



Support Document for External High School Accreditation and Excused Absences

Name of Organization	RCM Certificate Program
Address	The RCM Certificate Program 60 Industrial Parkway, Suite 882
	Cheektowaga, NY
	14227-2713
Website	rcmusic.com
Phone Number	1-866-716-2223

Organizational Background

For 130 years, the RCM Certificate Program has provided an unparalleled music education to millions of individuals from across North America. Today, the RCM program of music study and assessment is considered the preeminent music education system in many countries around the world. This program provides an effectively sequenced system of music study from beginner to advanced levels, and is recognized by international music schools, universities and colleges, orchestras, and ensembles.

The RCM Certificate Program is a comprehensive and effectively sequenced system of music study and standard of assessment that provides a clear path for well-rounded musical training. It is available for 21 instruments plus voice, and encompasses:

- Ten levels (1-10) plus Preparatory Levels and Professional Diploma designations.
- Repertoire, etudes, ear tests, intervals, chords, playbacks/singbacks, and sight reading at each level.
- The academic subjects of theory, harmony, analysis, and history.

Theory and Instrumental programs offered:

Accordion	Harpichord	Trumpet	Analysis
Bassoon	Oboe	Tuba	Theory
Clarinet	Organ	Viola	Harmony
Euphonium	Percussion	Violin	
Flute	Piano	Violincello	
French Horn	Recorder	Voice	
Guitar	Saxophone		
Harp	Trombone		

Number of hours required to complete the course

As a student progresses through each level of the RCM Certificate Program, more time and effort is needed to successfully master the increasing technical and artistic challenges associated with each level. Although the time required is variable depending on level of study and age of the candidate, it is generally expected that a weekly lesson and/or class with an instructor is combined with daily practice for several months to a year prior to the examination. A typical schedule might involve the following estimated hours:

Practical Examinations

Intermediate Level (Level 5 to Level 8)

36 hours of instruction for each level, with minimum of 140 hours of individual practice time.

Advanced Level (Grade 9 to Grade 10)

Minimum 36 hours of instruction for each level, with minimum of 200 hours of individual practice time.

Theoretical Examinations

Level 5

18 hours of instruction, with minimum of 36 hours of individual homework time

Level 6 or 7

18 hours of instruction, with minimum of 36 hours of individual homework time

Level 8

24 hours of instruction, with minimum of 45 hours of individual homework time

Benefits of Providing Accreditation

The hours of lesson and practice time required to complete a RCM Certificate Program credit are at least equal to, and often exceed, the hours required to earn a high school music credit.

Recognition can be earned for instruments and disciplines that may not be available in the high school curriculum, to reflect the hard work of these students.

Students without access to high school music programs in their local schools can complete mandated curriculum expectations at no cost to the school.

Assessment

A student will successfully complete a practical (performance) assessment and a theory (written) assessment at the end of each level in order to receive a comprehensive certificate.

Theory Corequisites required for each of Levels 5-10

Level	5	6	7	8	9	10
Required Examinations (C=Corequisite)						
Level 5 Theory	C					
Level 6 Theory		C				
Level 7 Theory			C			
Level 8 Theory				C		
Level 9 Harmony					C	
Level 10 Harmony & Counterpoint						C
Level 9 History					C	
Level 10 History						C

Benefits of Regular Assessment

Formal assessment is an important part of the learning process, and the RCM Certificate Program provides an international standard for students, parents, and teachers to track and measure progress and achievements, encouraging the continued pursuit of excellence. Regular evaluations have been shown to help motivate students and instill a sense of accomplishment as they complete each level.

Adjudication

Assessments are held three times a year in a network of examination centers across the country. An assessment is intended to be a positive and developmental experience. Practical assessments are conducted in a friendly and professional atmosphere on a one-on-one basis.

Each candidate taking a practical assessment receives a mark and a written evaluation. The adjudicator's professional and objective assessment of both strengths and weaknesses is intended to encourage candidates and enhance their continued studies. The candidate is assessed on each of performance, ear training (aural) and sight reading elements.

Theory examinations, designed to complement practical studies, begin at the level 5 practical level and are written in a classroom setting.

Detailed descriptions of the requirements for each assessment are available in the syllabi for each discipline for which assessments are offered. These syllabi are all available online. A full list of syllabi is on page 5.

Adjudicators are highly trained professional musicians and theorists from across North America. All adjudicators complete an Adjudicator Certification Program before being admitted to the College of Examiners. The College of Examiners is made up of over 300 distinguished professional teachers and performers from across North America. College members provide evaluations to students and teachers across North America. They are grouped according to their discipline and level of expertise. Members of the College of Examiners are chosen not only for their professional qualifications but also for their ability to interact constructively with assessment candidates.

Documentation

After the practical (performance) and theory (written) requirements have been met, the student will be mailed a comprehensive certificate. This official certificate from the RCM Certificate Program clearly identifies the student, the level, the instrument, and the academic standing.

The RCM Certificate Program maintains a database for the results of all examinations. At any time, a student can request a transcript which includes the total mark for each examination he/she has taken. All official results (including examiners' comments and a breakdown of marks) are kept on file. Candidates can access a copy of these results four to six weeks after each examination. Records are maintained indefinitely.

Grading

Each student will receive detailed marks with comments and a number grade. The certificate will reflect standing based on the following:

First Class Honors with Distinction: 90+

Only truly exceptional candidates achieve this standing. Candidates must demonstrate complete technical command and perform with a confident, masterful style. These candidates clearly demonstrate an authentic personal performance spark.

First Class Honors: 80-89

Candidates present a truly engaging and intelligent performance, displaying technical polish and finesse, definite and apt characterization, and a sense of spontaneity.

Honors 70-79

Candidates exhibit fairly thorough and careful preparation and demonstrate some interpretive skills. Repertoire is presented with overall command and accuracy. There is awareness and general security in technical elements.

Pass 60-69

Candidates exhibit only a very basic level of preparation. The examiner's report will reflect the areas that require further growth and development.

Note: The passing mark at the Diploma Level is 70.

Course materials

A syllabus is published or posted online for each discipline examined. Syllabi for the following instruments and disciplines can be found on the RCM website at

<https://www.rcmusic.com/learning/examinations/academic-resources-and-policies/syllabi>

Accordion	Piano
Bassoon	Piano – Associate Diploma in Piano Pedagogy
Cello	Piano – Licentiate Diploma in Piano Performance
Clarinet	Recorder
Double Bass	Saxophone
Euphonium	Theory
French Horn	Trombone
Guitar	Trumpet
Harp	Tuba
Harpsichord	Viola
Oboe	Violin
Organ	Voice
Percussion	

External Recognition and Accreditation

The RCM Certificate Program system of music education is recognized as an international leader in providing standardized music evaluations for all levels of study. Each year, more than 100,000 students across North America participate in the internationally recognized RCM Certificate Program.

As reference, in all Canadian provinces achievement in The Royal Conservatory is accepted as credit toward secondary school credits. An updated list of credits available in each province is listed at <https://www.rcmusic.com/learning/examinations/recognition-accomplishment/high-school-credits-canada>