

Guitar Repair and Building

Red Wing Campus

OVERVIEW

Located on Minnesota State College Southeast's Red Wing campus, the Guitar Repair & Building program prepares students for a career in lutherie. Experience hands-on learning as you progress from basic repairs to the step-by-step process of building an acoustic guitar!

Beginning with the correct use of power and hand tools, our students gain a thorough understanding of woods, adhesives, history, and materials related to fretted instruments. You will practice a variety of common repairs and learn acoustic and electric guitar set-up, fretwork, finishing, and how to perform neck resets.

No previous woodworking experience or musical ability is required, but successful students are detail-oriented, highly motivated, and have the ability to sit at a workbench and stay focused on their work all day.

- First year guitar students build a flat-top steel string or classical guitar in Guitar Repair & Building and also have the option to build an electric guitar.
- Second year students can choose to build a mandolin or archtop guitar and will also design and build their own acoustic guitar, electric guitar, or mandolin as part of the Guitar Development & Production diploma.

Our graduates are in high demand, working with music stores, independent repair shops, and instrument manufacturers. For more information, visit redwingmusicrepair.org.

MAJORS WITHIN

Electric Guitar Building	Certificate	17 credits
Guitar Development and Production	Diploma	37 credits
Guitar Repair and Building	Diploma	37 credits

Estimated costs for each major including tuition, books and supplies are posted on southeastmn.edu under Academics > Academic Programs by Degree.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Program graduates will be able to:

1. Diagnose, adjust, and repair, set ups, action, and intonation.
2. Identify and understand parts and materials, and their use and characteristics.
3. Safely and accurately use hand and power tools.
4. Design and build a string instrument.
5. Diagnose, estimate costs, and perform most guitar repairs.
6. Perform finishing processes and touch up.
7. Use the math, communications, and computer skills needed in lutherie.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Unique in length and comprehensiveness in the United States

Additional career for musicians and teachers

No previous musical or woodworking experience necessary

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Music Stores
Repair Shops
Guitar Makers
Entrepreneurial Opportunities

JOB PLACEMENT

80%

Guitar Repair and Building

Sample Program Plan

Please note that this is a sample program schedule. Your schedule may vary depending upon your needs, goals, and course availability.
Please meet with your advisor to plan your schedule each semester.

Guitar Repair and Building - Diploma

Course No.	Course Name	Credits
Fall Semester		
GTRB1400	Introduction to Tools	3
GTRB1405	Guitar Overview	2
GTRB1411	Acoustic Guitar Work	3
GTRB1412	Electric Guitar Work	3
GTRB1416	Guitar Electronics	1
GTRB1420	Acoustic Guitar Neck Resets	2
GTRB1425	Fretwork	3
GTRB1430	Guitar Acoustics	1
	Math requirement	2
Semester total		20
Spring Semester		
GTRB1441	Acoustic Construction Lecture	3
GTRB1445	Acoustic Guitar Construction Lab	6
GTRB1450	Introduction to Finishing	4
GTRB1451	Guitar Finish Application	1
GTRB1455	Guitar Repairs	3
Semester total		17
Total Required Credits		37

Guitar Development and Production - Diploma

Course No.	Course Name	Credits
First Semester		
GTRB2402	Guitar Repair Shop	4
GTRB2416	Computer Drafting for Guitar	4
GTRB2417	CNC for Guitar Lecture	1
GTRB2419	CNC for Guitar Lab	1
GTRB2425	Archtop Guitar/Mandolin Construction	6
GTRB2442	French Polishing	2
Semester total		18
Spring Semester		
GTRB2432	Advanced Construction Project	9
GTRB2450	Advanced Finishing	4
GTRB2455	Archtop/Mandolin Construction II	6
Semester total		19
Total Required Credits		37

Electric Guitar Building - Certificate

Course No.	Course Name	Credits
Fall Semester		
GTRB1405	Guitar Overview	2
GTRB1412	Electric Guitar Work	3
GTRB1417	Electric Guitar Design	1
GTRB1425	Fretwork	3
Semester total		9
Spring Semester		
GTRB1418	Electric Guitar Construction	4
GTRB1450	Introduction to Finishing	4
Semester total		8
Total Required Credits		17