

Today, We Answer The Burning Question;

## **Do I REALLY need to go to an Audio School to learn to be an Audio Engineer or Producer?**

Let's be real. The short answer is No! You do not need to go to Audio School to learn to be an Audio Engineer or Producer. You could just hit the street and get some gear and meet some people and start recording and producing tracks from the software that you already have access to. Like Garage Band, Logic, FL Studio. Etc, Etc.

Now, that is one way to go, Yes. But, (yes, there is always a but). You will get more out of learning in a mentor, mentee situation. That is where someone that already knows about recording and mixing and making music can show you what they know and guide you along the way to help make you a better engineer or producer.

Let's dive a little deeper into 3 different scenarios:

## Traditional College:

A traditional college is a way to go. If you are the type of person that likes structure and stability in their educational needs. You may like moving to another location. Maybe even another state or country depending on where you want to go. There are some awesome universities that will teach you and guide you to a degree. With that degree, you can probably cover a hole in a wall if you frame it. It's not really worth that much.

Is it prestigious to let everyone know that you went to a Big Ivy League school and took some classes about recording and producing? Probably.

But you know who won't be impressed? Any studio owner that you send a resume to. We don't care about where you went to school. Or, if you have a degree. We want to know what you can do. You can show that by having some product that we can hear and think, "Wow, this person is talented!"

Another really big issue with a traditional college is that they can be **SUPER** expensive. You can graduate from a traditional college with a debt that will take multiple years to pay off. Unless you have the means to pay for everything up front. It's not uncommon to come out of even a state school at \$30 - \$50k in the hole. I know some people that have been paying off their student loans for 15 years. And, now they have a part time job at Starbux. No Thanks.

## Trade Type Schools:

These could be a specialty school like Full Sail University and SAE. Or, even Musicians Institute and LA Recording School, LA Film School, Etc. Etc. All great schools, I'm sure. But, again. SUPER expensive.

A big difference with these type schools over Traditional Universities, is. At least you are there with others that are there for the same reason. So, this could be a great networking possibility. You know your peers in this industry. Otherwise sometimes referred to as competition depending on where you go. If you've ever been to Hollywood in September, you know what I mean. If you see a person walking down Hollywood Boulevard with a guitar strapped to his back chances are pretty good that he is headed to Musicians Institute.

These schools are, in my opinion, about as useful as going to a traditional college. I actually taught at Musicians Institute for a semester and I can tell you from experience. The students are mostly there for networking. But, is networking with your future competition worth \$45,000?

The programs at MI, for instance, were at one time pretty good. And, then, at some point, it turned into. if your check clears, You're in! Not what you might need.

The others in this category, such as Full Sail University. You have to relocate to Florida. So, now you have the added expense of living and doing cool stuff. Like eating food? This can cost a whole lot more because you have to actually go there and stay for 4 years.

Sometimes longer. They have great gear at Full Sail and M.I. and SAE. But, because you are going to be one of probably 20 others in your class you may not get a lot of time to spend with the actual gear.

Don't get me wrong, if a student wants to do something and is willing to just go for it, there is tons of opportunity after graduating from any of these schools.

Since I am a studio owner in Los Angeles, CA. I see a ton of resumes that come to my email inbox around May and June of any year. These are usually recent graduates of the various schools mentioned earlier.

The only ones that I even consider talking to, are the people that actually do a follow up call. That, at least shows me some kind of hustle. The ones that call and bug me once a week are the ones that I will invite down to show me some of their work and talk about how we can mutually benefit each other.

Bring a recent mix that you've completed. Or, a track that you have been working on. Something.

You can't just tell me you are an engineer or producer. The proof is in the music.

## **Mentor Type School:**

Here is where you will be placed in a working studio to work with a professional that does this for a living.

They might know what's up. Because they do this for a living. They already know what it takes to be successful and which things you should avoid.

*Because*, they have already done it. Basically you can learn from someone that has already made the mistakes that you are going to make. What an awesome concept. Learning by doing. And, learning from someone that already does it.

### **Let's look at a few more advantages.**

- You are learning in a working studio - That means you have access to actual clients and actual producers coming through that studio that will maybe get to work with you or at least hear your work.
- You will have actual stuff to put on a resume. On your resume, you might be able to list that you worked on the ABC Project and you assisted on the XYZ project that is currently at number 15 on the Billboard charts. See where this is going?
- Another great plus to this type of learning is that you are in your local market. You are working with local artists and producers. They are a great network of people to know and to "***know who you are***".
- This type of school is a fraction of what you might spend at the traditional college or the special private trade schools.

- You will have a ton of money left over to live and maybe start investing in your gear, that will make you your money in the future.

The advantages here are too much to list.

I have been a mentor for Recording Connection for more than 15 years. Not only do I enjoy dealing with “hungry for knowledge” students, but three of the guys that work here with me at the moment have, at one time, all been my students.

One guy has been working here for 10 years. He is an awesome engineer, and even a better producer and musician.

I am very fortunate that this school exists. I only wish I had known about Recording Connection before I went to a Trade School and spent \$30k to learn Pro Tools.

Which brings me to another question:

Do you need to be Pro Tools Certified?

Most of the schools listed offer an Avid Pro Tools Certification that usually costs extra. And the really cool part is, you get a really nice, frame worthy certificate that you can hang in your locker down at the warehouse where you go everyday to drive the forklift because with a degree like that, you might find it hard to get a job in the recording industry without any experience and maybe some projects that you can show what you can actually do.

## CAN YOU DO THE WORK?

That's all you really need.

I actually have a certificate from Avid. I am a Certified Pro Tools expert. No one has ever come into my studio and said. "Before we get started, let me see your Avid certification?"

No. That doesn't happen. The clients come here. And, I am sitting at the engineer's spot. They just assume that I know how to do stuff. Why else am I here?

Honestly, the only time you might need the Avid certification is if you, yourself will be teaching and certifying others.

If you really want to succeed in the business of becoming an Audio Engineer / Producer.

First, check into the other schools. Compare costs. Compare the skills that you will end up having. Make a rational decision based on where you want to go with your career.

If you are a hobbyist that wants to record themselves on the weekends. Dude, go to YouTube and get some pointers from guys like [Graham Cochran at Recording Revolution](#). (An awesome resource, btw).

But, if you are in this for some actual experience and knowledge, reach out to us here at Learn Pro Recording. We can help point you in the right direction.

We can refer you to a specialist at Recording Connection in your

area to help you find the right mentor and studio for you to learn in.

### **One last note about your education choice:**

As a Recording Connection student, you are more available to do other things all while learning your actual craft.

Such as, maybe you really want you to go to a traditional school or even a local community college to get a degree. Recording Connection will allow you the time. With Recording Connection, you work on “your schedule”

This is great for maybe taking some business and marketing classes. Trust me. This is only going to benefit you in the end. You will find that these skills will come in very handy while trying to sell yourself and your art.

And, maybe learn about accounting to help you keep track of all the money you’re going to make.

Go forth and learn what you need to learn and then get out there and get your hustle on. “*Git Er Done*” as they say. It’s all about You!

\*\* Below are some links to help you look into which educational path might be right for you.

[Full Sail University](#)

[SAE Institute](#)

[Musicians Institute, Hollywood](#)

[LA Recording school](#)

[La Film School](#)

[More info about Recording Connection](#)