Area of Interest: Creative Media and Communications

Music Industry Arts

Ontario College Diploma   Program Code: 1405X04FWO

42 Weeks

Ottawa Campus

Our Program

Start your music industry career -- Learn the world of audio production and the business of music.

This accelerated two-year Music Industry Arts Ontario College Diploma program, delivered over three academic periods (semesters), prepares you to start your music industry career. You learn how to work as an audio professional, performing artist, business professional, or entrepreneur in the music industry.

As a student, you produce multi-track recordings in a real studio environment where you learn the full range of audio engineering and music production skills including:

- digital audio workstations

- multi-track recording

- signal flow

- music production and mixing

You also build music business and entrepreneurship skills to assist artists and songwriters in preparing for their career in this creative industry including:

- royalties and copyright

- music publishing

- social media marketing

- emerging music technologies

Elective courses provide an opportunity for you to focus your development on the technical side or on the creative side of the music industry.

During the program, you work in small studio lab classes to gain hands-on experience in the recording studio with guidance from faculty. Individual time in the studio lets you experience what it is like to lead your own recording session. Independence in the studio, working on school or personal projects, builds your confidence with the equipment and the techniques introduced in class.

In this program, you will be provided with opportunities to work with industry in settings such as audio production facilities, festivals, special events, and music organizations.

As non-semester diploma program, this program is equivalent to a 2-year diploma but is condensed to three consecutive semesters, offered over 12 months. As a result, this program is fast-paced, allowing you to develop time management and organizational skills that are of value in the music industry.

There are many different career paths in the industry after graduation. You may find employment in:

- live production facilities

- recording studios

- royalty and/or arts administration

- creative fields

Opportunities exist for graduates wishing to pursue their own production companies, music businesses, or creative ventures.

Employment

Graduates may find employment as recording engineers, live sound engineers, producers, performing artists, songwriters, DJ, personal managers, music publishers, arts administrators and concert promoters.

Opportunities may also exist for graduates wishing to start their own production companies or music businesses.

Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- Produce recordings using multi-track recording systems with effective signal flow using audio engineering and music production skills in a professional audio environment.

- Prepare marketing, recording, production, career, and budgeting plans that support artist development.

- Perform work related to music business contracts and music publishing in compliance with copyright, legal guidelines and industry standards.

- Record audio using appropriate microphone types and techniques to achieve optimal sound quality for a desired outcome.

- Produce professional music and post-production sound for various creative media industries with appropriate recording interface.

- Apply music theory concepts in order to read, compose and analyze contemporary music.

- Assess the acoustical characteristics of an environment to make informed decisions for audio techniques required to support a desired outcome.

- Develop strategies to maintain currency within evolving music industry trends, technologies and practices to support professional development and career planning.

- Apply industry level skills in the operation and safe execution of live sound production.

- Analyze the historical and current state of the music industry in order to respond to inclusion gaps and address systemic barriers and challenges to success.

- Identify and apply discipline-specific practices that contribute to the local and global community through social responsibility, economic ommitment and environmental stewardship.

Program of Study

Level: 01	Courses	Hours
MSC2001	Music Business I	56.0
MSC2019	Entrepreneurship in the Music Industry	28.0
MSC2020	Music Theory Fundamentals	42.0

MSC2032	Electronic Music Production 1	42.0
MSC2033	Digital Audio Workshop	42.0
MSC2034	Audio Theory	42.0
MSC2035	Recording Lab 1	84.0
Choose one from equivalencies:	**Courses**	**Hours**
GED1405	General Education Elective	42.0
Level: 02	**Courses**	**Hours**
ENL1813M	Communications 1	42.0
MSC0081	Concert Promotion and Logistics	28.0
MSC2005	Music Business 2	56.0
MSC2036	Audio Production 1	56.0
MSC2037	Recording Lab 2	84.0
Elective: choose 2	**Courses**	**Hours**
MSC0085	Music Theory and Composition	42.0
MSC0086	Social Media Management	42.0
MSC2038	Electronic Music Production 2	42.0
MSC2042	Live Production 1	42.0
Choose one from equivalencies:	**Courses**	**Hours**
GED1405	General Education Elective	42.0
Level: 03	**Courses**	**Hours**
ENL2010	Personal Presentation Skills	42.0
MSC2008	Entertainment Contracts	56.0
MSC2013	Video Production and Sound Design	84.0
MSC2021	Industry Preparation	28.0
MSC2039	Audio Production 2	56.0
MSC2040	Recording Lab 3	84.0
Elective: choose 1	**Courses**	**Hours**
MSC0087	Release Strategies	28.0
MSC2041	Live Production 2	28.0
Choose one from equivalencies:	**Courses**	**Hours**
GED1405	General Education Elective	42.0

Fees for the 2025/2026 Academic Year

Tuition and related ancillary fees for this program can be viewed by using the Tuition and Fees Estimator tool at https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro/pay/fee-estimator/

Further information on fees can be found by visiting the Registrar's Office website at https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro/

Fees are subject to change.

Additional program related expenses include:

- Equipment and supplies cost approximately $3,000.

- Students must purchase their own Apple MacBook Pro laptop computer, which is included in the equipment cost estimate.

- Some equipment and supplies can be purchased directly from Algonquin's Connections Store at educational discounted rates.

Admission Requirements for the 2026/2027 Academic Year

College Eligibility

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent; OR

- Mature Student status (19 years of age or older and without a high school diploma at the start of the program). Eligibility may be determined by academic achievement testing, for which a fee will be charged.

Program Eligibility

- English, Grade 12 (ENG4C or equivalent).

- Mathematics, Grade 12 (MCT4C) is recommended.

- Completion of a Supplemental Form and MP3 Recording. Submission details can be found on the Algonquin College Additional Admission Requirements website: www.algonquincollege. com/admissionspackages

- Applicants with international transcripts must provide proof of the subject specific requirements noted above and may be required to provide proof of language proficiency. Domestic applicants with international transcripts must be evaluated through the International Credential Assessment Service of Canada (ICAS) or World Education Services (WES).

- IELTS-International English Language Testing Service (Academic) Overall band of 6.0 with a minimum of 5.5 in each band OR TOEFL-Internet-based (iBT) Overall 80, with a minimum of 20 in each component: Reading 20; Listening 20; Speaking 20; Writing 20; OR Duolingo English Test (DET) Overall 110, minimum of 110 in Literacy and no score below 95.

Should the number of applicants exceed the number of available places, applicants will be selected on the basis of their proficiency in English.

Admission Requirements for 2025/2026 Academic Year

College Eligibility

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent. Applicants with an OSSD showing senior English and/or Mathematics courses at the Basic Level, or with Workplace or Open courses, will be tested to determine their eligibility for admission; OR

- Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) certificate; OR

- General Educational Development (GED) certificate; OR

- Mature Student status (19 years of age or older and without a high school diploma at the start of the program). Eligibility may be determined by academic achievement testing for which a fee will be charged.

4

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Not sure if you meet all of the requirements? Academic Upgrading may be able to help with that: https://www.algonquincollege.com/access/ .

Should the number of applicants exceed the number of available places, applicants will be selected on the basis of their proficiency in English.

Application Information

MUSIC INDUSTRY ARTS
Program Code 1405X04FWO

Applications to full-time day programs must be submitted with official transcripts showing completion of the academic admission requirements through:

 https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en
60 Corporate Court
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 5J3
1-888-892-2228

Students currently enrolled in an Ontario secondary school should notify their Guidance Office prior to their online application at https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en

Applications for Fall Term and Winter Term admission received by February 1 will be given equal consideration. Applications received after February 1 will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis as long as places are available.

International applicants please visit this link for application process information: https://algonquincollege.my.site.com/myac360/s/self-registration-page

For further information on the admissions process, contact:

Registrar's Office
Algonquin College
1385 Woodroffe Ave
Ottawa, ON K2G 1V8
Contact: https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro/

Additional Information

Instructions and further detail on the completion of a Supplemental Form and MP3 Recording will be sent to applicants after https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en application has been processed.

Contact Information

Program Coordinator(s)

- Brian Asselin, mailto:asselib1@algonquincollege.com , 613-727-4723

- Colin Mills, mailto:millsc@algonquincollege.com , 613-727-4723, ext 2297

Course Descriptions

ENL1813M Communications 1

Communication remains an essential skill sought by employers, regardless of discipline or field of study. Using a practical, vocation-oriented approach, students focus on meeting the requirements of effective communication. Through a combination of lectures, exercises, and independent learning, students practise writing, speaking, reading, listening, locating and documenting information, and using technology to communicate professionally. Students develop and strengthen communication skills that contribute to success in both educational and workplace environments.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

ENL2010 Personal Presentation Skills

From a producer working in a studio to an artist on stage, the music industry is based around many different types of presentations. Students analyze and critique their own personal oral communication skills. By analyzing communications micro-skills (for example, eye contact, body language, facial expression, hand gestures, volume, rate, pausing & tone) students gain insight into their personal presentation style. Students experience a variety of presentation activities including an informative talk, a persuasive talk, a group presentation and an interview.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

GED1405 General Education Elective

Students choose one course, from a group of general education electives, which meets one of the following five theme requirements: Arts in Society, Civic Life, Social and Cultural Understanding, Personal Understanding, and Science & Technology.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

GED1405 General Education Elective

Students choose one course, from a group of general education electives, which meets one of the following five theme requirements: Arts in Society, Civic Life, Social and Cultural Understanding, Personal Understanding, and Science & Technology.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

GED1405 General Education Elective

Students choose one course, from a group of general education electives, which meets one of the following five theme requirements: Arts in Society, Civic Life, Social and Cultural Understanding, Personal Understanding, and Science & Technology.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC0081 Concert Promotion and Logistics

As the live music business continues to grow, promoters and event planners who work behind the scenes to ensure the success of an event are crucial. Students practise the administrative and

6

creative tasks involved behind the scenes, such as artistic programming, budgeting, communication, venue logistics and financial settlements.

Prerequisite(s): MSC2001
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC0085 Music Theory and Composition

Composition and arranging is fundamental to producing and creating quality music. Students advance their music theory with the addition of advanced harmony, song forms, lyric techniques and orchestration. Students showcase their knowledge by writing compositions individually as well as in a co-writing scenario.

Prerequisite(s): MSC2020
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC0086 Social Media Management

The online presence of an artist is crucial for building and engaging an audience in the music space. Students apply the foundations of various social media platforms to build their personal brand, while creating a well laid out social media strategy. Students explore various online platforms for artists to assist with career building while analyzing data to understand the effectiveness of certain actions.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC0087 Release Strategies

Promoting an upcoming event successfully requires a well-thought-out plan. Students discover various ways to promote their music or events using virtual streaming platforms and basic graphic design tools. Strategies such as live performance engagement and dynamics are explored while students work towards promoting a final semester event.

Prerequisite(s): MSC0081
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC2001 Music Business I

Crucial concepts such as intellectual property and copyright make up a large portion of the music business. Students explore concepts around the creation of intellectual property such as a song and demonstrate various revenue streams for songwriters and artists. Music publishing and record labels are explored, as well as various roles in the music industry, such as distributors, promoters, agents and managers.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC2005 Music Business 2

Students delve deeper into the roles within the music industry and the relationship between artists and consumers. Various artist services are dissected and discussed including artist management and publicity. Artists' career strategies, marketing and business plans are explored. Students also examine promotional and distribution tools such as social media and streaming services.

Prerequisite(s): MSC2001
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC2008 Entertainment Contracts

Basic understanding of contracts and negotiation supports music industry professionals in assessing opportunities. Students examine contracts, agreements and negotiation in the music

industry, from recording and management contracts, producer agreements to publishing and song writing contracts. Areas where music and business intersect and business-related skills necessary for a career in the music industry are highlighted.

Prerequisite(s): MSC2005
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC2013 Video Production and Sound Design

Working in today's media environment demands interdisciplinary skills. Whether one is creating a demo reel to promote their audio production skills, creating content for social media to promote a song or album, or working as an audio professional in the film and television industry, an understanding of basic video production is an asset to a career in media. Students capture images using accessible consumer cameras and edit still and moving images using a Non-Linear Editing (NLE) software package. Students also examine the audio capturing techniques that are unique to video production. An emphasis is put on finishing the audio sound track of a video production in a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW), including the file output, and timecode synchronization considerations required to move a production between audio and video departments.

Prerequisite(s): MSC2033
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC2019 Entrepreneurship in the Music Industry

Many professionals in today's music industry operate as their own business. Whether it's an audio production facility, an artist management company or a performer wishing to pursue a professional career, individuals require entrepreneurial skills to succeed. Students are encouraged to start treating their music career as an efficient business. They acquire the discipline, sales, and networking and people skills necessary to expand their future client base.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC2020 Music Theory Fundamentals

The importance of having a finely tuned ear is crucial to producing, mixing and creating a quality recording. Students enhance their music theory skills for a career in music production. They also learn the tools to identify intervals, chords, rhythms and other basic elements of music.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC2021 Industry Preparation

Career goal setting and networking are essential tools for career development in the music industry. Students are prepared to work in a professional music industry environment or to start their own business through the focused study of an area of their choice within the music industry. Portfolio development and career planning are central to this course. Students have the opportunity to experience industry networking and career development in their choice of a field or classroom setting.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC2032 Electronic Music Production 1

The defining sound of electronic music is the synthesizer. From simple sign wave sub-bass, to complex modulating pads, the ability to shape and design the sounds of a synthesizer is nearly endless. To harness the power of these devices, an individual needs to understand how those sounds are created and controlled. Students explore the basic components used to generate, shape, and modulate sounds inside of synthesizers and samplers. Students also examine the MIDI 1.0/2.0 specifications for note and control data, and delve into the tools used for sequencing and modifying MIDI performances.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC2033 Digital Audio Workshop

The vast majority of audio production work takes place inside of a class of software referred to as Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs). Over the years, DAWs have evolved in ability and complexity, making them an incredibly powerful tool. Students use industry-standard DAW software packages to perform the basics of recording and editing both audio and MIDI content. Students configure with an emphasis on routing and professional workflows.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC2034 Audio Theory

Audio production is rooted in a firm understanding of how sound transmission occurs. Students are introduced to the foundational and theoretical concepts of audio production that are fundamental to a career that deals with sound and audio. Students focus on how an audio signal moves from an acoustic quantity to an electronic entity and examine to the properties of sound. Students also investigate how sound is captured using microphones, and understand the equipment used to process an audio signal such as analog mixers, compressors, gates and equalizers.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC2035 Recording Lab 1

Hands-on learning is critical to the development of audio production skills. Students use the equipment found in recording and audio production environments to apply audio production concepts. Active usage of microphone, signal processing equipment, and recording techniques are applied in practical scenarios to allow the students to function effectively in modern recording environments.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC2036 Audio Production 1

An audio production is the sum of many parts. Students delve deeper into how audio works and what audio processing can be used in modern production environments such as recording, broadcasting and live. Students investigate modern audio transport technologies such as audio over computer networks and how multichannel audio is distributed.

Prerequisite(s): MSC2034
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC2037 Recording Lab 2

Hands-on experience in larger recording environments is valuable to prepare to work in the audio industry. Students prepare for the role of producers, applying recording techniques, creating recordings, and practising audio signal flows for production, Students examine advanced hardware and software tools that include modern audio transport technologies.

Prerequisite(s): MSC2035
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC2038 Electronic Music Production 2

Integration of synthesis, sampling, and MIDI provides great potential for sound design within musical compositions. Students examine and compare different types of synthesis and explore

9

advanced forms of modulation. Students construct a sampled instrument from audio recordings and produce short compositions using electronic instruments, taking advantage of advanced MIDI editing and arrangement tools.

Prerequisite(s): MSC2032
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC2039 Audio Production 2

Advanced production skills prepare audio professionals to work in more complex environments. Students build on their understanding of audio theory, exploring concepts such as mixing in multichannel environments and spatial audio. Students apply the modern audio transport technologies in innovative and creative ways.

Prerequisite(s): MSC2036
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC2040 Recording Lab 3

In today's media landscape, audio professionals are expected to deliver productions and content in many different formats and mediums. Students focus on mixing and mastering for different types of deliveries such as film, radio, television, and streaming platforms for audio and broadcast using previously captured content from internal and external sources.

Prerequisite(s): MSC2037
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC2041 Live Production 2

Large scale productions marry the benefits of leading-edge technology with performance to bring an audience to exhilaration. Learners move into more advanced live production techniques involving technical planning, and installation and operation of audio and lighting systems for single-day and multi-day concerts and spectacles. Learners review the individual roles in larger productions while working on a production team, and do so while learning the safety implications of working in such an environment.

Prerequisite(s): MSC2042
Corerequisite(s):none

MSC2042 Live Production 1

The live sound environment is fast-paced without room for error. Students apply audio theory to basic live production scenarios while effectively using tools like small-format analog mixers, basic digital mixers, public address systems and basic lighting control in a variety of musical and non-musical contexts. Students do this in a safe environment, that helps prepare them for high-pressure situations.

Prerequisite(s): MSC2034 and MSC2035
Corerequisite(s):none