# Program Assessment Plan

## American University

### Academic Program: CAS: Audio Technology - BS

**Contact Person for** William Brent  
**Assessment:**  
**Unit's Primary Department:** Performing Arts  
**COLA Reader -1:** Kathy McAdams  
**COLA Reader -2:** Joe Graf

## Learning Outcome: Recording

Every student will demonstrate the facility to create professional quality audio recordings.

**Outcome Year:** 2007 and prior  
2008-2009  
2009-2010  
2010-2011  
2011-2012  
2012-2013  

**Start Date:** 05/11/2009  
**Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

## Assessment Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measure</th>
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| Critique of portfolio level recording projects. Examines the use of correct microphone placement on instruments, the use of prescribed mixing and mastering techniques, and the demonstration of proper techniques to eliminate broad band noise reduction and unwanted acoustic reflections in ATEC-450 Audio Technology Capstone. This information is used to introduce new courses into the curriculum and make requests for improved facilities.  
**Measure Type:** Final Paper/ Final Project | 100% of students will demonstrate the facility to create professional-quality recordings. | Information collected annually. | Yes |

**Measure Type:** Alumni Feedback  
Data collected via email and phone from an annual survey of every alumni to graduate from the program. This is accompanied by an update on the equipment, facilities, and changes to the curriculum.

75% of alumni will be satisfied with the quality of instruction, including the equipment and facilities now available for recording at American University.  
80% or greater will indicate that the material covered in their audio technology courses provided a satisfactory preparation for employment in the field of audio technology.  
75% will agree that the BA program has adequately prepared them for entry-level positions in related fields.  
75% will agree that the BS program has adequately prepared them for entry-level positions in technical-related fields.  

Information collected annually. Yes

Assessment of measures and tools used at other university-level recording programs. Information is used to make comparisons in regards to the quality of facilities and equipment in relation to programs of

The facilities and equipment used will be comparable to the median school that offers a program in

Information collected every three years. Yes
**Assessment Plan**

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<td>similar size and scope at other institutions. audio technology.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Measure Type:</strong> Survey</td>
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**Related Courses**

- ATEC-401 - Digital Audio Workstations II
  
  **Related Documents:** Syllabus

- ATEC-421 - Sound Synthesis II
  
  **Related Documents:** Syllabus

- ATEC-450 - Audio Technology Capstone
  
  **Related Documents:** Grading rubric, Syllabus, Grading rubric

**Related Action Steps**

* Supporting Assessment: Audio recording performance examination

  **Description:** Students complete a checklist of 50 different skills required of professional audio engineers. This checklist describes the major learning outcomes and objectives of the ATEC-311 and 411 one year sequence.

* Supporting Assessment: Critique of student level capstone projects

  **Description:** Students demonstrated proficiency in the creation of recording professional quality recordings and audio projects. As many students requested to work on capstone projects that are not audio recordings, the use of this tool solely as a means of evaluation was reexamined to also include an assessment for ATEC-411.

**Learning Outcome: Audio Technology**

Each student will demonstrate a basic professional level of accomplishment in the core areas of audio technology including: non-linear digital audio recording and editing, analog recording, sound design for music and film/video, and the mixing and mastering of audio projects.

**Outcome Year:**
- 2007 and prior
- 2008-2009
- 2009-2010
- 2010-2011
- 2011-2012
- 2012-2013

**Start Date:** 05/11/2009

**Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

**Assessment Plan**

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<td>Critique of portfolio level recording projects. Examine the use of correct</td>
<td>100% of students will demonstrate the facility to create</td>
<td>Information collected annually.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>microphone placement on instruments, the use of prescribed mixing and mastering</td>
<td>professional-quality recordings.</td>
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<td>techniques, and the demonstration of proper techniques to eliminate broad band</td>
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<tr>
<td>noise reduction and unwanted acoustic reflections in ATEC-450 Audio Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capstone. This information is used to introduce new courses into the curriculum</td>
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<td>and make requests for improved facilities.</td>
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**Measure Type:** Final Paper/ Final Project

**Related Documents:** Program meeting 5-15-13

**Evaluation of student projects and examinations in ATEC-403 and ATEC-421. This**  
**information is used to identify possible difficulties in**

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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of student projects and examinations in ATEC-403 and ATEC-421. This</td>
<td>90% of students will complete projects that are comparable to</td>
<td>Information collected annually.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>information is used to identify possible difficulties in</td>
<td>those in a professional portfolio.</td>
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<td>instruction, effectiveness of teaching methods, software utilized, and teacher expectations for students.</td>
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**Measure Type:**
Final Paper/ Final Project

**Related Documents:**
Program meeting 5-15-13

Digidesign Pro Tools User Certification Examination.
Test results are used to improve class instruction. Updates in instructional materials provided by Digidesign ensure that students will have a firm understanding of the latest concepts in non-linear digital audio workstations.

**Measure Type:**
Quiz/ Exam

### Related Courses

- ATEC-101 - Fund of Audio Technology
- ATEC-102 - Audio Technology Laboratory
- ATEC-301 - Digital Audio Workstations I
- ATEC-311 - Sound Studio Techniques I
- ATEC-401 - Digital Audio Workstations II

**Related Documents:**
Syllabus

- ATEC-403 - Production Mixing & Mastering
- ATEC-411 - Sound Studio Techniques II
- ATEC-450 - Audio Technology Capstone

**Related Documents:**
Grading rubric
Syllabus
Grading rubric

### Learning Outcome: Repair and Installation

Students will demonstrate professional facility comparable to entry-level professionals in the fields of acoustics, audiovisual electronic repair and installation, and electronic circuit design and repair.

**Outcome Year:**
2008-2009
2009-2010
2010-2011

**Start Date:** 05/11/2009
**End Date:** 06/01/2013

**Outcome Status:** Archived Learning Outcome

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<td>Information collected annually.</td>
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Final Paper/ Final Project
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<td>Final projects in PHYS-323 Electronics Laboratory 2, ATEC-431 Studio Management, and PHYS-305 Acoustics. Information is used to direct projects in Studio Management and work in conjunction with the Physics department to develop course materials that are beneficial to the program. <strong>Measure Type:</strong> Final Paper/ Final Project</td>
<td>75% of students will be able to assemble a semi-professional electronic audio device, design and install a basic audiovisual system for a professional application, and assess the acoustic properties of a space based upon an impulse response test.</td>
<td>Information collected every two years.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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