

Recording Engineer

Chad Dickey

5/8/09

2nd Period

A recording engineer would be a perfect career for me since I have such a strong interest in music and technology. My personality and strong work ethic is a match for this career. I am preparing for this career by consulting with people who have worked in the music business and have been to school for recording engineering. I am also doing my best in school and researching colleges I can attend. It is a real art and a skill to be able to mix music in the correct way (Field 38).

Recording engineering is a technician that operates audio consoles to mix sound and uses dubbing machines to play back edited dialog, music, and sound effect tracks to create records (“Recording”). They can also add many effects such as echoes, delays, speeding up or slowing down tempos, and fine-tuning voices (“Recording”). I would be manipulating sound to please my client's desires (“Recording”).

There are common assignments I would be responsible for doing daily. I would be operating recording consoles and computers, microphones, and sound processing equipment (“Recording”). This would change the signals from microphone or line inputs to instruments that are using audio signals that can be sent to multi-track recording machines or digital audio processors that record the audio to a hard disk (“Recording”). I may also have to mix, combine, or edit recordings to create mastered tapes (“Recording”).

The starting salary for a recording engineer is around \$20,000 per year (“Music”). As I move up my salary will vary between my position, my skill, and who I am working with (Field 39). The best location for achieving a position is New York, Nashville, or Los Angeles (Field 38). There are many other locations for a recording engineer to be employed in the U.S. (Field 38).

There are many reasons why this is the career for me. I have great ear for music, and hearing the slightest changes in tone or notes of the music in which I would be recording (Field 38). Another reason this is the career for me is because I enjoy working with equipment that is used in the recording process. My appreciation for music is great, this makes me understand how artist feel about their work and how it is being presented and treated. The other reasons I am a great match for this career is that I also have the stamina and patience to work on records for long and unusual hours (Field 38).

In this career I also have to be able to troubleshoot the equipment and the songs I am working with (Field 38). I will also have to undergo criticism of how artist feel about the way their record is being portrayed (“Recording”). I am required to have good communication skills will clients, and I need to be able to work with artist whom may have big egos, while being in a very intense environment (Field 38).

Recording engineering is a very difficult job to obtain (“Recording”). I may start off in my career as assistance engineer or a gofer. Some of the other careers I can obtain are chief engineer (oversees the work of other engineers) (Field 39), and free lance producer (works for themselves and has no ties to a specific studio) (Field39), but these are at the top of the career ladder.

As entry-level engineers I wouldn't have any creative control over a project (“Music”). More experienced recording engineers will be able to make suggestions to their clients as to how the sound quality can be improved and the song can be improved by adding or removing certain lyrical content (“Recording”).

While in school I can acquire a postsecondary degree certificate or diploma that will help when working to get employed as a recording engineer (“Music”). There are no

required certificates or diplomas surpassing a high school diploma when trying to become employed as a recording engineer (“Recording”). Most recording engineers acquire their knowledge over time by working with equipment in their jobs (“Recording”).

An understanding of musical theory and harmony is a key thing when being a recording engineer (“Recording”). Training in this area is difficult and very few colleges offer these courses (“Music”). Some technical schools, colleges, and music stores offer courses (“Recording”). In college I may be put into a working placement through a school training program or have to volunteer at a cable station or radio station to get certification (Smith 72).

Ergo, recording engineering will be the perfect career for me, because of my love for music and my ample musical ear will help me in achieving this career. I would also be great at giving my clients constructive criticism about how their music could sound better. I love technology and learning new things. This would be my ideal career and is the goal that I plan to achieve.

Work Cited

Field, Shelly. *Career Opportunities in the Music Industry*. New York: Ferguson, 2004.

“Music Recording Technicians.” *Tech Careers*. Volume 2.

“Recording Engineer.” *Schools in the USA*. 2009. 15 Apr. 2009. <www.schoolsintheusa.com/profiles_detail.cfm?carid=1078>.

Smith, Ricardo J. *Recording Music*. New York: Random House, 2001.