



University
of Rochester
Sound Arts and Engineering

Undergraduate Curriculum Guide

Academic Year 2026-2027

BS in Audio Music and Engineering (AME)

BA in Audio Arts and Technology (AAT)

BM in Music Creation and Technology (MCT, Fall 2027)



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Overview

The Department of Sound Arts and Engineering (SAE) brings together two of the University of Rochester's world-class schools – the Hajim School of Engineering & Applied Sciences and the Eastman School of Music – to form an integrated department that advances research, education, creative practice, and public engagement at the nexus of sound, technology, and the musical arts.

The Department of Sound Arts and Engineering (SAE) currently offers a Bachelor of Science in Audio and Music Engineering (BS AME), a Bachelor of Arts in Audio Arts and Technology (BA AAT), and a Minor in AME. A Bachelor of Music in Music Creation and Technology (BM MCT) will be added in the 2027-2028 academic year. The field of audio extends far beyond the traditional music recording industry. Available career paths span many industries including recording and production, sound design for media and games, broadcasting, audio software development, hardware design and equipment manufacturing, video game development, automotive and architectural acoustics, industrial noise monitoring, among others.

The BS AME major combines studies in engineering and applied sciences with music and audio production to give students a technically rigorous, design-based education in the field of audio, music, and engineering. The curriculum is built on a foundation of basic math and engineering science and integrates elements of music, content production, acoustics, electronics and signal processing. Project work is included throughout the curriculum, capped by a senior design project. The AME program is accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), which allows AME graduates to pursue licensure as a professional engineer. AME is a program of the Hajim School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The BS AME major is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, <https://www.abet.org/>, under the commission's General Criteria and Program Criteria for Computer Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering Programs.

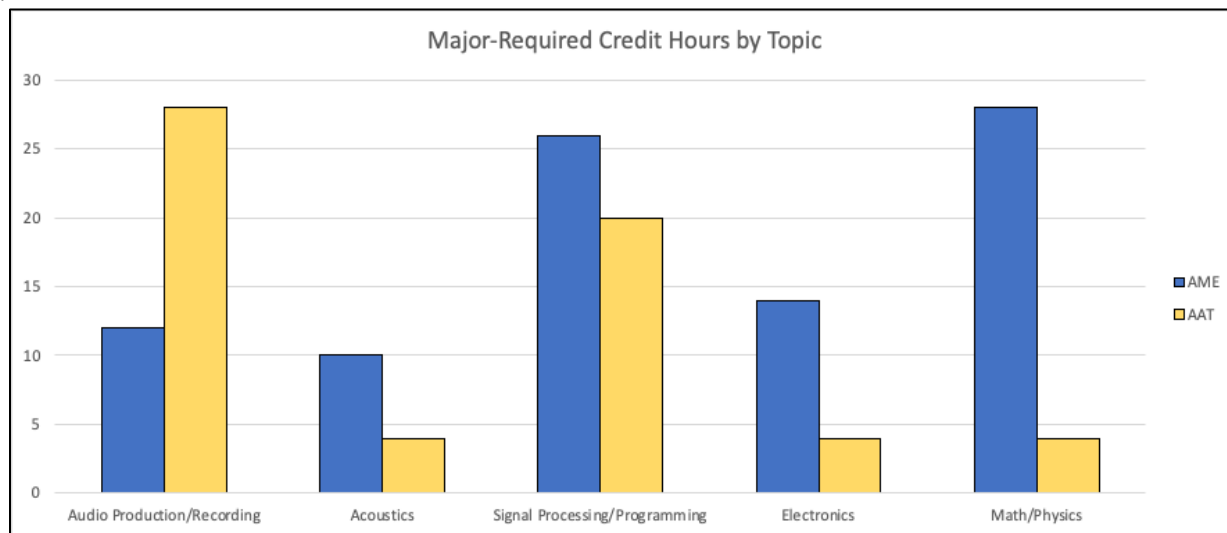
The BA AAT major provides students with creative and expressive abilities and technical skills to build productive careers in many fields in which sound and audio are central. The reduced number of required engineering courses provides a solid technical foundation to enable students to focus on developing their creative and analytical abilities in the medium of sound and audio. The curriculum incorporates significant flexibility and elective options, enabling students to pursue complementary areas such as music, theater, business, and others. AME is a program of the Hajim School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Students in both majors can also participate in research and internships, working closely with faculty members in department research programs during the academic year and in summer internships.

The new BM MCT major will begin admitting students in the fall semester of 2027. This program is designed for students whose musical practice is grounded in electronic and digital technologies. From electronic music creation and performance, sound design, and recording and editing to DJing and the design/development of software and hardware, students will blend hands-on experimentation with engagement in a variety of musical styles and practices. MCT is a new program of the Eastman School of Music. For more information, please visit the [BM in Music and Technology website](#) or scan the QR code to the right.



The following table provides a comparison of the types of credit hours required in the AME and AAT majors.



Academic Advising and Department Policies

Your primary point of contact and source of information for the AME and AAT programs is our undergraduate program coordinator, Ms. Barbara Dick. Barbara can provide information and answer questions about requirements for the majors, completion of program planning forms, and registration each semester. Additionally, declared and prospective AME and AAT majors will be assigned a primary faculty advisor from the SAE Faculty. At a minimum, you should meet with your faculty advisor once every semester, prior to registration for the following term, to go over schedule planning and course selections.

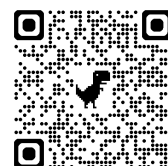
Ms. Barbara A. Dick, Office: CSB 510, Phone: (585) 275-5719, Email: barbara.dick@rochester.edu

TRANSFER CREDITS

If a student wishes to take a course at another institution to satisfy a degree requirement, **PRIOR APPROVAL** is strongly recommended. Seeking approval after the fact may result in delays, and refusal to allow a student to take advanced courses for lack of prerequisites. Proper supporting documentation about the course should be submitted to the undergraduate program coordinator before taking any courses for transfer. An electronic approval form will need to be submitted with approvals from the instructor and the SAE department. Students are strongly advised to seek guidance and feedback from their advisor before registering for a course at another institution.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Students with credit from AP or IB exams taken in high school should visit the [Advising Handbook](#) or scan the QR code on the right. In general, students with the appropriate scores will get credit for the course in the curriculum. However, early consultation with the undergraduate program coordinator is required to ensure credits transfer in time to satisfy the prerequisite requirements for later courses.



Admission to the Majors

Students wishing to declare a major in either AME or AAT must file a completed "Curriculum Planning Form" and "Concentration Approval Form", both of which can be obtained from the undergraduate program coordinator. This usually is completed during the fourth semester of study.

Admission to the BS AME major requires:

- AME 140, AME 141, AME 191, and ECE 113 with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.3.
- MATH 161, 162, 164, and 165 or equivalent math sequence such as MATH 141,142,143,165,164
- PHYS 121 and 122 or PHYS 113 and 114
- University primary writing requirement, usually satisfied by taking WRT 105.

Admission to the BA AAT major requires:

- AME 140, AME 141, AME 191, and AME 193 with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.
- Fulfillment of the math and programming requirement (typically MATH 161 and ECE 114)
- University primary writing requirement, usually satisfied by taking WRT 105.

Students may not be admitted to the major if they are on Academic Probation in the College. Students who have not completed all the requirements for admission to their chosen program by the end of their sophomore year may qualify for conditional admission to the program by submitting a petition form available from the undergraduate coordinator. This typically occurs when a student has changed their intended major or transferred from another institution. The petition must present a realistic plan, approved by the student's advisor, for completion of all program admission requirements within one year. Failure to meet the requirements within one year will result in removal from the major.

Only the Administrative Committee of the Hajim School of Engineering and Applied Sciences can make exceptions from the general degree requirements published in the Official Bulletin of the University. Petition forms for Administrative Committee consideration may be obtained from the undergraduate coordinator.

BA AAT Program Requirements

The BA AAT program is built on a foundation of basic math and programming, while providing flexible advanced coursework in audio engineering and production combined with electives in adjacent areas. The credit hour requirements for the BA AAT degree, along with the corresponding course list, are shown in the following table and described below:

Course / Course Area	Credits	Course / Course Area	Credits
Math & Programming		AME Electives (choose 4) **	
MATH 141 or 161: Calculus I *	4	AME 120: Synths, Samplers, and Drum Machines	4
ECE 114 OR CSC 161	4	AME 196: Interactive Music Programming	4
Core Requirements		AME 227: Podcasting History: Hear UR	4
AME 140: Intro to Audio and Music Eng.	4	AME 240: Revolutions in Sound	4
AME 141: Fundamentals of Digital Audio	4	AME 242: Critical Listening for Audio Production	4
AME 191: Art and Tech of Recording *	4	AME 243: The Modern Audio Producer and Musician	4
AME 193: Sound Design	4	AME 244: Audio for Visual Media	4
AME 385: AAT Capstone *	4	AME 247: Audio for Gaming	4
AME Electives		AME 262: Audio Software Design I	4
4 courses from list	16	AME 264: Audio Software Design II	4
Arts and Sciences Electives *		Arts and Sciences Electives (choose 2)	
2 courses from list	8	ENGL 255: Film History: Early Cinema	4
Writing Requirements *		ENGL 259: Popular Film Genres	4
WRTG 105: Primary Writing	4	ENGL 250: Film History: 1989 - Present	4
WRTG 273 or 277	2	ENGL 261: Film Theory	4
Cluster Requirement *		FMST 161: Introduction to Video Art	4
Humanities Cluster	12	FMST 214: History of Special Effects: Analog to Digital	4
Social Sciences Cluster	12	MUSC 101: Elements of Music	4
Additional Electives		MUSC 110: Intro to Music Theory	4
Liberal Arts and Sciences Electives*	40	MUSC 111: Theory I	4
Free Electives	6	MUSC 134: Styles & Genres: Intro to Music History	4
TOTAL CREDITS	128	MUSC 162: Music and the Mind	4
TOTAL Liberal Arts and Sciences	90	SART 151: New Media and Emerging Practice 1	4
		SART 153: Introduction to Sound Art	4

* Courses designated with an asterisk are used to satisfy the liberal arts and sciences requirement. If AP or transfer credit is used for these, additional electives may be required

**Other 200+ level courses may be substituted with permission.

MATH AND PROGRAMMING REQUIREMENTS

BA AAT students are required to complete one semester of calculus (typically MATH 141 or 161). For students with AP credit and placement in MTH162 or higher, the requirement is automatically satisfied. Additionally, one course in computer programming is required. ECE 114 is highly recommended for students considering elective coursework in audio software design, however the programming requirement may also be satisfied by CS 161 or appropriate AP credit. Students who fulfill one or more

of these requirements with AP credit will need to take additional advanced elective courses to meet the required number of credit hours in the major.

AAT CORE COURSES

Completion of AME 140, AME 141, AME 191, and AME 193 is required for admission to the major. Students typically complete these courses in their first 4 semesters.

REQUIRED ADVANCED ELECTIVES

The BA AAT major requires two sets of elective courses. This includes 4 elective courses taken within the SAE department, and 2 additional arts and sciences electives from a related discipline. Eligible courses for each of these requirements are in the table above.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

All BA AAT students must complete a capstone project, and register for AME 385 during the fall of their senior year. Projects will be of the students' choosing in consultation with an AME 385 advisor, but must incorporate knowledge and skills gained in previous AAT courses.

WRITING REQUIREMENTS

All students in The College also must complete the primary writing requirement, WRTG105, typically taken in their first year of studies. **Additionally, AAT students satisfy the upper level writing requirement** through the completion of WRTG 273 or 277 and work in **AME 193 and AME 385**. Students who transfer credit for any one or more of these courses from another institution to the UR must consult with the Undergraduate Program Coordinator to determine if their program satisfies the writing requirement.

CLUSTER REQUIREMENT

BA AAT students must complete 2 clusters, one in the Humanities and one in a Social Science. Please visit the [University webpage for Cluster regulations](#), which includes a link to the Cluster Search Engine, or scan the QR code on the right.



LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES REQUIREMENT

All BA Programs in NY state require 90 hours of study in Liberal Arts and Sciences – including Humanities, Social Science, Mathematics and Sciences (but not engineering or business). For BA AAT students, after completing the AAT major, Primary Writing course, and two clusters, a total of 46 elective credits remain, 40 of which must be in the liberal arts and sciences. This can include courses used to complete a second major or minor.

DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Please visit the [Undergraduate Courses webpage](#) or scan the QR code on the right to see detailed BS AAT course descriptions.



SAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE

Please see a sample course schedule for the BA AAT degree at the end of this document.

BS AME Program Requirements

The BS AME program is built on a foundation of basic math, science, programming, and music and includes advanced course work in fundamental engineering science, audio content production, audio hardware and audio software. The credit hour requirements for the BS AME degree, along with the corresponding course list, are given in the following table and described below:

Course / Course Area	Credits	Course / Course Area	Credits
Basic Science and Mathematics	32	Engineering	60
MATH 161: Calculus I	4	ECE 114: Intro to C/C++	4
MATH 162: Calculus II	4	ECE 113: Systems	4
MATH 165: Linear Algebra	4	ECE 241: Signals	4
MATH 164: Multivariable Calc	4	AME 140: Intro to AME	4
PHYS 121: Physics I (or PHYS 113)	4	AME 141: Fundamentals of Digital Audio	4
PHYS 122: Physics II (or PHYS 114)	4	AME 191: The Art and Tech of Recording	4
AME 233: Musical Acoustics	4	*AME 242: Critical Listening for Audio	4
STATS or ECE 270: Probability*	4	AME 193: Sound Design	4
Writing Requirement	6	AME 223: Audio Electronics	4
WRTG 105: Primary Writing	4	AME 262: Audio Software Design I	4
WRTG 273: Professional Writing	2	AME 264: Audio Software Design II	4
Humanities and Social Sciences	20	AME 272: Audio Signal Processing	4
Music	10	AME 292: Acoustics Portfolio	2
Cluster	12	AME 294: Audio DSP Portfolio	2
H/SS Electives	Up to 8	AME 295: Audio Electronics Portfolio	2
Free Electives (class of 2027)	12	AME 386: Senior Design Project I	2
Free Electives (class of 2028 - 30)	16	AME 387: Senior Design Project II	4
Total Credits			130

BASIC SCIENCES

Mathematics (Complete one calculus sequence)

MATH161,162,164,165 or MATH171,172, 173, 174

MATH141,142,143 may be substituted for MTH161,162

NATURAL SCIENCES

Probability: STATS 180, STATS 190 or ECE 270

Physics: (2 courses) PHYS 121, PHYS 122; PHYS 113, 114 or PHYS 141, PHYS 142

ENGINEERING COURSES

The BS AME major requires completion of courses and Portfolio projects in 5 subject areas: Recording Arts and Sound Design, Acoustics, Audio Electronics, Signal Processing and Software Design. The

required courses for the BS AME degree are listed below. All courses are 4 credits unless indicated otherwise.

***AME 242 is not a required course for the class of 2028 and beyond.**

Foundations of Audio and Music Engineering

- AME 140 – Intro to Audio and Music Engineering
- AME 141 – Fundamentals of Digital Audio

Recording Arts and Sound Design – The focus is on audio and music recording and production, audio content creation and sound design:

- AME 191 – Art and Technology of Recording
- *AME 242 – Critical Listening for Audio Prod (not required for the class of 2028 and beyond)
- AME 193 – Sound Design

Acoustics – Studies in acoustics range from fundamental acoustics, architectural acoustics, acoustic design, the acoustics of musical instruments, hearing and auditory perception:

- AME 233 (PHY 283) – Musical Acoustics
- AME 292 – Acoustics Portfolio (2)

Audio Electronics – Analog and digital electronics for audio - from vacuum tubes to custom integrated circuits:

- ECE 113 – Circuits and Signals
- AME 223 – Audio Electronics
- AME 295 – Audio Electronics Portfolio (2)

Signal Processing – Digital signal processing is the core of digital audio.

- ECE 241 - Signals
- AME 272 – Audio Signal Processing
- AME 294 – Audio DSP Portfolio (2)

Software Design – The principles and practice of programming and software development for audio:

- ECE 114 – Intro to C/C++ Programming
- AME 262 – Audio Software Design I
- AME 264 – Audio Software Design II

Senior Design – All AME BS students must complete a one-year senior design project

- AME 386– Senior Design Project I (2)
- AME 387 – Senior Design Project II

BASIC MUSIC COMPETENCY

All AME students must take **a minimum of 10 credits of music courses**, either from the River Campus Music Department or at the Eastman School of Music. **This includes 8 credits of music theory and 2 credits of musicianship.** The minimum requirement is completion of MUR101 and MUR111, however students with appropriate background and demonstrated proficiency in music theory may begin in a higher-level course. The appropriate starting course is determined by placement exam administered by the River Campus Music Department. To meet the musicianship requirement, students normally complete two one-credit courses from the following choices: MUR109, MUR113, MUR114, or MUR115, or

one 2 credit course from MUR 201 or 202, or two credits of Private Lessons from the Eastman School. **Courses taken to fulfill the AME music requirement also may be counted toward a Music Cluster to meet the general AME Humanities or Social Science cluster requirement.**

UPPER-LEVEL WRITING

The University's Upper-level Writing Requirement applies to all majors. Within the BS Audio and Music Engineering major the requirement is met through work in **AME 242, AME193, AME 233, AME 262 and AME 386, WRTG 273 or 277**. Students who transfer credit for any one or more of these courses from another institution to the UR must consult with the Undergraduate Program Coordinator to determine if their program satisfies the writing requirement.

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

All AME majors must take a minimum of 5 humanities and/or social science (H&SS) courses, chosen from any recognized Humanities and/or Social Science field as defined by the [School of Arts and Sciences](#) (or scan QR code on the right). Typically, courses taken to satisfy the university cluster requirement and AME music competency requirement are counted toward this number. Students also are expected to take some of these courses beyond the introductory level. Language courses at the 101 level are only accepted when followed by another, more advanced course in the same language.



Minors

A minor of 5 or more courses in one area will satisfy the H&SS requirement. Refer to the [overlap policy](#) (or scan QR code on the right). If pursuing a music cluster, some required music courses may count toward the 12-credit cluster requirement. In this case, additional electives in H&SS are needed to reach the 20-credit requirement.



Ordinarily, courses taken at the University of Rochester to meet the requirements in H&SS are 4-credit hour courses. Consult your advisor concerning 2- or 3-credit courses (including transfer courses). However, two 2-credit courses **from the same discipline** may be combined to fulfill one 4-credit distribution requirement.

DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Please visit the [Undergraduate Courses webpage](#) or scan the QR code on the right to see detailed BS AAT course descriptions.



SAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULES

Please see sample course schedules for the BS AME degree at the end of this document.

AME Minor

The AME Minor consists of 18-20 credit hours of study in AME or closely related fields. Students must choose one of the following AME Minor Tracks and corresponding course sequences, which require a minimum of 18 credits

Recording and Sound Design (20 Credits Total Selected From)

- AME 140: Introduction to Audio and Music Engineering
- AME 191: The Art and Technology of Recording
- AME 242: Critical Listening for Audio Production
- AME 193: Sound Design
- AME 227: Hear UR - Podcasting History (Can also fulfill upper-level writing if taken as HIST 227W)
- AME 244 – Music for Visual Media

Audio Signal Processing (18 Credits Total)

- AME 140: Introduction to Audio and Music Engineering
- AME 141: Fundamentals of Digital Audio
- ECE 241: Signals
- AME 272: Audio Signal Processing
- AME 294: Audio DSP Portfolio (2 credits)

Audio Electronics (18 Credits Total)

- AME 140: Introduction to Audio and Music Engineering
- AME 141: Fundamentals of Digital Audio
- ECE 113: Circuits and Signals
- AME 223: Audio Electronics
- AME 295: Audio Electronics Portfolio (2 credits)

Audio Computing and Software Design (20 Credits Total)

- AME 140: Introduction to Audio and Music Engineering
- AME 141: Fundamentals of Digital Audio
- ECE 114: Introduction to Computers and Programming (or CSC 171)
- AME 262: Audio Software Design
- AME 264: Audio Software Design II

Musical Acoustics (18 Credits Total)

- AME 140: Introduction to Audio and Music Engineering
- AME 191: The Art and Technology of Recording
- AME 233: Musical Acoustics
- AME 292: Acoustics Portfolio (2 credits)
- One [additional track course](#) (or scan QR code on the right)



Acceptable Music Courses: MUSC 101, MUSC 110, MUSC 111, MUSC 112, MUSC 201, MUSC 202, MUSC 211, MUSC 212, MUSC 234, or equivalent courses offered at the Eastman School of Music. If a student wishes to make course substitutions in any of the above tracks they should contact the AME Program Coordinator to seek approval prior to taking any alternative classes.

SAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULES

BA AAT Sample Course Schedule

First Year

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Math 141 OR 161: Calculus 1	4	AME 141: Fund. of Digital Audio	4
AME 140: Intro to AME	4	AME 191: Art and Tech of Recording	4
WRTG 105: Primary Writing	4	Social Science Cluster #1	4
Elective	4	Elective	4
Total Credits	16	Total Credits	16

Second Year

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
AME 193: Sound Design	4	AME Major Elective #1	4
ECE 114: Intro to C/C++ *	4	WRTG 273/277 Professional Writing	2
Humanities Cluster #1	4	AME Major Elective #2	4
Elective	4	Social Science Cluster #2	4
Total Credits	16	Total Credits	14

Third Year

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
AME Major Elective #3	4	AME Major Elective #4	4
Humanities Cluster #2	4	Social Science Cluster #3	4
Elective	4	Elective	4
Elective	4	Elective	4
Total Credits	16	Total Credits	16

Fourth Year

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
AME 385 Capstone Project	4	Arts and Sciences Major Elective #2	4
Arts and Sciences Major Elective #1	4	Elective	4
Humanities Cluster #3	4	Elective	4
Elective	4	Elective	4
Total Credits	16	Total Credits	16

* NOTE: CSC 161 may be substituted for ECE 114, however, familiarity with C/C++ programming taught in ECE 114 is required for the audio software design electives

BS AME Sample Course Schedule (with MATH 161)

First Year

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Math 161: Calculus 1a	4	Math 162: Calculus 1a	4
AME 140: Intro to AME	4	PHYS 121: Physics I	4
WRTG 105: Primary Writing	4	AME 141: Fund. of Digital Audio	4
MUSC 110 or 111: Music Theory	4	AME 191: Art and Tech of Recording	4
MUSC 109: Musicianship I	1	MUSC 113	1
Total Credits	17	Total Credits	17

Second Year

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Math 165: Diff Equations and Linear Algebra	4	Math 164: Multidimensional Calculus	4
PHYS 122: Physics II	4	AME 233: Musical Acoustics	4
AME 193: Sound Design (or ECE 114 C/C++) *	4	ECE 113: Circuits and Systems	4
Elective*	4	Elective*	4
WRTG 273: Professional Writing	2		
Total Credits	18	Total Credits	16

Third Year

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
AME 223: Audio Electronics	4	AME 272: Audio Signal Processing	4
ECE 241: Signals	4	AME 262: Audio Software Design I	4
ECE 114: C/C++ Programming (or AME 193)	4	AME 292: Acoustics Portfolio	2
Statistics or Music Theory	4	AME 295: Audio Electronics Portfolio	2
		Music Theory or Statistics	4
Total Credits	16	Total Credits	16

Fourth Year

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
AME 264: Audio Software Design II	4	AME 387: Senior Design Project II	4
AME 294: Audio DSP Portfolio	2	Elective	4
AME 386: Senior Design Project I	2	Elective	4
Elective	4	Elective	2
Elective	4		
Total Credits	16	Total Credits	14

* Students in the class of 2028 and beyond who wish to take AME 242 as an elective should plan to take AME 193 in the spring semester.

To meet graduation requirements, BS-AME majors must achieve a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 in the required AME courses. In addition, 130 total credits are required for graduation with an overall cumulative grade point average of 2.0.

BS AME Sample Course Schedule (with MATH 141)

First Year

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Math 141: Calculus I	4	Math 142: Calculus II	4
AME 140: Intro to AME	4	PHYS 113: Physics I	4
WRTG 105: Primary Writing	4	AME 191: Art and Tech of Recording	4
MUSC 110 or 111: Music Theory	4	Elective*	4
MUSC 109: Musicianship I	1	MUSC 113	1
Total Credits	17	Total Credits	17

Summer	
Math 143: Calculus III	4

Second Year

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Math 165: Diff Equations and Linear Algebra	4	Math 164: Multidimensional Calculus	4
PHYS 114: Physics II	4	AME 233: Musical Acoustics	4
AME 193: Sound Design (or ECE 114 C/C++)*	4	ECE 113: Circuits and Systems	4
Elective*	4	AME 141: Fund. of Digital Audio	4
WRTG 273: Professional Writing	2		
Total Credits	18	Total Credits	16

Third Year

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
AME 223: Audio Electronics	4	AME 272: Audio Signal Processing	4
ECE 241: Signals	4	AME 262: Audio Software Design I	4
ECE 114: C/C++ Programming (or AME 193)	4	AME 292: Acoustics Portfolio	2
Statistics or Music Theory	4	AME 295: Audio Electronics Portfolio	2
		Music Theory or Statistics	4
Total Credits	16	Total Credits	16

Fourth Year

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
AME 264: Audio Software Design II	4	AME 387: Senior Design Project II	4
AME 294: Audio DSP Portfolio	2	Elective	4
AME 386: Senior Design Project I	2	Elective	4
Elective	4	Elective	2
Elective	4		
Total Credits	16	Total Credits	14

*** Students in the class of 2028 and beyond who wish to take AME 242 as an elective should plan to take either ECE 114 or AME 193 in the spring semester**

To meet graduation requirements, BS-AME majors must achieve a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 in the required AME courses. In addition, 130 total credits are required for graduation with an overall cumulative grade point average of 2.0.