

April 21, 2016

16-110

APPLY TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR
APPROVAL OF AAS IN PROFESSIONAL MUSIC FOR
PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PREPARED BY: Sally Earll, Curriculum Coordinator, Curriculum Support Services

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: Dan Wenger, Division Dean, Arts and Professions

APPROVED BY: Dr. Christine Chairsell, Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs
Sylvia Kelley, Interim President

REPORT: The proposed AAS in Professional Music serves student who are interested primarily in contemporary and nontraditional instruments (electronic instruments and computers) and typically have little or no academic musical training. The degree is designed for students inclined toward technical education, introducing them to the evolving work of electronic music composition, music production, commercial music performance, creative coding and the music business in general.

The AAS in Professional Music combines Career Technical and Lower Division Collegiate courses, preparing students for both entry-level work in the music business and transfer to a university. Graduates are prepared for retail sales of musical instruments and audio gear; audio engineering and production for radio, web, and/or video and film; location recording; live sound support in musical and non-musical venues; creative coding and application development; instrument and controller design and development; commercial music performance; and private music instruction.

RECOMMENDATION: That the College be authorized to submit an application to the Oregon State Board of Education for the AAS in Professional Music for Portland Community College.

The AAS Degree in Professional Music serves students from culturally diverse backgrounds, are primarily interested in contemporary and non-traditional instruments (electronic instruments and computers), and typically have little or no academic musical training. This degree is designed for students inclined toward technical education and to introducing them to the actively evolving work of electronic music composition, music production, commercial music performance, and creative coding.

The degree combines career-technical coursework preparing students for entry-level work in the music business and lower division collegiate coursework for the pursuit of a four-year degree. Graduating students are prepared for jobs in retail of musical instruments and audio gear, audio engineering and production for radio, web, and/or video and film, location recording, live sound support in musical and non-musical venues, creative coding and application development, instrument and controller design and development, commercial music performance, and private music instruction.

Portland has a vibrant and markedly experimental music scene, but contemporary educational opportunities in music are currently offered far outside the boundaries of Oregon's sole metropolitan city. The need for educational opportunities in music technology and electronic music were determined by looking at the strategic directions of area high schools, such as Grant High School, who in consultation with PCC Cascade greatly expanded their audio engineering and electronic music program. The AAS degree serves to teach music technology competencies that are not offered in the district at a collegiate level and to directly connect with youth in our own community.

The Professional Music Program's new Advisory Board includes professionals representing a wide spectrum of sectors in the industry: music educators, composers, software developers, and electronic instrument designers. The Advisory Board was, and continues to be, critical in the ongoing development of a contemporary, electronic music program.