

INDEPENDENT SONGWRITING & PERFORMANCE (IPS)

About the Program

In this eight-month certificate program, your studies will focus on lyric and songwriting, studio preparation, performance, vocal skills, music theory and practice. The program offers basic training in technical and business skills essential to establishing your presence in the marketplace. You will experience hands-on learning through private and traditional classroom lessons led by working professionals in the industries.

In your last semester, you will receive mentoring to complete and showcase a recording project that will be evaluated by the panel of faculty members. The evaluation will assist with your entrance into the music industry.

Credential Awarded

Ontario College Certificate

Duration

2 Semesters (8 Months)

Starts

January, September

Program and Course Delivery

This program is offered in Seneca's hybrid delivery format. Some coursework is online and some must be completed in person. Students will need to come on campus to complete in-person learning requirements.

Skills

Throughout this program you will develop the following skills:

- Songwriting
- Ear training
- Vocal and performance
- Basic business knowledge

Your Career

When you graduate from this program, these are the types of career options you can explore:

- Performance
- Production
- Music distribution

Program of Study

Course Code	Course Name	Weekly Hours
Semester 1		
<i>Classes Weeks 1 - 14</i>		

COM101	Communicating Across Contexts	3
or COM111	Communicating Across Contexts (Enriched)	
IMP122	Business I	3
IPS115	Performance I	2
IPS121	Major Instrument I	1
IPS123	Studio Prep I	2
IPS124	Music Publishing	2
IPS151	Master Class I	2
<i>Classes Weeks 1-7</i>		
IPS101	Songwriting I	2
IPS102	Lyric Writing I	2
IPS132	Music Theory I	4
IPS212	Ear Training I	2
<i>Classes Weeks 8-14</i>		
IMP310	Live Sound	2
IPS201	Songwriting II	2
IPS202	Lyric Writing II	2
IPS203	Vocal Skills I	1
Semester 2		
<i>Classes Weeks 1 - 14</i>		
IPS145	Performance II	1
IPS221	Major Instrument II	1
IPS251	Master Class II	1
IPS323	Studio Prep II	8
IPS400	Major Project Mentoring	8
IPS413	Musical Collaboration	1
plus: General Education Course (1)		3
<i>Classes Weeks 1-7</i>		
IPS303	Vocal Skills II	1
IPS311	Touring I	2
IPS411	Touring II	2
<i>Classes Weeks 8-14</i>		
IPS412	Ear Training II	2
IPS432	Music Theory II	2

Program Learning Outcomes

This Seneca program has been validated by the Credential Validation Service as an Ontario College Credential as required by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

As a graduate, you will be prepared to reliably demonstrate the ability to:

- Outline the steps necessary to function effectively, efficiently, and professionally in a recording studio to maximize time and resources in the production of music.
- Participate in the production of a three-song Demo CD for distribution through traditional and emerging internet markets.
- Explain how to use both traditional and social media for personal career promotion.
- Explain the legal, regulatory, and publishing framework for commercial exploitation of original works of music and lyrics.
- Outline the processes and procedures for registering, owning, and operating a small music business.

- Identify the components of effective funding applications and grant requests for public and private organizations.
- Discuss the steps necessary in planning, organizing, and executing a performance tour.
- Write music or lyrics alone or in collaboration with other artists.
- Incorporate performance components of successful artists to improve personal live performances and interviews.
- Use private and group instruction to improve performance in an instrument of choice.
- Use group instruction to improve vocal performances.
- Assess potential opportunities for pursuing a professional career in the music industry.
- Select elements of commercially successful songs that can be incorporated into song writing and performances.

Admission Requirements

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), or equivalent, or a mature applicant (<https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/registrar/canadian-applicants/admission-requirements/mature-applicants.html>)
- English: Grade 12 C or U, or equivalent course
- Music performance video

Canadian citizens and permanent residents may meet English requirements for this program through successful Seneca pre-admission testing (<https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/registrar/canadian-applicants/admission-requirements/mature-applicants.html>).

Recommended upgrading for applicants who do not meet academic subject requirements (<https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/registrar/canadian-applicants/admission-requirements/upgrading-options.html>).

Additional Information

Your music performance should include the following.

- One or two videos performing an original composition and a second song of your choice
- The second song may be an original, a cover or a co-written piece
- The recording(s) must be a video of a live performance, not a lip-synced video
- Ideally, you will be accompanying yourself on the keyboard or a stringed instrument of your choice
- If performing to a pre-recorded backing track, indicate the source of that track and provide appropriate credits

International Student Information

International admissions requirements vary by program and in addition to English requirements (<https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/international/apply/how-to-apply/admission-requirements/english-requirements.html>), programs may require credits in mathematics, biology, and chemistry at a level equivalent to Ontario's curriculum, or a postsecondary degree or diploma, equivalent to an Ontario university or college. Program-specific pre-requisite courses and credentials are listed with the admission requirements on each program page. To review the academic requirements please visit: Academic Requirements - Seneca, Toronto, Canada ([senecapolytechnic.ca](https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/international/apply/how-to-apply/admission-requirements/academic-requirements.html)) (<https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/international/apply/how-to-apply/admission-requirements/academic-requirements.html>).

Pathways

As a leader in academic pathways, we offer a range of options that will allow you to take your credential further in another Seneca program or a program at a partner institution.

To learn more about your eligibility, visit the Academic Pathways (<https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/pathways.html>) web page.