

2025 - 2026

Certificate of Achievement in Songwriting

Complete the following program of study (Major #C.5853.CA). Major requirements (17 units minimum).

The Certificate of Achievement in Songwriting establishes a basic understanding and proficiency in music geared at the art of songwriting. Part of a series of Commercial Music certificates, students cover a broad history of music, music production, and music theory while specialized courses focus on composing lyrics and melodies for original songs as well as chords, drum parts and other instrumental arrangements for acoustic and electronic instruments. Through the certificate, important career topics like self-promotion, rights protection, and publishing prepare students to start their own production company, release songs commercially, and submit demos to record labels for consideration.

Name: _____ **Student ID:** _____ **Date:** _____

Course Overview and Selection

Required Core Courses: 9 - 10 semester units from the following.

Course	Course Description	Units	Completed	In Progress	Planned
MUSCO 1	Introduction to Music Technology	3			
MUS 12 or MUS 16 or MUS 16A	Music Appreciation <i>or</i> Jazz History and Appreciation <i>or</i> Hip Hop Music and Culture	3			
MUS 3 or MUS 1A and MUS 7A	Music Fundamentals (3) <i>or</i> Music Theory I (3) <i>and</i> Ear Training: Level I (1)	3-4			

Complete the following Certificate Specific Courses:

Course	Course Description	Units	Completed	In Progress	Planned
MUSCO 2A	Electronic Music I	2			
MUSCO 5	Music Business	3			
MUSCO 6	Songwriting	3			

Notes:

Total Units 17-18

All courses require a "C" (2.0) or higher.

Program Learning Outcomes:

A student who successfully completes this certificate of achievement will be able to:

1. Compose a catalog of songs in multiple styles to be performed in various contexts.
2. Compare and contrast commercially released music from the songwriting perspective.
3. Engage with a Performing Rights Organization to professionally publish work.

Comments:

Faculty Advisor: Gennaro, Hembd