

SOUND ENGINEER

DEFINITION

Operates extremely complex sound and recording equipment and software; demonstrates for instructors and students the operation of various audio recording and mixing equipment and accessories; tests and performs minor maintenance on all audio recording equipment used.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Mixes and edits voice, music, and sound effects using analog and digital sound and recording equipment and software during production and post-production.

Sets up, tests, and adjusts acoustical baffles, microphones, loudspeakers, various audio mixing consoles and accessories, and other sound equipment for live programs, recording sessions, and instruction.

Tests, adjusts, and makes minor repairs to all of the sound equipment used by the department.

Reports equipment malfunctions and ensures required repairs are performed.

Demonstrates and assists instructors and students with the proper and safe set-up and operation of digital and analog equipment used in recording, editing, and mixing sound and the effects of various types of post-production equipment.

Maintains a supply of spare parts, tools, and materials as required.

May provide training and work direction to student employees.

Performs related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

A **Sound Engineer** operates extremely complex sound and recording equipment and software as used by professionals in the motion picture and recording industries (equipment not usually seen in college audio-visual departments); makes acoustic and electronic tests on sound equipment and performs mechanical and/or electronic repairs when indicated; uses motion picture sound synchronizing equipment for creating and editing soundtracks; and demonstrates for instructors and students the proper and safe operation of various audio recording and mixing equipment and accessories.

An **Electronics Technician** installs, maintains, repairs, modifies and tests a wide variety of electronic equipment such as audio, video, television, audio-visual equipment, public address systems, and electronic instructional aids.

SUPERVISION

General supervision is received from a Department Chair. Work direction may be provided to student employees.

CLASS QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Principles and practices of motion picture and television sound methods including editing and lip-syncing
- Equipment and material used for sound recordings and/or transfers
- Set-up, operation, maintenance, repair and storage of sound and recording equipment and media
- Recording studio techniques, music mixing, signal processing, and gain structure
- Electronic measurements, calibration, and alignment of audio equipment
- Safety precautions, practices, and procedures related to electronic and acoustic equipment
- Computer systems and software for audio production, editing, and post production
- Basic electronic principles as applied to audio equipment
- Acoustical principles
- Principles of recordkeeping

Ability to:

- Set up, test, adjust, and operate digital and analog sound and recording equipment
- Implement computer-driven audio systems as needed
- Adjust sound levels, equalization, and acoustical characteristics on all sound recordings and correct deviations
- Balance music on multi-track and multi-source recordings
- Perform minor repairs and adjustments to a variety of complex electronic equipment
- Demonstrate to instructors and students the proper and safe operation of all audio equipment and accessories
- Work effectively and cooperatively with District staff and students
- Keep accurate records
- Learn the characteristics of new types or models of sound and recording equipment
- Learn general and specialized software applications

ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience:

Graduation from high school or its equivalent **AND** three years of full-time paid experience as an operator in a professional sound recording studio (motion picture, radio, TV, record industry, the military service, or other equivalent facility). One year of full-time paid experience installing, maintaining, repairing, and testing a wide variety of electronic equipment such as, test instruments, public address systems, television and radio receivers, and electronic instructional aids may substitute for one year of experience as an operator in a professional sound recording studio. College-level courses in electronics are desirable.