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New music degrees offered

Starting in September, the B.C. Open University and Capilano College in North Vancouver will jointly offer the first Bachelor of Music Therapy degree in Western Canada.

The Canadian Association of Music Therapy has set a bachelor's degree as the minimum standard for accreditation within two years. The new four-year program will enable students and practicing music therapists to meet this standard.

Students may take the entire program at Capilano College and receive a degree from the Open University. The first two years of the program consists of background courses in areas such as music, general arts, education or health. These may be taken at Capilano College or other post-secondary institutions. The final two years are devoted specifically to music therap[y].

Capilano College pioneered music therapy education in Canada with the introduction of a diploma program in 1976. Music therapy uses music as a therapeutic tool to restore, maintain and improve the clients' mental, physical and emotional health.