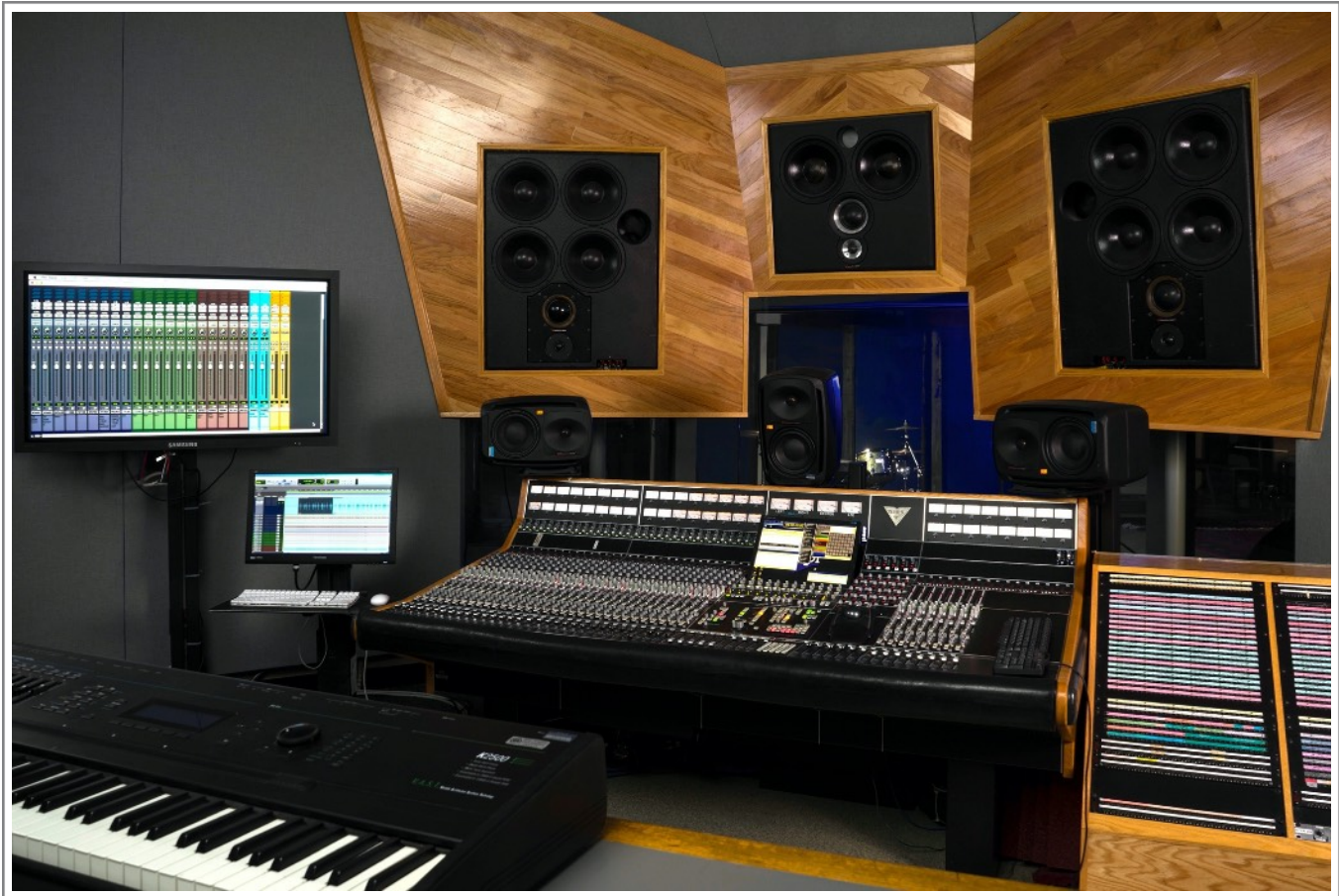


Master of Fine Arts in Recording Arts and Technologies



**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**

STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF RECORDING INDUSTRY

Program Description

The Master of Fine Arts in Recording Arts and Technologies is an intensive hands-on program focusing on the art and science of music production, audio engineering, and integrated electronic media. Students in the program develop a strong foundational understanding of the techniques, technologies, and theoretical concepts of audio production and closely related disciplines. The curriculum fosters creativity while providing a strong technical component empowering students to pursue their own area of interest in music production, sound for visual media, live sound, electronic music, or another area specific to the student's interests.

Who the M.F.A. is intended for

The M.F.A. is designed for creative individuals from a broad range of backgrounds. This creative background may be in audio engineering/music technology or another closely related field such as music, media arts, or performance. Creativity is fostered and developed throughout the program and a strong creative background is expected of all incoming students.

The students enrolled in the M.F.A. are very diverse but they all have one thing in common: a strong desire to produce high quality music, audio, and integrated media. Many media arts programs build on a strong foundation of the visual arts with audio as a secondary discipline. The M.F.A. in Recording Arts and Technology builds on a strong foundation in audio and music recording which is enhanced with studies in visual media, popular culture, and intellectual property.

Admission

Admissions are competitive and all applicant's materials are compared with other applicants. The primary factors considered in determining a student's suitability for admission include:

- The student's creative portfolio
- Undergraduate GPA
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores
- Letters of recommendation and the letter of intent

A previous degree in audio engineering/music technology isn't required, but some students with little or no audio background may be asked to complete foundational undergraduate audio courses before starting the program. A limited number of students, typically 12-14, are accepted each year for fall admission.

Residents from the following states are eligible to enroll in this program at MTSU at the in-state tuition rate through Academic Common Market agreements: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Assistantships are available to a select group of highly qualified students.

M.F.A in Recording Arts and Technologies

Admission is a two-step process. You must first be admitted to the MTSU College of Graduate Studies. There is a separate process for admission to the M.F.A. The College of Graduate Studies notifies all students of formal admission to both the College of Graduate Studies and to individual graduate programs. Notification of admission to the College of Graduate Studies alone does not imply admission to a specific program.

Review of applications by the M.F.A. Admissions Committee begins in March and a limited number of students will be accepted. The deadline for the first round of applications is March 1st. If there are still seats remaining after the first round, another round of applicant reviews will take place in April. It is highly recommended to have your application completed by March 1st.

All admissions materials, with the exception of the portfolio, are to be sent directly to the College of Graduate Studies. When all of your materials have been received they will be sent to the M.F.A. Admissions Committee for consideration. See the document MFA Application Guidelines for specifics on how to apply.



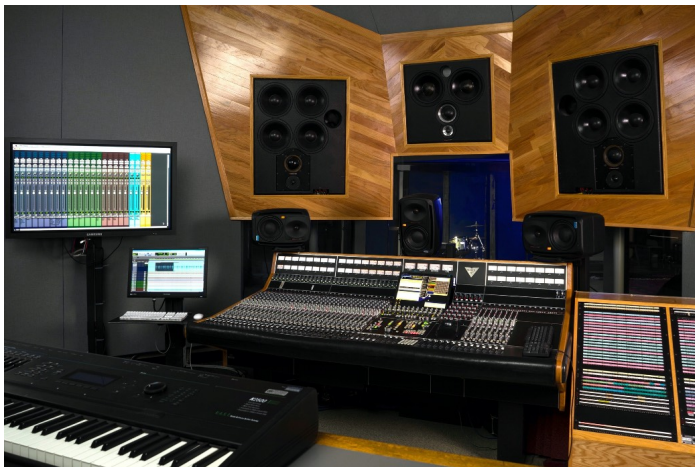
Facilities

The College of Media and Entertainment has five recording studios, a mix lab, a post production suite, a mastering suite, two computer labs, the Chris Young Cafe for live events, and a high definition remote truck.

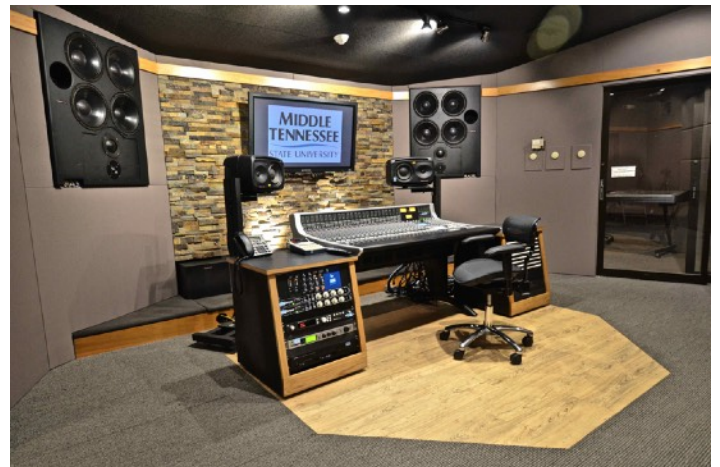
Studios and labs are open 24 hours per day, seven days a week and students are allocated time for booking based on their class schedule. Graduate students receive extended access in the summer and winter break as facility upgrades and maintenance allow.



Studio B



Studio A

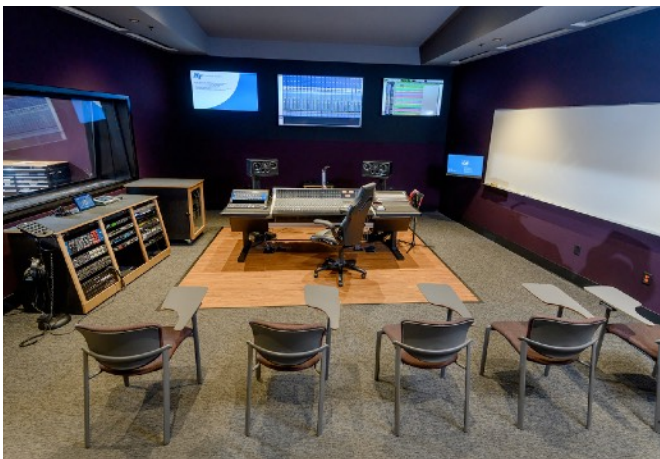


Studio C

M.F.A in Recording Arts and Technologies



Control Room D



Control Room E



Studio E



Studio D

Curriculum

The M.F.A. required coursework focuses on:

- Music production and engineering techniques common to popular music;
- The fundamentals of video production;
- The cultural and legal aspects of the entertainment industry;

Students may expand and specialize their creative and technical skills through elective offerings in sound for picture, live sound, electronic music, remote production, classical recording and other subjects. Students may further focus their skills in a particular area of interest through independent directed productions and directed research projects. The program culminates in a year long (9 credits) creative project that is conceptualized and executed by the student. Through the final project, students can develop an expertise in the creative or technical area of their choice preparing them for their chosen career.



In the Master of Fine Arts program students:

- Engineer many recordings in large format production facilities;
- Assume the role of a music producer and guide the creative vision of music productions;
- Develop their own personal style of artistic expression through audio and video productions;
- Refine skills in audio mixing to enhance the expression of the artist's creative vision;
- Work individually and as part of a team toward the realization of a high quality audio and video productions in live sound, studio recording, remote recording, classical music, and sound for picture;
- Complete a significant creative project focused on the student's area of interest and career goals;

The program also offers preparation for select graduates to teach at the postsecondary level in the field of audio recording and production. Students may elect to complete a Certificate in College and University Teaching through MTSU's College of Education as part of the M.F.A. program.

Degree Requirements

All students must complete 60 credits including required courses listed below, 15 credits of electives, the Comprehensive Exam, and the Portfolio Jury. The 15 elective credits may come from the list below, or other areas with advanced approval from the program Director. Up to four 5000-level courses may be applied to the degree.

Required Courses	Credits
MRAT 6170 - The Art of Critical Listening	3
MRAT 6030 - MIDI and Music Synthesis Seminar	3
MRAT 6040 - Digital Audio Studio Seminar	3
MRAT 6050 - Multitrack Recording Seminar	3
MRAT 6070 - Visual Aesthetics and Technology I	3
MRAT 6090 - Visual Aesthetics and Technology II	3
MRAT 6120 - Sound for Visual Media	3
MRAT 6110 - Production Seminar I	3
MRAT 6130 - Production Seminar II	3
MRAT 6140 - Graduate Seminar in Audio Recording	3
MRAT 6145 - Seminar in Advanced Mixing Techniques	3
MRAT 6210 - Production Seminar III	3
MRAT 6150 - Legal Rights of the Creative Individual	3
MRAT 6650 - Final Project (9 credit hours)	9
Electives Complete 12 Credits	12
MRAT 5810 - Topics in Recording Industry	
MRAT 6010 - Recording in Cultural Context	
MRAT 6155 - Analog Recording	
MRAT 6125 - Remote Production	
MRAT 6160 - Contemporary Methods of Programing and Production	
MRAT 6180 - Introduction to Film Scoring	
MRAT 6190 - Seminar in Mastering and Audio Restoration	
MRAT 6175 - Seminar in Sound Reinforcement	
MRAT 6200 - Immersive Audio	
MRAT 6275 - Sound System Design and Optimization.	
MRAT 6300 - Advanced Studio Production	
MRAT 6320 - Directed Research	
MRAT 6340 - Directed Production	
MRAT 6360 - Graduate Internship	
	Total 60

Recommended Degree Sequence

Year 1

Fall Semester

MRAT 6170 - The Art of Critical Listening

MRAT 6040 - Digital Audio Studio Seminar 3 credit hours

MRAT 6050 - Multitrack Recording Seminar 3 credit hours

MRAT 6030 - MIDI and Music Synthesis Seminar 3 credit hours

Spring Semester

MRAT 6110 - Production Seminar I 3 credit hours

MRAT 6140 - Graduate Seminar in Audio Recording 3 credit hours

MRAT 6120 - Sound for Visual Media 3 credit hours

Year 2

Fall Semester

MRAT 6130 - Production Seminar II 3 credit hours

MRAT 6145 - Seminar in Advanced Mixing Techniques 3 credit hours

MRAT 6070 - Visual Aesthetics and Technology I 3 credit hours

Guided Elective 3 credit hours*

Spring Semester

MRAT 6210 - Production Seminar III 3 credit hours

MRAT 6090 - Visual Aesthetics and Technology II 3 credit hours

MRAT 6150 - Legal Rights of the Creative Individual 3 credit hours

Guided Elective 3 credit hours*

Portfolio Jury Portfolio Jury (*Students must pass Portfolio Jury and Final Project Presentation to continue the Final Project*)

Year 3

Fall Semester

MRAT 6650 - Final Project 3 credit hours

Guided Elective 3 credit hours*

Comprehensive Examinations

Spring Semester

MRAT 6650 - Final Project 6 credit hours

Guided Elective 3 credit hours*

Comprehensive Examinations (if necessary)

*** Elective credits may also be completed during the summer terms.**

Course Descriptions

Required Courses

6030 MIDI and Music Synthesis Seminar. Three credits. Technical skills and conceptual foundation necessary to undertake creative projects using MIDI and sound synthesis. Emphasis on mastery of hardware and software platforms including Pro Tools, Reason, Ableton, Yamaha and Moog synthesizers and related peripherals.

MRAT 6040 Digital Audio Studio Seminar. Three credits. A comprehensive in depth study of audio theory and the digital tools used to record, edit, and mix audio. Students engage in analytical problem solving using scientific foundations in audio as well as the technical skills needed to use Pro Tools in advanced production projects.

MRAT 6050 Multi-track Recording Seminar. Three credits. Systematic examination of the techniques and technology used in the modern recording studio environment. Emphasis is placed on music recording with creative recording and mixing projects produced by each student.

MRAT 6070 Visual Aesthetics and Technology I. Three credits. This course introduces students to the theories of visual aesthetics with regard to light, color, space, time, motion, and sound. Topics cover camera basics, lighting, and editing techniques needed to creatively capture, enhance, and manipulate these image/sound elements. Students explore the creative value of these elements through the production of several short videos.

MRAT 6090 Visual Aesthetics and Technology II. Three credits. Prerequisite MRAT 6070. Continuation of MRAT 6070 with demonstration of basic and advanced visual technology as a foundation for more advanced video productions. Exploration of visual aesthetics theories and basic video skills applied to student produced videos and editing exercises. Designed to equip the student with more sophisticated mastery of the moving image form and its storytelling potential.

MRAT 6110 Production Seminar I. Three credits. Studio production course in which students examine the role of the music producer and the music production process. Students assume the role of a producer toward the completion of a multi-track music recording.

MRAT 6120 Sound for Visual Media. Prerequisites: MRAT 6040. An in-depth, interactive study of sound and its relationship to the moving image. Topics include time code, synchronization, workflow, data interchange, sound recording to picture, sound editing to picture, aesthetic aspects of mixing, routing structures, required deliverables & levels, and sound formats.

MRAT 6140 Graduate Seminar in Audio Recording. Three credits. Advanced techniques and technologies used in music recording and engineering. Students assume the role of a recording engineer and work with a producer from MRAT 6110 toward the completion of an advanced multi-track music recording.

MRAT 6130 Production Seminar II. Three credits. In this second year studio production course students examine advanced studio recording techniques and produce and engineer a variety of audio recordings for their portfolio.

MRAT 6145 Advanced Mixing Techniques. Three credits. Advanced application of mixing techniques in a digital multitrack setting. In depth study of signal processors and their application in a variety of genres and styles. Additional topics include applied critical listening, automation systems, focus and foundation mixing, and NARAS guidelines for delivery of recorded music projects.

MRAT 6150 Legal Rights of the Creative Individual. Three credits. Examines legal rights and duties of creative persons. Students apply concepts from copyright, trademark, trade secrets, privacy, publicity, defamation, and other branches of the law to media productions.

MRAT 6170 The Art of Critical Listening. Three credits. Prerequisite: MRAT 6110. Technology of sound reproduction and principles of auditory perception as they relate to the critical and technical analysis of sound recordings. Survey of popular music production styles and activities including specialized aural skills training.

MRAT 6210 Production Seminar III. Three credits. Student recordings are reviewed through regular peer presentation and critique. Students revise portfolio entries and undertake new projects in preparation for their Portfolio Jury. Preparation and presentations for the third year MRAT 6650 Final Projects.

MRAT 6650 Final Project. One to nine credits. Prerequisite: Permission of department. A directed production project of substantial size and scope proposed, developed, and realized under the guidance of the major faculty advisor in consultation with the final project faculty committee. The culminating experience in the M.F.A. program. S/U grading used.

Elective Courses

MRAT 5810 Topics in Recording Industry. Three credits. Prerequisites: Permission of department. Examination and critical evaluation of current issues related to operation and function of various aspects of the recording industry. Subject matter varies. Course may be repeated one time for additional credit.

MRAT 6125 Remote Production. Three credits. Prerequisite: MRAT 6110. May be repeated once with permission of instructor. Remote, field, and other non-studio-oriented audio recording applications emphasized. In-depth study, discussion, and application of techniques, equipment, interfacing with other systems, and location-oriented problem solving included. Activities may include audio only and/or audio for media applications. Participation in off-campus, non-class-time recording opportunities required.

MRAT 6155 Analog Recording 3 Credit-hours. Prerequisites: MRAT 6140. Applications course involving a systematic study of analog recording theories and technologies, advanced applications of analog recording equipment, and production techniques in the studio. Out-of-class labs and recording sessions are required.

MRAT 6160 Contemporary Methods of Programming and Production. Three credits. Prerequisites: MRAT 6030 and fundamental understanding of music theory. Students will apply concepts drawn from analysis of contemporary popular music to create musical arrangements using MIDI, digital audio, and virtual instruments. Works transferred and completed using studios and musicians to replace or complement with real elements.

MRAT 6175 Live Sound Production. Three credits. This course is an introduction to the concepts, equipment and procedures related to modern sound reinforcement. Students will explore these ideas using a combination of traditional and experiential learning opportunities.

MRAT 6180 Introduction to Film Scoring. Three credits. Prerequisites: Four semesters of theory/sight singing/ear training; MRAT 6030 and 6050. Overview of the film scoring process. Discussion of the aesthetic relationship between music and film. Thematic analyses of representative film scores. Composition exercises demonstrating traditional film scoring techniques. Application of compositional techniques through laboratory assignments using computers, synthesizers, and digital samplers.

MRAT 6190 Seminar in Mastering and Audio Restoration. Three credits. Prerequisites: MRAT 6040 and MRAT 6050. An advanced hands-on approach to the principles and practices of mastering. Focuses on the use of digital audio workstations and related outboard equipment specially designed for audio mastering. Additional topics include surround mastering, DVD authoring, audio restoration, and audio forensics. Laboratory required.

MRAT 6275 Sound System Design and Optimization. Three credits. Prerequisite MRAT 6175 Live Sound Production. This course explores the concepts and practical application of designing, measuring and optimizing large-format concert sound systems. This includes reading and classroom discussion, demonstration of techniques, and extensive hands-on practice through a series of exercises, labs, and visits to installed systems.

MRAT 6300 Advanced Studio Production. Three credits. Prerequisite MRAT 6140. In this studio workshop, students produce and engineer a variety of production projects for their portfolio. Students will work with songwriters and professional musicians to produce and engineer recordings of professional quality. Each stage of production is reviewed and critiqued through faculty and peer review. Finalized productions may be included into the student's portfolio.

MRAT 6320 Directed Research. Three credits. Prerequisite: Permission of department. Research in recording techniques and related topics. 6340 Directed Production. Three credits. Prerequisite: Permission of department. Independent advanced audio production.

MRAT 6340 Directed Production. Three credits. Prerequisite: Permission of department. Independent advanced audio production under the supervision of a faculty advisor. Students undertake production projects that are uncommon from the required and elective course offerings.

MRAT 6360 Graduate Internship. Three to six credits. Prerequisite: Permission of department. Practical experience for advanced students in a professional recording industry setting. Pass/Fail.

