



Learn about the Recording Arts Industry, the types of positions available, and how to get the training you need to launch your career for success.



The Ultimate Career Guide For The **Recording Arts Industry**

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So you want to join the Recording Arts industry...

What do we mean when we talk about Recording Arts or the Recording Arts Industry?



Recording Arts is an exciting and challenging field where technology and creativity meet to combine into the production of audio.

Whether it's something you see on TV, hear on the radio, experience at the movies, or enjoy at a live concert, many engineers & technicians are working to keep the show and entertainment running smoothly.

The top 10 most common positions our graduates pursue in the **Recording Arts industry**



1. AUDIO OR MIX ENGINEER

The main concern for an audio engineer is the successful transfer of a live performance into a high-quality recording through careful set-up and close monitoring. When raw recordings are finished, all the tracks end up in the hands of a mix engineer. Audio engineers will work with artists, producers, and directors during a recording session to check levels and balance.



2. MUSIC PRODUCER

The music producer is often similar to a project-manager for an album, helping artists to realize a creative vision through the recording, mixing, and mastering processes. Many music producers are musicians too, and sometimes help mix and add value to a record.



3. SOUND TECHNICIAN

This is a hands-on, technical job. Sound technicians who maintain electrical equipment and tools are needed in every type of entertainment from TV, film, musical recording, and radio to sporting events, speeches, concerts, and theater.



4. BROADCAST ENGINEER

Broadcast engineers oversee, operate, maintain, and update hardware and broadcast systems used in the production of television, radio, podcasts, and more.



5. LIVE SOUND ENGINEER

Live sound engineers look after every aspect of a live performance from mic setup and techniques, to balancing sound levels from the desk as the show goes on.



6. SOUND DESIGNER

Sound designers are responsible for the emotional impact of a play, commercial, TV show, or film, and work with the creative team to plan and implement the desired soundscape for each project.



7. FOLEY ARTIST

Props on set just don't make the same sounds that the audience expects! The jingling of keys, the thump of approaching footsteps, the whisper from another room... making these sounds for film and television soundtracks is the job of the Foley artist.



8. RE-RECORDING MIXER/DUBBING MIXER

The re-recording mixer is the person in charge of taking all the elements of a sound design and mixing them into a balanced soundtrack. They work with dialog tracks, Foley and sound effects, musical score, and more to create cohesive soundscapes for film, television, commercials, etc.



9. MASTERING ENGINEER

A Mastering Engineer balances the frequency spectrum of a song and adjusts the dynamics to sound consistent across audio systems. Mastering adds clarity and depth to the mix. This is the most crucial step in getting the perfect sound that musicians aspire for. Mastering is the ending step to polish mixed music.



10. LOCATION SOUND MIXER/BOOM OPERATOR

Location Sound Mixers are responsible for recording all sound during production on a film or television set. They place microphones, choose recording media, and mix audio signals in real time.

So you want to join the Recording Arts industry...

Starting Out

Most people explore a career in the Recording Arts Industry for the same reason: a love of music and fascination with sound, which brings them to the decision to learn more.

So you have the passion, where do you go from there?



Take a look at a few other areas you can explore with a background in Recording Arts.

- **Web Audio Producer**
- **Audio for Video Games**
- **Sound Engineering for Hospitals and Medical Needs**
- **Forensic Audio**
- **Translation for TV and Film**
- **Vocal Tuning**

There are many other options for working in Recording Arts & Show Production in today's market, however, and an aspiring professional does not necessarily have to rely on traditional employment routes to find work! Freelance audio opportunities are available online and in your local area, and each is a valuable option for F.I.R.S.T. Institute's Recording Arts & Show Production graduates!

Get the Skills

The first step toward landing the gig of your dreams is getting a solid education from an accredited institution. With solid technical knowledge and experience under your belt, you'll be way ahead of the game when you start looking for your first position.

At F.I.R.S.T. Institute, students gain experience by learning in a hands-on environment from active industry professionals who care about your future.

Get the Internship

Internships are a fantastic way to get familiar with a professional environment, make contacts within the industry, and start building your network and skills.

At F.I.R.S.T. Institute, your internship is an integral part of your coursework, and sometimes students find that this internship leads directly to their first job after graduation.



Where Do I Find the Higher Paying Jobs?

Like any job in the entertainment sector, the jobs that pay the most are in the major cities. In the largest cities, you'll find venues like:

- **TV and radio stations**
- **Recording studios**
- **Production companies**
- **Mix stages**
- **Film sets**
- **Theaters and concert halls**
- **Convention centers**
- **Sports arenas**

But that doesn't mean that you can't work closer to home! Smaller cities often host live shows and events that require assistance with audio, and some even have small recording studios. Night clubs need sound technicians to keep the music playing, and even churches offer positions that can give you great experience working with live sound. Think of local speeches, plays, and community events that require microphones, amps, and speakers: they need you!

Career Development Tools

There are some essential tools to keep in your back pocket as you conduct your job search. Not only will these things show that you understand how to operate professionally, they will serve as calling cards for your creative abilities.



Cover Letter and Resume

Your cover letter explains who you are and why you are great for the position you're applying for, and your resume proves it! This is where you can get your foot in the door, show your professionalism, and set yourself up for an interview.

Business Cards

They might seem a little old-fashioned at first, but business cards are still a must-have for networking and getting your name out there. If you meet a person that is interested in your work, you want to give them a quick, clean reminder of who you are and how they can find you – you do not want to just scribble your name and number on a random piece of paper! People do business with those they believe they can rely on. Business cards show care and attention to detail, and can be personalized to reflect your professional character.

Websites and Online Profiles

One of the best things to list on your business card is your website! All online profiles should lead back to your website, where you can showcase your best work. Having a website shows your commitment to your craft, and allows you to direct potential business so that they can see you in your best light.

Demo Reels

Your demo reel is one of the most important career development tools you will have. More than anything else, your reel shows who you are as a person, as an artist, and as a professional. This is your personal commercial, so keep it concise and make sure that it tells a viewer exactly what you want them to know about your technique, skill, and personal flair.

The Education you need to succeed!

Gaining your education from F.I.R.S.T. Institute will prepare you with the tools needed to successfully launch your career in the Recording Arts Industry.



With such a wide field to work in and so many options to choose from, the best way to start a career in the Recording Arts Industry is to get educated in the latest technologies and techniques.

Recording Arts & Show Production education here at F.I.R.S.T. Institute focuses on giving you the tools and personalized attention you need to succeed in the Recording Arts Industry.

As the entertainment industry continues to expand, other industries that employ sound engineers, designers, and audio specialists are always looking for new talent.

This means that your skills will be in demand, but it also means that there will be more competition in the field.

As the job market follows its projected growth in the entertainment industry, employers are looking for the most experienced and qualified candidates to work on their projects.

This is where your training and background become important. Not only will getting an education prepare you for the practical and professional challenges ahead, your confidence in articulating your skills will grow. Other professionals will speak your language. You will have a great understanding of your field, with the beginnings of a network already in place when you graduate.

Investing in your education is the best thing you can do to prepare for your career, learn the tricks of the trade, speak the language of engineers, get real experience, and prepare your portfolio for success. Start your new career path with F.I.R.S.T. Institute today!

Warmest Regards,
F.I.R.S.T. Institute

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