B.A. in Music Technology – Prospective Student Packet

The Bachelor of Arts in Music Technology at Montana State University is a synthesis of traditional musical training and application through new technologies. Students develop skills in areas including music composition and theory, recording, sound synthesis, sound design for film and theater, audio for film/video and multimedia, film scoring, notation and sequencing, orchestration, interdisciplinary collaboration, entertainment business, and instrumental/vocal performance.

Working alongside faculty, Music Technology majors compose original music and collaborate on artistic works and projects with students from across campus. This combination of academic study, creative work, community involvement, and hands-on training produces well-rounded musicians and digital media artists.

In addition to being award-winning composers and audio engineers, the Music Technology faculty and staff are dedicated and engaging educators. Their professional experience ranges from electronic and classical music composition for the concert hall and media to audio engineering for studio recording, broadcast, and live sound reinforcement.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What will I study as a Music Technology Major at MSU?** The Music Technology program at MSU is an integration of music composition, audio technology/engineering, and interdisciplinary collaboration with a particular emphasis on music for visual media.

- **Is Music Technology a "Recording" or "Audio Engineering" degree program?** No. Not Exactly… Studio/live recording and sound reinforcement are integral to the Music Technology degree program, and several of our graduates have gone on to pursue careers as studio/live recording and sound reinforcement engineers, however recording and audio engineering are not the sole focus of the degree. The Music Technology program at MSU is a broad-based degree program that requires and encourages students to study a broad range of areas such as music composition, sound synthesis, sound design, audio for video, sound for theater, entertainment business, etc. as well as areas/topics outside of music that provide students with the broad range of skills and experience needed to forge their own pathways in this constantly-changing field.

- **Is Music Technology at MSU a Music Degree?** Yes, the B.A. in Music Technology is a Music Degree housed in the School of Music and is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. As a Music Major, you will study a principal instrument/voice, music theory, aural skills, keyboard skills (piano), and music history along with focused Music Technology courses.

- **What if I have a limited musical background?** If you have limited experience reading standard music notation and performing on an instrument/voice, there may be remedial work to complete. In these cases, students may be required to complete remedial coursework and/or outside lessons with a private teacher before starting the Music Technology course sequence. For students with little to no experience reading music, the amount and level of remedial work will be determined individually for each student. Since the Music Technology course sequence begins in the fall semester, insufficient prior preparation may necessitate an additional year for completion of the requirements for the Music Technology Foundation Sequence, and can lead to an extended time period until degree completion. We do however recognize that many exceptionally talented students have written music with a computer or by ear, but have less experience reading and writing music notation. The Music Technology program offers avenues for success for those students, provided they are willing to put in the time and effort it can take to address these deficiencies. If you have a limited music background, there are several activities you should consider pursuing before beginning your studies in music at MSU.

  1) Take lessons on your primary instrument/voice
  2) Take piano lessons
  3) Take a music theory course at your high school or college
  4) Spend time at http://www.musictheory.net - this is a great website that has lessons and exercises that will help you prepare for your first year of music study at MSU. In "Lessons" Start with "The Basics" and work up through "Introduction to chords." Reinforce your knowledge in the "exercises" page.

- **Is the Music Technology major right for me?** Professionals who achieve success in the field are self-starters who thrive on working independently, who adapt quickly to new technologies, and who can fulfill multiple roles in the process of creating music, sound, and art. Above all, the Music Technology program at MSU is designed for students with musical backgrounds who are interested in exploring how technology can be used to create new music, sound, and art in a multidiscipline-collaborative environment.

- **What kind of music will I write at MSU?** In the field of new media, you never say, "I don't write that." Music for new media is all about finding the right sounds for the job and the story you want to tell. Whether the job calls for aleatoric, atonality, groovy trip-hop, acousmatic machine sounds, guitar-based blues, 1930s swing, nature soundscapes, or blippy digital or analog synthesis, the composer is expected to provide it. Versatility is extremely important. As a Music Technology major, you will be stretched beyond your comfort zone. You will design your own sounds, using both real-world recordings and electronic synthesis. You will be asked to think about sound and music in ways you might not have considered before.

- **What can I do with a Music Technology degree from MSU?** After graduation, students might compose and record music on independent record labels, study electronic and acoustic music in graduate school, design and operate recording studios or concert sound systems, create music and sound for film, video, theatre, television, multimedia art, computer games, and virtual environments. The B.A. in Music Technology also allows for study in areas closely related to the field. Many Music Technology students also pursue double majors/degrees or minors in business, film, photography, visual art, computer science, computer engineering, electrical engineering, and physics among others. These opportunities support student career goals in multimedia art, music technology sales and industry representation, hardware and musical instrument design, engineering, installation, music software design and programing, acoustical design, and other scientific and musical endeavors.

- **Are Internships available through the Music Technology Program?**
Yes. Students are encouraged to participate in an internship while pursuing a B.A. in Music Technology at MSU. An internship can be an integral part of a student's learning experience, and can strengthen valuable hands-on skills. The internship experience allows students the opportunity to develop relationships and contacts with professionals in the industry, which can be extremely important for career development. The program and faculty have relationships with music technology related businesses in Bozeman, around Montana, and across the nation.

- **Are scholarships available for Music Technology students?** Yes, the School of Music offers scholarships based on instrumental/vocal performance auditions. Scholarships are also available through the University based on academic performance and/or financial need. More information can be found at: http://www.montana.edu/music/scholarships.

- **Is the B.A. in Music Technology a Gated Program?** Beginning in Fall 2014, the B.A. in Music Technology no longer requires a formal review or "gate" after the first year of study. However, students are required to meet requirements for advanced course work, including completion of all prerequisite courses with a "C" or better. More information about degree requirements can be found in the MSU course catalog:
http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate/artsarchitecture/music/ba-music-technology/

Application Checklist

- ❑ Visit and review the School of Music and Music Technology Websites - These sites contain information that will answer many of your basic questions about the Music Technology program and the School of Music at MSU.

- ❑ Contact Dr. Jason Bolte or Dr. Linda Antas to discuss the Music Technology program and answer any questions you may have about the degree.

- ❑ Apply for Admission to Montana State University. http://www.montana.edu/wwwnss/apply.shtml

- ❑ Investigate/Apply for scholarships through the School of Music and Office of Financial Aid. http://www.montana.edu/music/scholarships

- ❑ Review "Info for Prospective Students & Frequently Asked Questions." http://www.montana.edu/music/musictech/prospective, http://www.montana.edu/music/musictech/faq, http://www.montana.edu/music/prospectives

- ❑ Review "Preparing for Your First Year." http://www.montana.edu/music/firstyear

- ❑ Address musical preparation deficiencies if necessary.
  - ❑ Take lessons on your instrument/voice
  - ❑ Take piano lessons
  - ❑ Take a music theory course at your high school or local college if available
  - ❑ Visit www.musictheory.net on a regular basis. In "Lessons" Start with "The Basics" and work up through "Introduction to chords." Reinforce your knowledge in the "exercises" page.

- ❑ Take Theory Diagnostic Exam. http://www.montana.edu/music/prospectives

- ❑ Contact Applied Instrument/Voice Professor to discuss and schedule applied studio audition. http://www.montana.edu/music/people

- ❑ Attend MSU Orientation – Meet with Dr. Jason Bolte or other School of Music Representative. http://www.montana.edu/wwwnss/orientation

More Information
http://www.montana.edu/music/   **http://www.montana.edu/music/musictech/**

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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | College of ARTS & ARCHITECTURE

Bachelor of Arts in Music Technology – 4 Year Plan

FALL FRESHMAN YEAR

MUSI 100 Concert Attendance	0
MUSI 105 Theory I	**3**
MUSI 135 Keyboard Skills I	**1**
MUSI 140 Aural Perception I	**1**
MUSI 195 Applied Music I or Guitar Class	1
University Core (2 Courses)	6
MUST 115 Introduction to Digital Music	3
TOTAL Credits	**15**

SPRING FRESHMAN YEAR

MUSI 100 Concert Attendance	0
MUSI 106 Theory II	3
MUSI 136 Keyboard Skills II	1
MUSI 141 Aural Perception II	1
MUSI 195 Applied Music I or Guitar Class	1
University Core (2 Courses)	6
MUST 125 MIDI and Electro-Acoustic Composition	3
TOTAL Credits	**15**

Foundation Courses: *Students must earn a "C" or better in all **BOLDED** Foundation Courses in order to meet minimum prerequisite requirements. These courses may be repeated once in order to meet requirements.

FALL SOPHOMORE YEAR

MUSI 100 Concert Attendance	0
Electives	6
MUSI 195 or 295 Applied Lessons	1
Ensemble	1
University Core	3
MUST 220 Recording I	3
MUST 380 Interdisciplinary Projects I: Film	3
TOTAL Credits	**17**

SPRING SOPHOMORE YEAR

MUSI 100 Concert Attendance	0
Electives	6
MUSI 195 or 295 Applied Lessons	1
Ensemble	1
University Core	3
FILM 259 Multimedia Audio Prod.	3
MUSI 485 Acoustic Comp (1-2 cr)/ EELE 217 Science of Sound (2 cr.)	1-3
TOTAL Credits	**15-17**

*Students must advance and complete at least one semester of MUSI 295 Applied Lessons (with a C or better) to meet graduation requirements.

*At least 2 credits of Acoustic Composition are required for graduation.

FALL JUNIOR YEAR

MUSI 100 Concert Attendance	0
MUSI 302 Music History II/Elective	3-6
University Core	3
MUSI 307IA World Music	3
MUST 305 Orch. for New Media	2
MUST 341 Sound Design & Synthesis	3
TOTAL	**14-16**

SPRING JUNIOR YEAR

MUSI 100 Concert Attendance	0
MUSI 301 Music History I/Elective	3-6
University Core	3
MUST 382 Int. Dis II or CAA 490R	3
MUST 384 Film Scoring	3
MUSI 485 Acoustic Comp (1-2 cr)/ EELE 217 Science of Sound (2 cr.)	1-3
TOTAL	**13-18**

*A grade of C or better is required in all music content and music technology related courses.

*42 Credits, 300 level or above, are required to meet graduation requirements.

FALL SENIOR YEAR

MUSI 100 Concert Attendance	0
Music Technology Elective	3
Electives	6
Computer Science or Business Elective	3
MUST 498 Internship or Upper-Division Elective (3XX)	3
TOTAL	**15**

SPRING SENIOR YEAR

MUSI 100 Concert Attendance	0
Elective	3
Upper-Division Elective (3XX)	3
MUST 498 Internship or Music Technology Electives	3
MUST 499R Senior Project / Capstone Experience	3
MUSI 303 – Music History 20th C.	3
TOTAL	**15**

*Students must earn a C- or better in all University Core Courses to fulfill the requirements for graduation.

*120 Credits are required to meet graduation requirements.

POSSIBLE MUSIC ELECTIVES

MUSI 205 Music Theory III	MUSI 230 Keyboard Skills	MUST 320 Recording II
MUSI 206 Music Theory IV	MUSI 231 Keyboard Skills	MUST 498 Internship - MTECH
MUSI 240 Aural Perception III	MUSI 232 Keyboard Skills	MUST 482 Electronic Composition
MUSI 241 Aural Perception IV	MUSI 233 Keyboard Skills	MUST 217 Entertainment Business
	MUST 382 Interdisciplinary Projects II	MUST 350 Real-Time Comp Music
		MUST 225 MONSTER Laptop Ensemble

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