

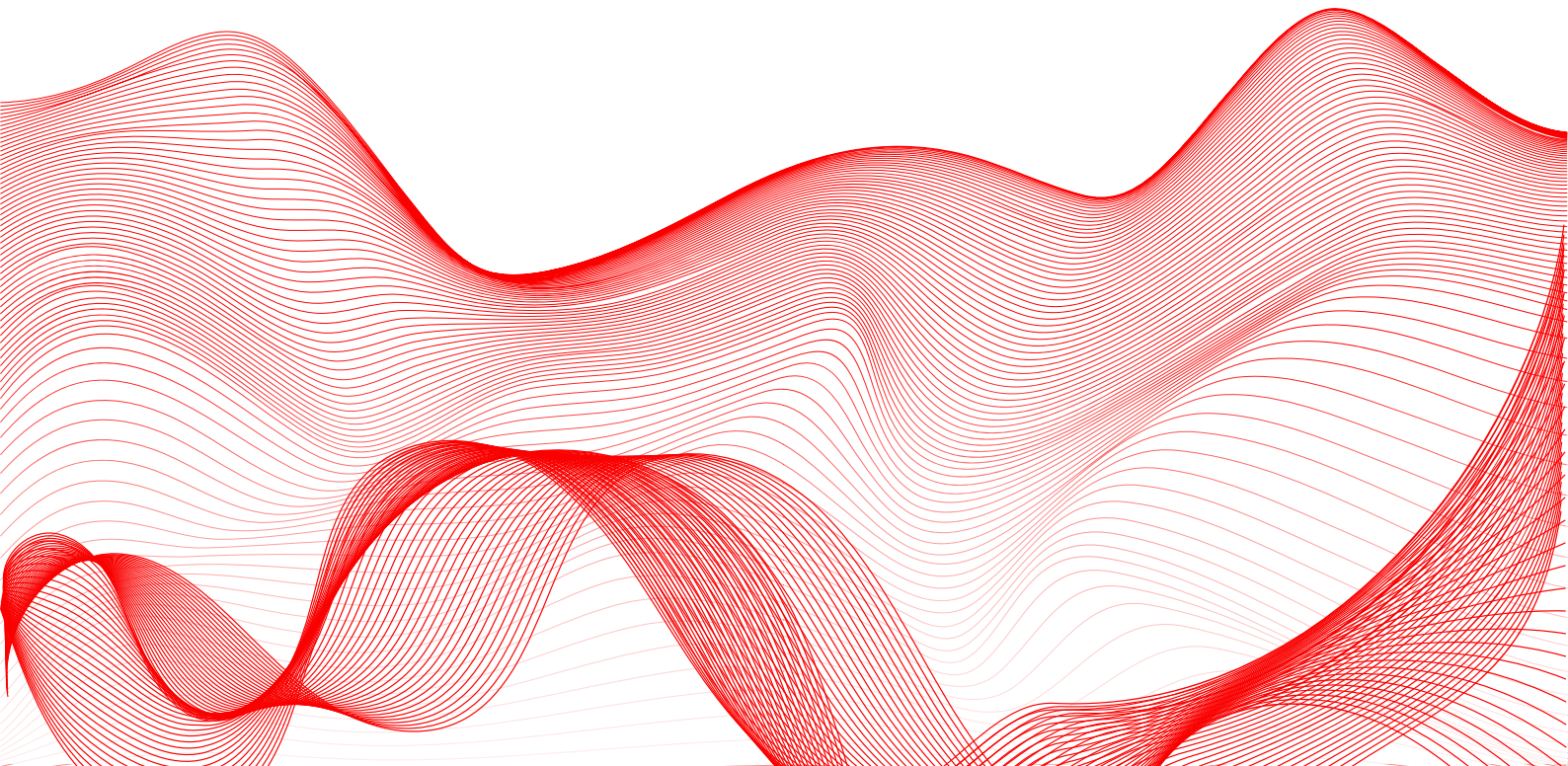


new york  
**audio**  
academy



C U R R I C U L U M

2024



# FIND OUT WHAT YOU'LL LOVE ABOUT NYAA

“We take your future in audio seriously, and that's why we've decided to open our notes to you and share exactly what you'll learn at NYAA. That way, you can make the decision that's best for you.”

In case you haven't heard, the **New York Audio Academy** is hosted by Engine Room Audio, a multi-story, commercial recording studio in downtown Manhattan.

With multiple **world-class studio spaces** and state-of-the-art equipment, we teach our students how to prepare and work in **real-life recording and production sessions**.

Studio Owner and NYAA Founder: **Mark Christensen**

Credits include SZA, Trey Songz, 50 Cent, and Lloyd Banks. His projects have been nominated for 7 Grammy awards, with 2 wins.

# New York Audio Academy

Here's a week-by-week breakdown of everything you can expect to cover during your time at NYAA

## WEEK 1 - MEET YOUR MENTOR



Upon beginning at NYAA, students will receive a welcome package including:

- Studio monitors & Over-ear headphones
- ProTools Studio license valid for one year
- Modern Recording Techniques Handbook
- Condenser microphone & interface

Students will meet their 1-on-1 mentor who will be a vital resource throughout their time at NYAA.

Instructors will become acquainted with their students' previous experience in audio. That way, they can build on students' foundations and tailor each lesson to their needs and interests.

## WEEK 2 - SOUND AND HEARING



This module goes over the physics of sound and how the brain perceives it, and explores how sound operates in the studio environment and within the ear itself.

## WEEK 3 - MICROPHONES



This module teaches the three main categories of microphones and the *magic science* they employ to capture sound.

Students will also learn about polar patterns and how to choose the right settings for various situations and conditions.

## WEEK 4 - MICROPHONE TECHNIQUE



In this lesson, students will learn the industry-standard methods of recording popular instruments, as well as the best ways to capture a vocal performance.

This module covers how to "audition" a microphone, and explore the extensive collection housed at Engine Room Audio so you can feel prepared for any recording situation.

This lesson builds off of the previous module and enables students to apply their new knowledge to real situations.

# New York Academy

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### WEEK 5 - INTRO TO MUSIC THEORY: PART 1



Students will dive into the fundamentals of music theory. Learn the building blocks of music, from notes and scales to chords and chord progressions. This module also covers basic harmony, keys, and the circle of fifths. These fundamentals lay the foundation for effective communication with musicians during sessions and enhance production skills.

Practical applications for audio engineering, such as creating arrangements and understanding musical genres, will be emphasized to equip students with a comprehensive understanding of music theory's role in their profession.

### WEEK 6 - INTRO TO MUSIC THEORY: PART 2



Take a deep dive into the world of rhythm. This module emphasizes timing, meter, and rhythmic patterns. Exploring topics such as note durations, syncopation, and polyrhythms, students will gain a profound understanding of how rhythm shapes the core of musical compositions.

Practical applications of rhythm in audio engineering will be highlighted, enabling students to enhance their ability to synchronize audio elements, manipulate tempo, and create engaging rhythmic structures. Through hands-on exercises and real-world examples, students will develop the skills needed to elevate their productions by mastering the rhythmic intricacies that define various music genres.

### WEEK 7 - STUDIO DESIGN & MONITORING



Students will focus on the physical and acoustic aspects of a recording studio. Explore studio design principles, acoustic treatment, and the importance of a proper monitoring environment.

This module aims to demystify how a studio environment can impact sound quality, enabling students to make informed decisions when designing or working within a recording space.

### WEEK 8 - ANALOG AND DIGITAL MTR



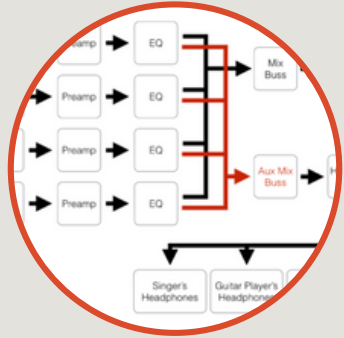
Students will study analog and digital metering.

This module addresses the key differences between analog and digital audio, including signal flow, dynamic range, and the role of meters in each context.

Practical exercises will involve hands-on experience with both analog and digital equipment, ensuring students develop the skills needed to navigate and optimize these technologies in a recording studio setting.

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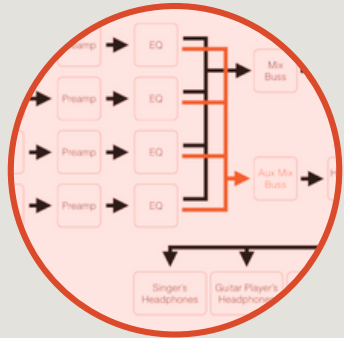
### WEEK 9 - SIGNAL FLOW: PART I



This module marks the beginning of a journey into the world of signal flow within a recording studio. Students will walk away with an understanding of the signal path from "source" to "destination", and the role of "key components" in shaping the audio signal.

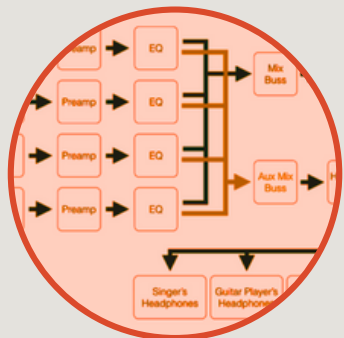
Practical exercises will provide hands-on experience with analog and digital equipment, allowing students to practice the fundamentals of signal flow and its importance in audio engineering.

### WEEK 10 - SIGNAL FLOW: PART II



Students will delve deeper into advanced concepts, including signal routing, signal processing units, and the impact of various components on the overall audio quality. Emphasis will be placed on troubleshooting and problem-solving within the signal path, preparing students to navigate more complex studio setups with ease.

### WEEK 11 - SIGNAL FLOW: PART III



Continuing the journey through signal flow, the eleventh module illuminates intricate signal pathways within the most sophisticated recording environments. Students will explore signal splitting and parallel processing within Pro-Tools, and the integration of outboard gear into the signal chain.

Practical applications will involve creating custom signal routes for specific recording scenarios, reinforcing the skills required to optimize signal flow for all audio production needs.

### WEEK 12 - AMPLIFIERS



This module covers the principles of amplification, amplifier types, and their applications in the studio. Students will gain insights into matching amplifiers with different audio sources, understanding gain structures, and effectively utilizing amplifiers to shape the sonic characteristics of recordings.

Practical exercises involving amplifier selection and manipulation will empower students to make informed decisions in enhancing the audio signals within a recording environment.

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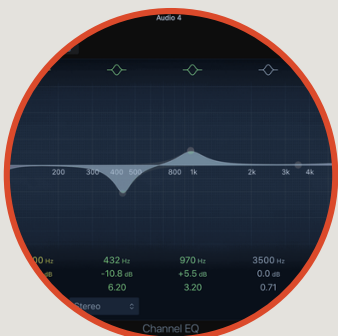
## WEEK 13 - INTRODUCTION TO THE DAW



This week, students receive an introduction to Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) with a focus on Pro Tools.

The module covers DAW basics, the ProTools interface, and guides students through fundamental operations like recording, editing, and mixing.

## WEEK 14 - DYNAMICS & EQ



This module covers dynamic processors such as compressors and limiters, as well as the principles of equalization. Students will learn how to shape and control the dynamic range of audio signals and fine-tune frequency response to achieve desired tonal characteristics.

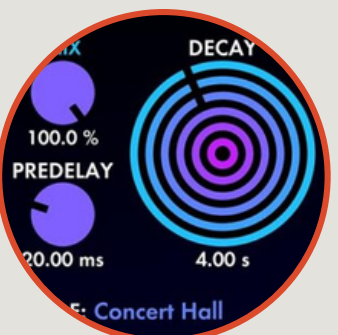
Students will work with the compression and EQ controls on our analog SSL 4000G console, as well as digitally within the DAW.

## WEEK 15 - MIDTERM



Week 15 marks the midpoint of the program, where students will have the opportunity to review and solidify what they've learned through a midterm assessment. This evaluation will ensure that every student has a comprehensive understanding of the modules we've covered so far.

## WEEK 16 - TIME-BASED PROCESSING



Ever wondered how pro mix engineers make a vocals stand out? Unlock the last piece of the puzzle; time-based effects!

Learn to use some of the most powerful tools in every pro mixer's arsenal; reverb and delay. In this module students practice the skills needed to master these effects.

Practical exercises will see students manipulate time-based processors creatively, adding depth and dimension to their work. Students will practice applying time-based effects to a variety of software and physical instruments.

# Here's a week-by-week breakdown of everything you can expect to cover during your time at NYAA

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## WEEK 17 - MIXING ON THE CONSOLE



A console is the heart and soul of any professional studio. NYAA is provided with access to Engine Room Audio's 64-channel SSL 4000G in the Mezzanine studio! Learn signal flow within a channel, channel processing, and the incorporation of outboard gear.

Students will practice mixing some of their work on ERA's vintage analog console!

## WEEK 18 - MIXING "IN THE BOX"



Students will transition from analog to digital as they explore the art of mixing "in the box." This module covers the use of Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs), virtual instruments, and plugins for mixing and mastering.

Practical exercises will focus on harnessing the power of software tools to achieve professional-sounding mixes entirely within the digital realm, preparing students for the diverse landscape of modern audio production.

## WEEK 19 - MIDI



Welcome to MIDI week! (Musical Instrument Digital Interface). Students will explore MIDI fundamentals, including how MIDI communicates between devices, the structure of MIDI messages, and how MIDI channels operate.

The module covers advanced MIDI editing techniques, including quantization, velocity adjustments, and expressive MIDI programming. Practical exercises will challenge students to manipulate MIDI data creatively and precisely, enhancing their ability to craft dynamic and polished musical arrangements.

## WEEK 20 - VSTS



In this lesson, students will gain an understanding of the basics of VSTs (virtual studio technology), explore various virtual instruments, and learn how to integrate and manipulate them within a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW).

Practical exercises focus on the effective utilization of VST instruments within a project. Students will learn to optimize CPU usage, manage presets, and creatively manipulate virtual instruments to create any sound they can imagine!

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### WEEK 21 - ADVANCED DAW: EDITING

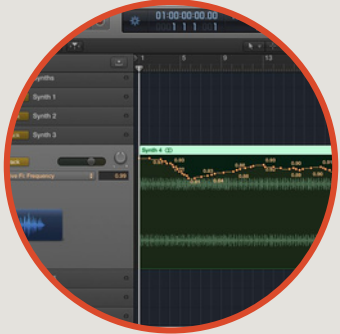


Students will refine their proficiency in Pro-Tools Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) editing.

The focus is on intricate techniques, including crossfades, seamless splicing, and detailed audio manipulation. Students will explore techniques to enhance or modify pitch, enabling them to correct imperfections or experiment with unconventional pitch-based effects.

Students will learn multiple quick-key commands to help optimize their workflow.

### WEEK 22 - ADVANCED DAW: SYNC, AUTOMATION, TIME- STRETCH



This module is designed to round out your technical ability with digital audio processing. You will hone your precision and creativity, focusing on key aspects such as synchronization, automation, and time-stretching.

Students will delve into advanced synchronization techniques, learn to dynamically control parameters over mix aspects, and manipulate the timing of musical elements.

### WEEK 23 - MUSIC BUSINESS: WORKING WITH THE ARTISTS



Music is collaborative! None of the popular music we listen to today was created by one individual, so it's important to learn how to work with other artists, engineers, and producers. This module emphasizes the interpersonal and communication skills crucial for fostering successful artistic relationships.

Emphasis will be placed on problem-solving, adaptability, and maintaining a positive studio atmosphere to ensure a productive and satisfying creative experience for both the artist and the audio engineer.

### WEEK 24 - MUSIC BUSINESS: LAW



This module is designed to provide a basic understanding of the legal frameworks and considerations that underpin the music industry.

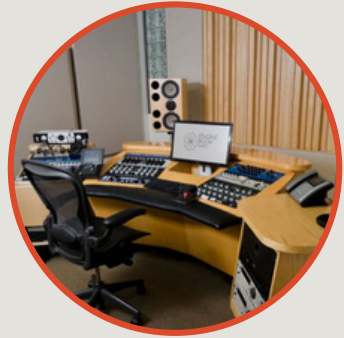
Topics covered include the structure of contracts in regards to music deals and partnerships, intellectual property rights, copyright laws, licensing agreements, and the legal aspects of music production and distribution.



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## WEEK 25 - MASTERING



This module focuses on the final stage of audio production, where tracks are polished and optimized for distribution across various platforms.

Topics covered include mastering chain components, dynamic range control, equalization, stereo enhancement, and the intricacies of preparing tracks for different playback mediums. Practical exercises will allow students to apply mastering techniques to a variety of genres, emphasizing the importance of preserving the artistic intent while ensuring optimal sonic quality.

Students are encouraged to reach out with questions to the ERA Chief Mastering Engineer Mark Christensen.

## WEEK 26 - SURROUND SOUND & ATMOS



Get a glimpse of the cutting-edge audio technology. Spatial Audio and Dolby Atmos are set to upend the world of consumer audio. This module explores multi-channel monitoring systems and the revolutionary Dolby Atmos format. Topics include speaker configurations, object-based audio, spatial audio design, and the integration of Atmos in various media productions.

Practical exercises will see students get hands-on with Atmos technology in Engine Room Audio's state-of-the-art Blue Room, providing them with the skills to craft immersive audio landscapes. Discussions on the creative possibilities and industry applications of Atmos will prepare students to enter the dynamic landscape of today's audio industry.

## WEEK 27 - FINAL



This week serves as a platform for students to showcase their skills, creativity, and technical proficiency in a culminating project that uses all the knowledge they've gained on their journey in audio engineering.

The final projects may span various aspects of audio production, including recording, mixing, mastering, or even exploring emerging technologies such as immersive audio. Students will also be given career guidance as they take their next steps in the music industry!

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Learn more at:  
[www.newyorkaudioacademy.com](http://www.newyorkaudioacademy.com)

# FAQ

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<b>HOW LONG IS THE FULL COURSE?</b>	Our In-Studio NYC Course: The NYAA curriculum consists of 27 modules, each lasting one week. We work with your schedule and allow our students up to 1 year to finish the program.
<b>HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?</b>	Full Program Cost: \$14,000
<b>DOES THE SCHOOL PROVIDE ALL THE EQUIPMENT I NEED?</b>	Program includes a new student bundle: Headphones, Pair of studio monitors, Large Diaphragm Condenser Microphone, Audio Interface, Mic Stand, 1 Year ProTools Student License, iLok 4. We do not provide laptops.
<b>DO YOU OFFER FINANCIAL AID?</b>	Yes! We've partnered with Meratize to give students more financing options and increase the accessibility of our program. Get approved in minutes with no impact to your credit score!
<b>WHAT CRADENTIALS DO YOU HAVE AS AN INSTITUTION?</b>	NYAA is fully licensed by the state of New York as a certificate-granting program.
<b>I WANT TO MEET WITH SOMEONE BEFORE ENROLLING BUT DON'T HAVE TIME FOR A TOUR, WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?</b>	You can schedule a video meeting with NYAA program director, Mark Christensen through our website. Book your virtual meeting today!

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[www.newyorkaudioacademy.com](http://www.newyorkaudioacademy.com)