

# **Majoring in Music Technology**

An Introduction to Music Technology Programs in Michigan

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[www.joowonpark.net/mmea2018](http://www.joowonpark.net/mmea2018)

# 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
- 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	<a href="https://reg.msu.edu/ACADEMICPROGRAMS/Text.aspx?Section=125#s2207">https://reg.msu.edu/ACADEMICPROGRAMS/Text.aspx?Section=125#s2207</a>
Mott Community College	AAS	Music Technology	N	N	When declaring major	<a href="https://www.mcc.edu/fass/fa_music-technology-gp.shtml">https://www.mcc.edu/fass/fa_music-technology-gp.shtml</a>
Schoolcraft College	AAS	Sound Recording Technology	N	N	N	<a href="https://www.schoolcraft.edu/docs/librariesprovider9/curriculum-guides-2018-19/sound-recording-technology.pdf">https://www.schoolcraft.edu/docs/librariesprovider9/curriculum-guides-2018-19/sound-recording-technology.pdf</a>
University of Michigan	BM	Music & Technology	Y	Y	Y	<a href="http://smt.d.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/PAT-BM-2018-2019.pdf">http://smt.d.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/PAT-BM-2018-2019.pdf</a>
	BFA	Performing Arts Technology	N	Y	Y	<a href="http://smt.d.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/PAT-BFA-2018-2019.pdf">http://smt.d.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/PAT-BFA-2018-2019.pdf</a>
	BS	Sound Engineering	N	Y	Y	<a href="http://smt.d.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/PAT-BS-2018-2019.pdf">http://smt.d.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/PAT-BS-2018-2019.pdf</a>
Wayne State University	BM	Music Technology	Y	Y	Y	<a href="http://music.wayne.edu/music-technology/mustech_18.pdf">http://music.wayne.edu/music-technology/mustech_18.pdf</a>
Western Michigan University	BS	Multimedia Arts Technology	Y	Y	Y	<a href="https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u813/2017/WUMAT-6_CurriculumGuide.pdf">https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u813/2017/WUMAT-6_CurriculumGuide.pdf</a>

# 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	<a href="mailto:goering4@msu.edu">goering4@msu.edu</a>
Mott	Bill Withem	<a href="mailto:bill.withem@mcc.edu">bill.withem@mcc.edu</a>
Schoolcraft	Todd Sager	<a href="mailto:tsager@schoolcraft.edu">tsager@schoolcraft.edu</a>
University of Michigan	Michael Gurevich	<a href="mailto:mdgurev@umich.edu">mdgurev@umich.edu</a>
Wayne State	Joo Won Park	<a href="mailto:joo.won.park@wayne.edu">joo.won.park@wayne.edu</a>
Western Michigan	Chris Biggs	<a href="mailto:christopher.biggs@wmich.edu">christopher.biggs@wmich.edu</a>

- Career in Music Tech: <https://www.berklee.edu/careers-electronic-production-and-design>