator
> Music Technology Marketing and/or Sales
> Multimedia Designer
> Recording Studio Technology Specialist
> Songwriter
> Sound Designer (for film, theatre, games, or other media)
> Sound Editor

What are my options when I finish the program?

With the experience gained after completing the certificate or degree, our students are ready to either pursue freelance opportunities, professional employment, or continue their studies at a university, college or technical school. Because the purpose of the certificate is to thoroughly immerse the student in the universal basics of

music technology, we don't attempt to lock our students into a "one size fits all" career track. The appropriate next step after completion will vary greatly with the student's ability and career ambitions.

MUSC 2500 Music Portfolio is included in the curriculum to assist students with researching and choosing opportunities beyond the certificate. This course focuses on developing a capstone project, a professional portfolio, and various promotional materials. With these items in place, the student can make informed decisions about further professional and/or educational opportunities. As this course concludes the certificate program, the student can make a timely and seamless transition to the next level he or she chooses.

May I combine the certificate with a non-music Associate's Degree?
Of course! Please see the document *Suggested Course of Study for Certificate in combination with General Studies Associate of Arts Degree* for more information.

Which credits transfer? Which do not?
All credits associated with a completed A.A. degree, A.S. degree. or A.F.A. degree will transfer unconditionally to a number of major universities with which Sheridan College maintains articulation agreements. Please contact our advising office or registration office for further information.

Because music technology is a relatively new area of study in higher education, it is less likely that the core music tech classes will directly transfer as anything but general electives into another music technology-related program. If a student plans to transfer to a professional or four-year program, we advise the student to consult with transfer institution before commencing study at Sheridan College.

How should I go about satisfying the musicianship requirement?
For students with little or no experience with keyboarding skills and/or music theory, the quickest and easiest way to fulfill the musicianship requirement for the certificate is to register for our 3-credit Foundations of Music course. For the A.F.A. Degree in Music Technology, the requirement is satisfied by completing courses that are already part of the program of study. For more information, consult the document *SC Music Technology Musicianship Requirement Options*.

My question isn't listed here. Where do I get more information?
For more information about Sheridan College's Certificate of Completion in Music Technology, contact Dr. Christian Erickson at (307) 675-0732 or e-mail him at <u>cerickson@sheridan.edu</u>.