COURSE OUTLINE

MUS100 Intro to Songwriting and Production

School: School of Business and Creative Industries

2026 | Trimester 1

UniSC Sunshine Coast | BLENDED LEARNING | Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Please go to unisc.edu.au for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

In this course, you will study the foundations of songwriting and sound recording in a digital environment. Lecturers and industry practitioners will guide you as you engage in the basic theories and skills of lyric writing, harmony, melody, and musical form. You will apply that knowledge in a number of music production tasks, including recording, overdubbing, sequencing, editing and mixing. These tasks will culminate in the production of a sound recording of your original song.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Asynchronous online delivery of learning material.	1hr	Week 1	11 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Synchronous and scheduled face to face workshops.	2hrs	Week 1	12 times

1.3. Course Topics

Basic songwriting, Basic lyric writing, DAW proficiency, Recording audio, Writing rhythm, Writing harmony and melody, Virtual instruments, Songwriting to brief, Basic audio mixing.

2. What level is this course?

100 Level (Introductory)

Engaging with discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Limited or no prerequisites. Normally, associated with the first full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...		GRADUATE QUALITIES Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1	Develop a foundation knowledge of Digital Audio Workstations and the process of recording audio for songwriting	Knowledgeable
2	Demonstrate an understanding of songwriting and lyric writing principles and theory based on industry concepts and instructional literature.	Empowered
3	Create and manage a DAW session with correct signal path, multitracked audio, appropriate plugin use, edited and balanced to create a digital audio track.	Creative and critical thinker
4	Develop an understanding of the recording process including knowledge of microphones, and other analogue technologies.	Knowledgeable
5	Apply your songwriting and music production knowledge to build a demonstration recording for communicating musical concepts and ideas.	Creative and critical thinker

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the UniSC Glossary of terms for definitions of "pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites".

5.1. Pre-requisites

Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

5.5. Microcredential Information

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

An opportunity exists in every workshop to produce and perform creative work individually and/or in small peer groups. Using assessment criteria or an assessment rubric, provided to students prior to commencing, students will self-assess and peer assess throughout the entire course.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece	Individual	50%	Approx. 1 minute 30 second recording plus lyric sheet.	Week 7	Online Submission
All	2	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece	Individual	50%	2-4 minute recording plus lyric sheet and 800 word written document.	Week 12	Online Submission

All - Assessment Task 1: Concept writing in a DAW

GOAL:	The purpose of this task is to develop foundational songwriting skills in a DAW.
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece
FORMAT:	In this task, you will engage in industry-led practices in professional songwriting. You will write a verse and chorus of a new song. You will deliver this as a basic multi-track recording in a DAW plus a lyric sheet. Students will present their DAW session in class in week 6 for lecturer feedback. This feedback needs to be incorporated in to your final submission.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Creating, setting up, managing and delivering a DAW session.	3
2	Applying and communicating songwriting ideas through appropriate delivery formats	5
3	Demonstrating an understanding of the four elements of the songwriter's toolkit in a creative work.	2
4	Developing a foundational knowledge of recording, editing and sequencing tasks	1

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies

All - Assessment Task 2: Songwriting in a DAW

GOAL:	The purpose of this task is to place your developing songwriting skills into a common industry framework of practice.
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece
FORMAT:	In this task, you will be provided a mock industry publisher's brief outlining a set of parameters required for your songwriting. You will apply your songwriter's toolkit and knowledge of DAWs to develop the song you have been working on to fit these parameters. You will present your creative work as a demonstration recording and accompanying lyric sheet. You will also submit a written document explaining how your song has developed and how your songwriting and production choices align with the publisher's brief.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Demonstrating an understanding of lyric and narrative concepts in line with a publisher's brief.	2
2	Applying songwriting concepts of melody, harmony, form in line with a publisher's brief.	5
3	Developing and applying recording and production processes to create and communicate an arrangement in line with the publisher's brief.	1 4
4	Communicating songwriting ideas based on industry concepts and instructional literature.	2

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Applying technologies

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

> There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

Students are expected to make themselves available for autonomous recording sessions. Students must therefore consider their availability on evenings and weekends as well as normal working hours.

In this class, you will require the foundation tools of the music producer. These are:
- Hard Drive/cloud storage with 100Gb of free memory
- a set of stereo headphones for music production (with a 1/4 inch adaptor)

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the online induction training for students, and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:
(a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
(b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying: The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4% The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct.

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:
(a) One day: deduct 5%;
(b) Two days: deduct 10%;
(c) Three days: deduct 20%;
(d) Four days: deduct 40%;
(e) Five days: deduct 60%;
(f) Six days: deduct 80%;
(g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:
Less than 15 minutes: No penalty
From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty
More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

10.4. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching

10.5. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The Student Charter sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.6. General Enquiries

For course-specific questions, contact your teaching staff or Course Coordinator.

For other enquiries or to access support, please contact Student Central:

- UniSC Student Central
- UniSC Adelaide Student Central