PUGET SOUND SKILLS CENTER

Digital Sound Recording 2 Syllabus 2026-27

Session Information

1st Session: 7:55am – 10:25am 2nd Session: 11:15am – 1:45pm * Monday – Friday

* Students from Tahoma and Federal Way are dismissed at 1:25pm and must complete the day's exit ticket to account for the missed time.

Class Location: PSSC Main building, room 403

Teacher Information

Name: Thomas Moore **Phone**: (206)631-7343 (room); (971)266-3385 (Google Voice)
Email: Thomas.Moore@Highlineschools.org
Office Hours: 7:25am – 2:15pm
Communication preference: Text via the Google Voice number provided and/or email are the best forms of communication.

Culture of Learning

This class reinforces PSSC's school-wide Behavioral Agreements:

Be Present, Be Respectful, Be Engaged and Be Professional.

Students and teachers will create their own classroom version of these agreements in their class charter, through thoughtful discussion from the perspective of their industry's expectations. These agreements will be upheld through a positive, progressive support system including regular check-ins with individual students, quarterly self-assessments, positive reinforcement strategies, contact with sending schools, dialog with families, and interventions from our Student Success Dean and Counselor as needed.

In our Digital Sound course, we believe that a strong culture of learning empowers students to not only become skilled digital artists and producers but also to contribute meaningfully to the broader cultural conversation. By embracing exploration, collaboration, and growth, our students are prepared to excel in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. Students should treat the classroom as a working environment, not "just a class". Attendance, being on time, completing tasks in a timely manner, are examples of standards to be upheld.

Course Description

This course is designed to teach students the art of manipulating sound for various outlets, such as music production, live show/events, podcasting, and broadcasting. Students will also develop their understanding of video and lighting concepts and their correlation to the sound industry. Students successful in this class will earn equivalency credits in CAREERS, FINE ARTS, and 3rd year MATH. Students that complete two years in this course, with a grade of "C" or better will earn 4 dual college credits through Shoreline Community College's Audio Production program. *Other credits are PENDING.*

Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand and explain the fundamentals of the science of sound.
- Understand and explain the use digital tools and software for recording, mixing/mastering, live performances, and sound production.
- Apply principles of immersive mixing.
- Apply principles of sound design to create optimal listening environments.
- Apply the principles of sound, video and lighting concepts in editing for film/video.
- Further develop a professional Electronic Press Kit (EPK) that showcases their digital sound projects and branding opportunities to include a community impact project that represents their learning in the class.

Scope and Sequence

- Unit 1: Evolution of Mixing
- Unit 2: Monitoring and Developing the Ear
- Unit 3: Preparing for a Studio Session
- Unit 4: Mechanics of Mixing
- Unit 5: The Mixing Part of Mixing
- Unit 6: Effects and Dynamics
- Unit 7: Placing Mix Elements in the Sound/Stereo Field
- Unit 8: Mastering
- Unit 9: Sound, Videography and Lighting: mixing for film
- Unit 10: Podcasting and Broadcasting
- Unit 11: Community Impact Project (Capstone)
- Unit 12: Introduction of AI tools

Professional Attire & Uniform Requirements

Students must wear a lanyard with their PSSC Student ID daily, and PSSC-provided attire and/or program-specific uniform as directed.

Required Materials and Program Costs

3 ring binder, with dividers and paper; writing utensils to include highlighters (provided)

There are no classroom fees, and uniforms (if any) will be provided. If you want your uniform customized, then that will need to be paid for by you.

Course Technology

This course utilizes Microsoft Teams for Education, and access information will be shared with students and available for parents/guardians as needed. Further this class uses the following software tools used in the industry: Windows desktops, Apple desktops, MacBooks for DAW access, NEVE, Midas, SSL, API, Golden Age, AVID S1, Cranborne Audio 500 series recording engineer tools. Behringer, Allen & Heath, Yamaha, Mackie, QSC, JBL, Cerwin Vega live sound engineer tools. Text includes “Sound Reinforcement Handbook”, “Music, Physics, and Engineering”, “Quantum Physics”, and the engineer’s handbook series. It also uses Microsoft TEAMS, Google Drive, Google Sites, Adobe Creative Cloud (Premiere Pro, After Effects, XD) Logic, Abelton, BandLab, Bitwig, Udemy, and YouScience.

3.0 Credits Offered Per Year

High School Equivalency Credits
Students will be enrolled in multiple gradebooks that reflect the equivalency credits available. **Some course equivalencies may not be taught and assessed until later in the school year. Students may not have a progress grade recorded for these equivalencies until that time.** Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Digital Sound students who successfully pass the course will receive the equivalency credits of 1.0 Careers, 1.0 Fine Arts, and 1.0 3rd yr Math.

College Dual Credits
PSSC dual credit programs give students the opportunity to earn high school and college credit at the same time. Most programs have “Dual Credit Articulations” with specific colleges, and others are College in the High School (CiHS) courses such as those with Central Washington University. These credits may only be earned by successfully completing the course and all of the requirements set forth by the colleges. Most dual credit articulations require students earn a C or better for every semester in the program, though some require a B. CiHS programs will have additional information listed on their syllabus.

For those that complete two years in PSSC’s Digital Sound program, with a grade of C or better, they will receive 4 credits from Shoreline Community College in Music Technology, replacing the classes MUSTC 151 and 152.

Standards-Based Grading

Grades are a reflection of learning. Student work is scored on rubrics for the grade-level standards we are learning. Students demonstrate learning through assignments, activities and assessments.

- Formative Assessments: Measures understanding during a learning experience
- Summative Assessments: Measures understanding after a learning experience is complete
- Reassessments: Measures understanding after more learning (see below)

Learn more about standards-based grading: highlineschools.org/grading
[Here are some examples of how teachers can communicate the importance of students completing formative assessments:

- Formative assessments are required because they help you practice skills and give you feedback on your learning before the summative assessment.
- The most recent scores of formative or summative assessments are generally used to calculate your grade. Formative assessments you complete early in the semester provide you with feedback on your learning and guide you on how to improve your grade.]

[Whenever possible, assessments should cover the entire standard. However, we recognize many standards take more than three to four weeks to teach. Read more about this in the Standards Based Grading Handbook.

*Some standards in this class take more than three to four weeks to learn, and some may not be fully addressed until 2nd semester. We will do formative assessments on these standards when you should be at a "2" on the standards rubric, but before you are expected to fully master the standard. When this happens, you will see "Target 2" in the title of the assignment in the gradebook. While the score will not affect your grade it will give you important feedback to know if you are on track to learn the standard.

Assessment Methods (Our previous statement was to only include the methods you use)

- Formative quizzes and summative exams
- Peer and self-assessment
- Class discussions and debate participation (no reassessment)
- Skills demonstrations
- Research projects and presentations
- Case studies and real-world scenarios
- Mock scenes & mock trials (no reassessment)
- Industry recognized certifications (no reassessment)
- PE participation (no reassessment)
- Capstone Project Showcase or Community Impact Project (no reassessment)

End of Course Exams

*At the end of the year, students will take an End-of-Course exam that will include a written exam, and a practical (hands-on) exam. These exams are designed to measure student mastery of program competencies, ensure alignment with industry expectations, and support student readiness for workforce or advanced program placement

Student Expectations and Support Needs

Students are expected to fully engage in our learning community and complete all assignments as part of individual and collective learning. Please contact me if you need additional time to complete work or need support to engage in our learning community. If you struggle to complete work and engage in our learning community, I will schedule a meeting with your family to discuss concerns and identify ways to support your learning.

Our goal is to maximize each student's opportunity for success in life and work, but some students may need supports beyond what PSSC is able to provide. We will work with the staff at sending schools and families to make reasonable efforts in accommodation. However, industry-mandated safety standards and expectations are non-negotiable items.

PSSC classes are 2 ½ hour blocks, and CTE preparatory courses. The ability to be self-motivated and work without direct oversight and redirection is crucial to success. Teamwork and working independently are both necessary skills in life and expectations in the workplace. These 21st Century Skills standards are as important as the technical skills students can master. In situations where these standards cannot be met with accommodations provided, we will work with the necessary parties to ensure a more suitable placement.

Expectations for Independent Work

PSSC students are expected to work successfully in teams and independently toward skills mastery, as they would in industry. Independent work within the program (student projects) must align with the program's curriculum and framework. Students working on their Capstone Showcase or Community Impact Project should choose something that demonstrates their advanced levels of mastery in their program content. Students will complete a project training plan that details the skills, standards and assessment criteria which will be used to determine the project's grade.

Reassessment Policy

Continued learning is necessary and always encouraged when you do not yet show proficiency in a standard. I will share reassessment opportunities for you to improve your grade. Students **may** reassess on the following assessment methods:

- Summative exams
- Skills demonstrations
- Industry recognized certifications

As the Digital Sound class should be considered a career worksite, daily attendance and participation is a must therefore, other assessment methods, such as daily class work, will not have formal reassessment opportunities. This will also include:

- Formative quizzes
- Original compositions
- Class discussions and debate participation
- Research projects and presentations
- Case studies and real-world scenarios
- Portfolio project/interview

Reassessment Policy

- Before you reassess, please talk with me about your plan and complete the required relearning.
- You can reassess up to 1 week after the unit is complete.
- Please complete a reassessment request to demonstrate you have gained NEW learning since the last summative assessment.

Reassessment Opportunities

Reassessments on the following will be allowed up to **1 week** after the original date of assessment:

- Summative exams
- Skills demonstrations
- Industry recognized certifications

Grades

In StudentVUE and ParentVUE, the most recent scores for essential standards are averaged and generate a letter grade based on this scale*:

- **A: 4.0-3.2 -** Student is meeting most standards and exceeding on some.
- **B: 3.19-2.4** - Student is meeting most standards and may be approaching or exceeding on some.
- **C: 2.39-1.6** - Student is approaching on most standards and may be beginning or meeting on some.
- **D: 1.59-1.2** - Student is beginning on most standards and may be approaching on some.
- **NC: 1.19-0.00** - Student has not yet demonstrated learning on most standards and may be beginning in some. In high school, the NC does not earn credit for a course.

*These are general descriptions and there may be exceptions.

Recommended Academic Skills

Students in all programs will be working toward several Industry Recognized Certifications (IRCs), including ones focused on their career field, and ones that are useful in any job setting. Many programs are also "College in the High School" courses taught and graded to that college's standards. Because these IRCs and college-level courses require advanced academic ability, students will have the greatest success in earning these certifications and/or college credit with the following skills:

Reading Level: 10th grade (reading and comprehension)
Math Level: 10th grade (Geometry)
Science Level: Physical Science

Industry-Recognized Certifications (IRCs)

Industry-Recognized Certifications (IRCs) are an important component of every program at PSSC. Some of these certifications will be specific to the industry you are training for and are a requirement for entering the workforce. Some of them will be beneficial no matter what career field you enter. It is projected that more than 75% of jobs in Washington state will require credentials, certifications and/or education beyond a high school diploma, so our students are getting a head start. Every student will complete at least one IRC. For Digital Sound 2, the IRCs are:

- Logic Pro Music Production
- Logic Pro Vocal Mixing
- Ableton Music Production

PSSC Capstone Project

To successfully complete your Career and Technical Education (CTE) program at PSSC, you must complete a Capstone Project and present it. This is mandatory for earning credit during 2nd semester and could impact your ability to earn the CTE graduation pathway. This project demonstrates the skills and knowledge you've gained throughout your time in the program, the IRCs you have earned, and readiness to enter your chosen career field or continue your education. It will also include a showcase of your best work. It is a graduation requirement that cannot be waived. You will be given a checklist with the requirements.
Along with your main project, all students must complete the essential professional documents including:

- a resume
- a cover letter
- a thank you email
- an reference request email
- a reference list
- a showcase of exemplar work to be presented
- and a written reflection essay summarizing the year's learning and your plan for the future
- performance evaluations (student monthly or quarterly self-reflections & teacher feedback)

Community Impact Project for 2nd Year Students:

- Research and complete an individual or group project that showcases multiple industry skills mastered and meets a need in the community. 2nd year students will have already completed the minimum professional documents requirements during the previous year, though their resume should be updated regularly.

Work-Based Learning (WBL)

WBL is an instructional strategy that provides students with career exploration opportunities and hands-on learning where knowledge gained in CTE courses can be applied to real-life work experiences. The goal of every work-based learning program is to prepare students for the next generation of the workforce. PSSC students will participate in WBL through their program, and some may earn elective credits.

All PSSC students will participate in some form of Work-Based Learning and fill out a contract at the beginning of the year to start the process. Second year students will work towards earning an internship/apprenticeship as part of their professional growth plan.

Common WBL opportunities

- Job placement in career pathway
- Internships
- Clinicals
- Externships
- Field Trips to Industry Sites
- College Visits

Leadership

Leadership is a key component of (Program) where your student can be a member of a Career & Technical Student Organization (CTSO). Our CTSO is Skills USA. The purpose of Skills USA is to encourage the development of vocational understanding, leadership qualities, social awareness, and a sense of responsibility to school and community. It is each student's choice as to how active they will become in Skills USA. Second year students will also be required to serve on the class ASB team.

Partial list of leadership opportunities:

- attend Skills USA conferences and competitions
- perform a community service project
- be a student leader or class officer in your program
- serve as an ASB representative
- lead campus tours
- volunteer for career days at elementary and middle schools

STUDENT PERSONAL SMART DEVICES POLICY (CELL PHONE, TABLETS, HEADPHONES/EAR PODS)

Purpose: The guiding language from Governor Ferguson is "Away for the Day" - To keep phones from disrupting learning, increased safety, productivity and well-being.

When Phones Must Be Put Away

- During class: Phones off or on Do Not Disturb, stored in backpack or designated classroom location
- Classroom breaks: No phone use while moving between spaces
- Restroom passes: Leave phone in classroom when using the restroom

When Phones Are Allowed

- Before school: Anytime before the bell rings
- After school: Anytime after your session's final bell

Emergency Communication

- Parents: Call the main office directly in emergencies at (206) 631-7300
- Students: Get a pass to use the office phone for urgent calls

Classroom Use & Exceptions

- No instructional use unless pre-approved by an administrator

- Computers available at all school sites for academic work
- Accommodations honored: Students with 504, IEP, MV, or Health Plans may use devices as documented

Consequences (Progressive)

1. First: Verbal reminder to store phone properly from the classroom instructor – documented in Synergy
2. Second: Phone confiscated by classroom instructor for the period; possible admin referral – documented in Synergy
3. Third: Admin referral and parent/guardian contact and phone to be held by the Dean of Student Success – documented in Synergy

Immediate referral if the disruption is significant or dangerous – documented in Synergy

Goal: These steps are instructive, not punitive, to maintain a respectful and safe learning environment.

Attendance Policy

The seat time mandate for CTE courses in Washington ensures students receive sufficient instructional hours and hands-on training time to master necessary technical skills. Prescribed minimum seat time safeguards the quality of CTE programs by allowing for in-depth classroom learning, adequate lab practice on equipment, and fulfillment of certification requirements. Upholding seat time standards is crucial for preparing a workforce with job-ready expertise meeting industry needs. To align with our 4 PSSC Agreements, all students will complete an attendance contract at the beginning of the year, signed by themselves and their parent/guardian.

Therefore, it is critical that students are present. **Whether excused or unexcused, missed time is missed time**.

1. Upon entering the classroom, each student will scan the QR code to check in for the day, and put their smart devices in the designated area in the classroom. It is their responsibility as a student to complete the QR code so their presence is documented for the day. If they do not complete the QR code, the student will be marked absent.
2. As a professional courtesy, please contact the course instructor via email, voice text or phone call.
3. Absences may be excused **by a parent/guardian** by the following methods within 48 hours of the absence:
    a. Phone call to PSSC Attendance Specialist, Kelsey Gomez (206) 631-7353
    b. Email to Ms. Kelsey (kelsey.gomez@highlineschools.org)
    c. Text message to Ms. Kelsey through Google Voice at (425) 298-7345
    d. Hand-written note turned into PSSC Attendance Specialist Kesley Gomez
4. Please include the following information in the note, call or email:
    a. Student Name
    b. Parent/Guardian Name
    c. Program Name
    d. Date of the absence
    e. Reason for the absence

5. Students who are 18 years of age may excuse their own absence **in writing only** for the following reasons: school-related absence, medical appointment, or personal illness.
6. Prearranged absence forms are in the office. The form must be completed with all required signatures before departure date. This form will be shared with your sending school as well.
7. Reassessment opportunities will be determined and clearly published by the instructor. Not all assignments and evaluations are eligible for reassessment, especially those done in a lab setting.

Student Handbook: Click Here

Academic Honesty

We take academic honesty seriously. You are expected to maintain the highest levels of integrity. It is important that we can assess what you know and can do independently so that we can accurately support your learning. Here are guidelines that ensure that you are upholding academic honesty:

- Do your own work: Do not copy or plagiarize someone else's work, including text, images or ideas. Strive to produce original work that represents your own thoughts and ideas.
- Give credit: If you use a source such as a book, article, website or generative Artificial Intelligence, you must give appropriate credit. Include a citation that clearly identifies the source of your information.

Failure to uphold academic honesty will be addressed and corrected, including but not limited to re-doing the assignment and family conferences. Academic honesty ensures you are learning and growing in the most effective way possible.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Academic Integrity

AI tools may be used to support work in this class when specifically allowed by the teacher — but not to replace student thinking or voice. Students are expected to follow assignment-specific guidance and identify when AI is used in submitted work. Submitting AI-generated work as one's own without permission or explanation is not acceptable and considered academic dishonesty.

Language Support

If you need language support to understand this document, contact your school office at 206-631-7300.
Si necesita ayuda con el idioma para comprender este documento, por favor comuníquese con la oficina de su escuela al 206-631-7300.
Nếu quí vị cần hỗ trợ về ngộn ngữ để hiểu tài liệu này, xin liên lạc với văn phòng trưởng học của co n em quí vị số 206-631-7300.
Haddii aad u baahan tahay taageerada luqadda si aad u fahamto dukumeentigan, kala xidhiidh xafiiska dugsigaaga 206-631-7300.
ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮਦਦ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਸਕੂਲ ਦੇ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ। 206-631-7300.

نمایید مطلب حل گرفته تماس تیم با 2066317300 شماره با لطفاً ،دارید نیاز ترجمه خدمات به سند این آموزدانش برای اگر.