

Award Type: Commercial Music Certificate

Item 1. Program Goals and Objectives

The Commercial Music Certificate at Southwestern College aims to equip students with the foundational skills necessary for entry-level roles in music production, performance, and business. By emphasizing practical training in music theory, audio engineering, live sound reinforcement, and music industry practices, the certificate prepares graduates to meet immediate workforce needs. Its stackable design allows credits to apply directly toward the Associate of Arts in Commercial Music, offering students flexibility to advance their credentials and careers over time.

Item 2. Catalog Description

The Commercial Music Certificate program provides a concise curriculum covering core concepts in music theory, recording arts technology, live sound reinforcement, and the business of music. Designed as an accelerated credential, it enables students to gain industry-relevant experience and knowledge in fewer units than a full degree. Upon completion, students will possess the practical competencies required for entry-level positions in studio and live environments, with the option to continue seamlessly into the A.A. in Commercial Music.

Item 3. Program Requirements

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First Semester		Units
MUS/RA&T 100	MUSIC TECHNOLOGY	3
MUS 150/RA&T 110	MUSIC BUSINESS/CAREER OVERVIEW	3
Units		6
Second Semester		Units
MUS 132A	CLASS PIANO I	1
MUS 131	MUSIC FUNDAMENTALS	3
MUS 155/RA&T 105	ELECTROACOUSTIC COMPOSITION	3
Units		7
Total Units		13

Item 4. Master Planning

The Commercial Music Certificate strengthens Southwestern College's offerings by providing a rapid pathway into the music industry. It leverages existing Music Business and Recording Arts resources and ensures alignment with the A.A. in Commercial Music through credit stacking. Regional advisory committee feedback and labor market data highlight strong demand for technicians and performers: experienced practitioners earn up to \$56.48/hr (Musicians and Singers), \$49.53/hr (Sound Engineering Technicians), and

\$35.12/hr (Audio and Video Technicians). This credential addresses the supply gap of 93 workers annually by preparing students for high-demand roles.

Item 5. Enrollment and Complete Projections

- Anticipate 30 new certificate enrollments per year, reflecting industry demand and program accessibility.
- Project 25 annual completions, accounting for part-time students and stack-through A.A. transitions.

Item 6. Place of Program in Curriculum/Similar Programs

- Housed in the School of Arts, Communications and Design, within the Communications Department.
- Serves as both a standalone entry credential and a stepping stone toward the Associate of Arts in Commercial Music.

Item 7. Similar Programs at Other Colleges in Service Area

- San Diego City College: Certificate in Audio Production Technology (entry-level recording and mixing skills)
- San Diego Mesa College: Certificate of Achievement in Music Technology (recording arts and digital production) [OBE]
- San Diego Miramar College: Certificate of Achievement in Audio Production & Engineering (studio and live sound fundamentals) [OBE]
- MiraCosta College: Certificate of Proficiency in Music Technology (core recording and live sound) and Business of Music & Media Certificate (industry practices) [OBE]
- Cuyamaca College: (No standalone certificate; students pursue A.A. in Music Industry Studies)

Item 8. Labor Market Information(LMI) Occupational Profile

San Diego's Commercial Music sector is on fire—and Southwestern College's new certificate puts students front-and-center in this booming market.

- 354 annual job openings in San Diego County for Commercial Music roles—more than any single local training program is currently producing.
- 35% supply gap (261 completions vs. 354 openings), meaning nearly one-third of industry positions go unfilled each year.
- Median wages well above the living-wage threshold of \$26.01/hr:

- Musicians & Singers: \$35.29/hr
- Sound Engineering Technicians: \$28.37/hr
- Audio & Video Technicians: \$25.71/hr
- Top-end earning power: seasoned pros command \$49–56/hr, translating to six-figure salaries for full-time work.
- Projected growth in music and audio tech occupations remains strong—double-digit percentage gains expected over the next five years.

By stacking into our A.A. program, the Commercial Music Certificate fast-tracks students into this talent-starved marketplace, where hands-on skills in theory, recording, live sound, and business translate directly into high-paying, in-demand careers. There has never been a better time to join the ranks of San Diego's most sought-after music professionals.