

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

Proposal 11-22

(Voting Units: Academic)

Minor in Sound

1. September 22, 2020
2. Proposer Contact Information:
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3. General Description:
 - a. The Sound Division of the Visual and Performing Arts Department (within the College of Sciences and Arts) proposes a new minor called “Minor in Sound.” The minor is intended to replace the existing Music Technology concentration within the Minor in Music (which will stop admitting students when the Minor in Sound becomes available). This minor will provide training in sound production, technology, and creative topics, and will be available to any undergraduate students with an interest in sound (except those already enrolled in the two sound undergraduate degrees—BA in Sound Design and BS in Audio Production & Technology).
 - b. The proposed program leverages existing faculty and resources in sound. This minor will provide useful grounding for students who may be taking engineering degrees and wish to apply their engineering skills within the sound industry as a career; this minor will also provide any interested students with exposure to a range of professional practices, subdisciplines, and technologies within the world of sound.
 - c. Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this minor, students will be able to:

 - *Successfully record, edit, mix, and master sound productions.*
 - *Create projects in a variety of media platforms, suited to different artforms, such as: theatre, recorded music, live music, gallery/installation art, themed entertainment, etc.*
 - *Read and write basic musical notation, and identify basic musical structures, such as: time signatures, key signatures, tempo, etc.*
4. Rationale:

The current Minor in Music – Music Technology is titled misleadingly, as the sound courses on offer are not solely focused on music production. As a department, we have heard reports of students trying to search for a minor in “sound” or “audio” and not finding our minor program, as it has neither word in the current title. Students searching for sound programs are not always the same students searching for music programs. We believe the Minor in Sound will have more consistent enrollment than the previous minor. The Minor in Sound is not simply a renaming of the current minor, however, as it restructures the course requirements to center the minor on sound specifically.

5. Related Programs:

We could identify no programs in Michigan or Wisconsin with Minors in “Sound” or “Audio”, though there is at least one in Music Technology, one in Multimedia Arts Technology, and several music minors with at least one sound-oriented course. This gives us a regional edge in terms of attracting students who may want to study in one of MTU’s non-sound degrees, but still pursue their passion for sound while in college, and in terms of students who want to pursue hard engineering degrees to use in the sound industry (loudspeaker designers, components engineers, etc.). Northwestern (IL) offers a Minor in Sound Design, which is closer to what we are proposing here (there are many other schools around the nation that offer such Minors, though none that directly compete with MTU for students).

- A. Wayne State University – Minor in Music Technology
<https://bulletins.wayne.edu/undergraduate/college-fine-performing-communication-arts/music/music-technology-minor/>
- B. Western Michigan University – Minor in Multimedia Arts Technology
http://catalog.wmich.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=20&poid=5628&return-to=790
- C. Northwestern University – Minor in Sound Design
<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/communication/radio-television-film/sound-design-minor/>
- D. Shawnee State University (OH) – Minor in Sound Design
http://catalog.shawnee.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=52&poid=2558&return-to=1923

6. Curriculum Design

Title of Minor: Minor in Sound

Catalog Description: Sound is integral to many modes of art, entertainment, and communication. Students who complete this minor will be introduced to a wide range of

professional practices across different industries and forms of production; they will gain skills in sound production for the studio, the stage, and the screen; they will create work that may focus in music, film, television, video games, concerts, theater, etc. They will learn with industry-standard software, hardware, and facilities.

List of Courses:

Required Courses (9 credits):

SND 1101 – Intro to Audio Production (3)

SND 1102 – Intro to Music Mixing (3)

SND 1110 – Sound Technology (3)

Elective Courses (9 credits):

Choose 3 credits from the following courses:

SND 1610 – Sound Practicum 1 (1)

SND 2110 – Recording (3, must be taken with SND 2111 – 1 cr. Lab)

SND 2120 – Sound Systems Design & Engineering (3)

SND 2610 – Sound Practicum 2 (1)

MUS 1100 – Western Music Fundamentals (3)

MUS 2030 – History of Jazz (3)

MUS 2000 – History of Classical Music (3)

Choose 6 credits from the following (3000-level or higher) courses:

SND 3330 – Sound Design (3)

SND 3610 – Sound Practicum 3 (1)

SND 3620 – Audio Creative Lab (1)

SND 4110 – Transducer Theory (3, must be taken with SND 4111 – 1 cr. Lab)

SND 4610 – Sound Practicum 4 (1)

MUS 3200 – Contemporary Music (3)

MUS 3000 – Masterworks in Music (3)

MUS 3210 – Electronic Music: History and Practice (3)

New Course Description:

No new courses are proposed for this minor.

Prerequisite Courses:

SND 1101	none
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SND 1102	none
SND 1110	none
SND 1610	none
SND 2110	SND 1101, 1102, and 1110
SND 2120	SND 1101, 1102, and 1110
SND 2610	SND 1610
SND 3330	SND 1101, SND 1102, and SND 1110
SND 3610	SND 2610
SND 3620	SND 1101, SND 1102, SND 1110, and SND 3330
SND 4110	SND 1110, SND 2120, SND 2610, and PH 1090
SND 4610	SND 3610
MUS 3200	MUS 2101, MUS 2000, UN 1015, and UN 1025 or Modern Language 3000-level or higher
MUS 2030	UN 1015, and UN 1025 or Modern Language 3000-level or higher
MUS 2000	UN 1015, and UN 1025 or Modern Language 3000-level or higher
MUS 3000	MUS 2100 or MUS 2101
MUS 3210	SND 1101, and SND 1102

7. Restrictions: No SFAT or SFSD majors.
8. Program Costs: No additional costs are anticipated with the creation of the minor. Courses on offer can accommodate the current Music Technology minor students (2-10 students at any given time). The number of Minor in Sound students can expand to a 10-20 range with our current faculty and facilities. Beyond that number, there may be a need for further instructional staff.
9. Planned Implementation Date: Spring 2022