

COURSE OUTLINE**Music 185  
Pro Tools 101****I. Catalog Statement**

Music 185 is an introductory course in the principles and operation of Pro Tools software. Fundamental software configuration and operation are covered all the way from project set up to session mixdowns. Students build skills through hands on Pro Tools projects that include session setup, audio recording, importing media, MIDI (musical instrument digital interface) recording, editing, navigating, mixing, and session completion. This course is the first class in the Pro Tools Operator certification program and prepares students for the Pro Tools 101 certification exam. The certification exam may be taken at the conclusion of the course.

Total Lecture Units: 0.5

Total Studio Units: 0.5

**Total Course Units: 1.0**

Total Lecture Hours: 8.0

Total Studio Hours: 16.0

**Total Faculty Contact Hours: 24.0**

Recommended Preparation: MUSIC 178 or equivalent.

**II. Course Entry Expectations**

Skills Level Ranges: Reading 5; Writing 5; Listening/Speaking 5; Math 2

**III. Course Exit Standards**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. describe what Pro Tools software is;
2. describe the differences in Pro Tools configurations and options;
3. demonstrate proper file and session structure management;
4. operate and configure Pro Tools sessions;
5. demonstrate basic audio recording;
6. demonstrate audio, MIDI, and video importing;
7. demonstrate MIDI recording and management;
8. operate virtual instruments and real-time plug-ins;
9. manipulate regions, markers, and fades;
10. demonstrate basic mixing and automation techniques;
11. produce session backups and mixdowns;
12. complete hands-on Pro Tools projects;

**IV. Course Content**

**Total Faculty Contact Hours = 24**

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| A. Getting to Know Pro Tools                       | Lecture 2 hours |
| 1. The Avid certification program                  |                 |
| 2. What Pro Tools is                               |                 |
| 3. History of Digidesign/Avid                      |                 |
| 4. Digital audio basics                            |                 |
| 5. Pro Tools systems, configurations, and options  |                 |
| B. Getting Inside Pro Tools                        | Lecture 1 hour  |
| 1. File structure                                  | Studio 1 hour   |
| 2. Starting Pro Tools                              |                 |
| 3. Pro Tools software interface                    |                 |
| 4. Edit window functions and features              |                 |
| C. Creating a Pro Tools Session                    | Studio 2 hours  |
| 1. Creating sessions                               |                 |
| 2. Configuring sessions                            |                 |
| 3. Playback and edit cursors and control           |                 |
| 4. Saving, locating, and opening existing sessions |                 |
| D. Making a Basic Pro Tools Recording              | Lecture .5 hour |
| 1. Hardware requirements for recording             | Studio 2 hours  |
| 2. Recording preparations                          |                 |
| 3. Recording and managing audio                    |                 |
| 4. Organizing after recording                      |                 |
| E. Importing Media into Pro Tools Sessions         | Lecture 1 hour  |
| 1. Import considerations                           | Studio 1 hour   |
| 2. Importing audio                                 |                 |
| 3. Importing video                                 |                 |
| F. Basic MIDI Recording in Pro Tools               | Lecture .5 hour |
| 1. MIDI fundamentals                               | Studio 2 hours  |
| 2. Using MIDI in Pro Tools                         |                 |
| 3. MIDI recording preparations                     |                 |
| 4. Using virtual instruments                       |                 |
| 5. Recording MIDI                                  |                 |
| 6. Viewing and editing MIDI data                   |                 |
| G. Selecting and Navigating in Pro Tools           | Lecture 1 hour  |
| 1. Views and selections                            | Studio 1 hour   |
| 2. Working with selections                         |                 |
| 3. Adjusting the session view                      |                 |
| 4. Adding markers to sessions                      |                 |
| H. Basic Pro Tools Editing Techniques              | Lecture 1 hour  |

1. Playback options Studio 1 hour
  2. Configuring and using the edit modes
  3. Editing regions
  4. Moving and trimming regions
  5. Creating fade effects
  6. Undoing work
- I. Basic Pro Tools Mixing Techniques Lecture 1 hour
1. Basic mixing topology and terminology Studio 2 hours
  2. The mix window
  3. Basic automation
  4. Real-time plug-ins
- J. Finishing Session Work in Pro Tools Studio 2 hours
1. Backing up sessions
  2. Creating stereo mixdowns
  3. Burning songs to CD (compact disc)
- K. Pro Tools 101 Official Hands-On Projects Studio 2 hours
1. Music hands-on project
  2. Post hands-on project

**V. Methods of Instruction**

The following methods of instruction may be used in the course:

1. lecture and demonstration;
2. peer review;
3. discussion and review;
4. active listening and musical analysis;
5. multimedia;
6. online materials.

**VI. Out of Class Assignments**

The following out of class assignments may be used in the course:

1. reading;
2. listening and analysis;
3. exercises;
4. projects.

**VII. Methods of Evaluation**

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course:

1. participation;
2. project evaluations;
3. midterm examinations;
4. final examinations.

**VIII. Textbook**

Cook, Frank. *ProTools 101: An Introduction to Pro Tools*. Boston: Cengage, 2013. Print. 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 9781133776550.

**IX. Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. identify the fundamental elements, features, and capabilities of Pro Tools software set and its various related hardware systems;
2. operate the basic set-up, editing, and file management features of Pro Tools software;
3. demonstrate basic audio and MIDI recording and editing capabilities in Pro Tools;
4. complete Pro Tools projects that utilize basic importing, navigating, editing, signal processing, and mixing techniques.