

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

Proposal 9-10

(Voting Units: Academic)

“Minor in Music Composition”

1. Program Description: The minor in **Music Composition** integrates traditional studies in music theory, orchestration and composition with current technologies in sound design and audio production embracing the MTU vision and mission of melding its technological resources with Science and Arts resources. This minor would be available to all MTU students, but the primary goal of creating the minor in music composition is to enhance our existing majors of Sound Design and Audio production, providing our majors with additional skills in the area of music composition focusing on media including live theatre, entertainment, documentary, industrial, and educational film/video, digital arts, and gaming performance.

2. Rationale: The Department of Visual and Performing Arts currently awards two degrees that require expertise in the area of composition: Sound Design and Audio Production. Few universities offering these degrees require music courses as part of the major and most provide little or no training in the area of composition despite the fact that students are required to compose music. MTU would be unique in that our students, unlike those in other Sound Design Programs, would receive training in this area, thus providing them with a competitive edge in the workforce.

3. Related Programs:

- At Michigan Tech
 - Current Minors in Music
 - Minor in Music
 - Minor in Jazz Idiom
 - Minor in Music Technology
- At other institutions

In the region no other colleges or universities offer a minor in music composition like the proposed minor in Music Composition. Of the nine universities surveyed, seven offered a minor in general music. Five of these schools offer no courses in composition.

Regional Programs

- Northern Michigan University – Minor in Music, *no courses in composition*
- UMD – Minor in General Music, *no minor in music composition*
- University of Wisconsin – Green Bay: Minor in general music, *no minor in composition*
- University of Wisconsin – Lacrosse – General Music Minor, *no minor in composition, no courses in composition*
- University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point – General Music minor, *no courses in music composition*
- Michigan State University – *no minors in music*
- University of Michigan – *no minors in music*
- Western Michigan – General Music Minor, *no minor in music composition*
- Central Michigan – General Music Minor, *no minor in music composition*

Most of Michigan Technological University’s traditional benchmark institutions lack similar programs. Carnegie Mellon is the only school currently offering a Minor in Music Composition (MIT offers a general music minor with a composition emphasis). None of these schools offers a degree in Sound Design making our program unique in that we are able to combine the field of sound design with composition.

Benchmark Institutions

- Carnegie Mellon –Composition Minor (no music courses are required as part of the BA in Sound Design)
- MIT – General Music minor with emphasis in composition
- Cal Poly – Music Minor with Composition Emphasis
- Colorado School of Mines –No music minor
- Georgia Tech – General Music Minor, no minor in composition
- Rensselaer Polytechnic – General Music minor, no minor in composition
- University of Missouri Rolla – Music Minor

While most of the degree programs in Sound Design/Audio Production do not require or even offer music courses to students in their programs, a very few (Savannah College of Art and Design and Cal Poly) require music courses as part of the degree. These universities recognize the importance of music courses, and especially composition courses, as part of the curriculum. The only Benchmark institution that offers a B.A in Sound Design and also offers a minor in Music Composition is Carnegie Mellon making the minor in music composition combined with a BA in Sound Design unique among regional, benchmark and national institutions.

National Institutions offering degrees in Sound Design/Audio Production

- North Carolina School for the Arts (UNCSA) No music courses as part of the major
- Cal Arts – Music courses are suggested as electives
- University of Illinois – No music classes are part of the degree
- Boston University – Requires Electronic Music and Music Theory
- UC Irvine – No music at the undergraduate level
- DePaul University – No music courses required as part of the major
- The University of the Arts – No music courses in the BFA in Sound Design
- Savannah College of Art and Design - freshmen level general education composition class. Music Theory required.

4. Projected Enrollment: The program expects to enroll eight to ten minors in 2010 and a similar number each year for four years to create a company of thirty-two to forty composition students.

5. Scheduling Plans: This degree will be administered as part of the regular course schedule, including alternate-year cycling of certain courses. The proposed teaching schedule is:

Fall Semester

FA 2500 Music Theory I
 FA 3112 Techniques of Contemporary Composition
 Performance Ensemble (1 choice)

Spring Semester

FA 3530 Music Theory II
 FA 3122 Composition and Media
 FA 3560 Music History
 Performance Ensemble (1 Choice)

Summer Semester

FA 2500 Music Theory I
 FA 3530 Music Theory II

– Courses listed in this minor have the following prerequisites (shown in parenthesis): FA3122 (FA2500, FA3530 and FA3112), FA3112 (FA2500 and FA3530), FA3530 (FA2500 and (UN1002 or UN1003)), FA3560 (UN1002 or UN1003)

6. Curriculum Design:

Minor Requirements:

Core Courses

FA 2500 Music Theory I
 FA 3530 Music Theory II

FA 3560 Music History	3
Performing Ensemble (see list below)	1
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>10 Credits</i>

Specific Requirements

FA 3112 Techniques of Contemporary Composition	3
FA 3122 Composition and Media	3
FA 4970 – Final Project`	1
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>7 Credits</i>

Total Program Credit Hours 17 Credits

*Performance ensemble requirement to be fulfilled by FA 2420 Jazz Lab Band, FA4420 Jazz Combo, FA 4800 Jazz Improvisation, Pep Band, Wind Symphony, Superior Winds or Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra.

7. New Course Descriptions: Two new courses will be created as part of the minor in music composition. They are FA3112 Techniques of Contemporary Composition and FA3122 Composition and Media.

FA 3112 -Techniques of Contemporary Composition has been designed as a study in the art of acoustic instrumental, vocal and MIDI composition. Topics that will be explored include the study of musical styles, forms, orchestration and esthetics. We will look at music of pre-20th Century and contemporary composers and explore how this music is relevant to our own.

FA 3122 – Composition and Media has been designed as continuation of Techniques of Contemporary Composition. Students will continue to study contemporary compositional techniques and apply these techniques to composition for media including theater, television, and digital cinema and gaming performance.

8. Library & Other Learning Resources:

The J. Robert Van Pelt Library offers services and resources to meet the informational and research needs of the University and to support members of the University community in the development of skills to be information literate and lifelong learners. Librarians offer a range of services, including workshops, online tutorials, course-related library seminars, and consultation services for students and faculty.

Students will be directed to active and regular use of the university library. This library has a broad range of music resources related to the field of music composition, recording, computer assisted music media.

The Visual and Performing Arts Department CAML provides the necessary computer assisted composition and recording tools necessary to support the Minor in Music Composition. Performance ensembles in the Visual and Performing Arts Department the necessary medium for live performance of student compositions.

9. Computing Access Fee: A computer fee of \$75.00 will be assessed with each course in Music Theory and Composition for a total of \$300.00 in computer fees per student for the Composition Minor.

10. Faculty Resumes _____: See **Attachment B**

11. & 13. Available/Needed Equipment & Space:

In addition to facilities and equipment across the Michigan Tech campus that we encourage students to look at and take part in while here at Michigan Tech, the spaces and equipment dedicated to the needs of program include:

- Ensemble Rehearsal Rooms, Studios, Laboratories

Multi-Media Classroom, 120 Rozsa
Recording studio, 214, 215 & 208 Rozsa
Sound technology lab, 210 Walker
Computer lab, 213 Rozsa

- Theatres

McArdle Theatre, Walker Arts and Humanities Center
Black box theatre
Flexible seating up to 265