

Majoring in Music Technology

An Introduction to Music Technology Programs in Michigan

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Introduction

“I didn’t know that you can major in music technology”

“I stumbled upon your website while I am researching for the college”

A. Institutions and Degree Types

B. Admission Process

C. Student/Faculty Expectations and Preparations

A. Institutions and Degree Types

Undergraduate music technology programs have various names and purposes

- Music Technology
- Multimedia Arts Technology
- Performing Arts Technology
- Audio Technology
- Sound Recording Technology
- Composition with specialties in electronic music
- Music Industry, Music Production, Music Engineering, etc

A. Institutions and Degree Types

Degree Types (Undergraduate Only)

- **BM:** requires college-level proficiency on a traditional instrument (i.e. private lessons and ensembles). College music degree + technology
- **BS:** Ensembles or lessons often not required. Less music theory/history classes. Focuses more on the engineering aspect of the field
- **BFA:** Ensembles or lessons often not required. Can be multi-disciplinary and/or more flexible in terms of class choices
- **AAS:** Open enrollment. Vocational and/or preparation for the Bachelor's Degree
- **Minor in Music Technology:** Admission to the music department not required. Option for non-music majors.

Institution	Degree Type	Major Name	Audition?	Portfolio?	Interview?	Curriculum
Michigan State University	BM	Composition	Y	Y	Recommended	https://reg.msu.edu/ACADEMICPROGRAMS/Text.aspx?Section=125#s2207
Mott Community College	AAS	Music Technology	N	N	When declaring major	https://www.mcc.edu/fass/fa_music-technology-gp.shtml
Northwestern Michigan College	AAS	Audio Technology	N	N	N	https://www.nmc.edu/programs/academic-programs/audio-technology/catalog.html
Schoolcraft College	AAS	Sound Recording Technology	N	N	N	https://www.schoolcraft.edu/docs/librariesprovider9/curriculum-guides-2018-19/sound-recording-technology.pdf
University of Michigan	BM	Music & Technology	Y	Y	Y	http://smt.d.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/PAT-BM-2018-2019.pdf
	BFA	Performing Arts Technology	N	Y	Y	http://smt.d.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/PAT-BFA-2018-2019.pdf
	BS	Sound Engineering	N	Y	Y	http://smt.d.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/PAT-BS-2018-2019.pdf
Wayne State University	BM	Music Technology	Y	Y	Y	http://music.wayne.edu/music-technology/mustech_18.pdf
Western Michigan University	BS	Multimedia Arts Technology	Y	Y	Y	https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u813/2017/WMUMAT-6_CurriculumGuide.pdf

B. Admission Process

Purpose of Audition/Portfolio/Interview

- Did you research on the major you are applying?
- Do you have previous experiences in music technology?
- Can you survive college music classes?

B. Admission Process

Portfolio & Statement Letter

- Do you have previous experiences in music technology?
 - Prove that the applicant has experiences and skills in music technology
 - Often does not have to be a composition portfolio
 - (My pet peeve: unfinished pieces)
 - Many institutions ask for similar contents
 - Send prior to interview (UM, MSU, WMU) or bring at the interview (WSU)

B. Admission Process

Audition

- Do you have previous experiences in music technology?
 - WMU accepts performance on electronic instrument
 - Possible scholarship opportunity for exceptional applicants
- Can you survive college music classes?
 - BM degree expects that the majors have enough proficiency in a traditional instrument to perform at college-level ensemble and do well on private lessons
 - We are not necessarily looking for performance majors

B. Admission Process

Interview

- Do you have previous experiences in music technology?
 - be ready to talk about technical/aesthetic aspects of the portfolio
- Chance for the applicants to check out the facility, faculty, environment, colleagues, and program
 - Ask: Can the institutions provide facilities and opportunities I cannot get from my home/studio/current institution?
 - Check out activities and work by the faculty and current students
 - Attend concerts and classes

B. Admission Process

Other Remarks

- Music Technology Track in Composition & Graduate Programs
- Scholarship opportunities and college transfer
 - College-specific scholarships (eg: <http://theflintpromise.org/> for Mott)
 - Music credits from institutions providing AAS degrees are transferrable (but cannot skip auditions)
- Minor in Music Technology and Double Degree
 - Minor could be a suitable option for students with no/minimum formal music training (Offered at WSU)

C. Student/Faculty Expectations

“Non-Traditional” Music Students: Students interested in doing music with electronics

- Students interested in creating/performing music with electronics
 - synthesizers, DJ set, software instruments, homemade instruments, etc
- Students interested in recording/publishing media with electronics
 - look for their online music account (soundcloud, bandcamp, youtube, etc)
- Students interested in designing instruments (software/hardware)
 - science/programming-related projects are viable options
- Not necessarily the best acoustic instrument performers
 - has good ears and affinity to technology
 - has audiovisual projects

C. Student/Faculty Expectations

What does the music department expect from the incoming music technology students?

- Survive the college music curriculum
- For BM, practice for instrumental audition and survive ensemble
- Develop broader tastes in music including classical and/or jazz
- Involve in technology-related tasks (recording, radio, live sound, etc)
- Participate in electronic music ensemble

More Info & Who to Contact

- Contact the music technology faculty for info & tour

Institution	Faculty	Email
Michigan State	Lyn Goeringer	goering4@msu.edu
Mott	Bill Withem	bill.withem@mcc.edu
NMC	Form Submission	https://www.nmc.edu/programs/academic-programs/audio-technology/contact-audio-tech.html
Schoolcraft	Todd Sager	tsager@schoolcraft.edu
University of Michigan	Michael Gurevich	mdgurev@umich.edu
Wayne State	Joo Won Park	joo.won.park@wayne.edu
Western Michigan	Chris Biggs	christopher.biggs@wmich.edu