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## Information for Undergraduate Financial Aid

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### Financial Aid Application for All Undergraduate Applicants

Upon admission to the Eastman School of Music, **merit scholarships** (if requested in the application) are assigned to all undergraduate applicants. Eastman's merit scholarships are based on a successful candidate's qualifications and assessed performance level, relevant to their peer group of other admitted candidates, and typically within their department. Direct comparisons of merit scholarships between departments and specific instruments are harder to assess, given the nature of different degree programs of study; however, the Director of Financial Aid (in consultation with the Director of Admissions) takes everything in the admissions file into account, including the faculty-assessed performance level when making decisions about merit scholarship aid. New undergraduate students are typically assigned a merit scholarship within a particular range of scholarship support, with some exceptions. After merit decisions are made, if need-based consideration has been requested, a student is first considered for Eastman's need-based scholarships (based on FAFSA information) which may affect the amount of the overall award; following this, need-based Federal financial aid (loans, grants, federal work study, etc.) is awarded, again based on eligibility and information provided. In this regard, our process can be described as **"merit-based, need-informed"**. Due to a limit in available funding, Eastman's financial aid packages will not always meet a student's full calculated need. Our goal is to direct our financial aid support where it is both most deserved and most needed, to help facilitate the enrollment decisions of our preferred candidates.

Eligibility for any need-based aid requires applicants who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents to have a valid U.S. social security number on record; additionally, all applicants and their families are required to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Admitted candidates will be awarded a financial aid package based on the information in the admission file and the information provided to the Eastman Financial Aid Office. A description of the financial aid process at Eastman is available on our website:

<http://www.esm.rochester.edu/financialaid>

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### FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) - Need-Based Financial Aid for U.S. citizens and permanent residents

- File your FAFSA online at [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov). Use estimated Federal income information for 2009 (to be filed in 2010) or your completed 2009 Federal Tax Return. Be sure to make corrections to your online FAFSA after filing your 2009 Federal Tax Return.
  - Enter the Eastman code (**008124**) to have your FAFSA data sent electronically to Eastman.
  - Once the FAFSA is processed, keep the Student Air Report that you will receive. Do not send it to Eastman.
  - For the quickest aid determination (to have your completed financial aid award by April 1), file after January 1, but before February 28.
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### TRANSFER APPLICANTS:

As an accredited school of the **National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)**, the Eastman School of Music follows all admissions policies recommended or required by NASM. Transfer students must submit our NASM release form found in the application to be eligible for Eastman merit-based financial aid. In accordance with the NASM Code of Ethics, no offer of admission with merit-based financial aid will be made to transfer students who have not submitted this completed form, even if you are currently attending a school that is not accredited by NASM.

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### INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS:

Those who are not U.S. citizens and not permanent residents are considered for merit scholarships using the same criteria as those used for U.S. applicants. We also encourage international students to apply for scholarships in their home country. International applicants are not eligible for any U.S. Federal need-based aid.

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## UNDERGRADUATE FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

- In January, the Admissions Office will notify you of your admission status with regard to either prescreening (if applicable) and/or the materials required for your admissions file.
- By February 1 at the latest, make sure your admissions application is complete (The Admissions Office notifies active applicants of their file material status by the end of January).
- Your application cannot be reviewed if items (recommendations, transcripts, etc.) are missing.

### Merit Scholarships

- Merit scholarships are based on everything in the admissions file including the faculty assessed performance level.
- If you do not want to be considered for merit scholarship, indicate that on the online application.

### Need-Based Aid

- To be considered for Eastman, Federal or State need-based aid, you must complete the FAFSA. This form is mandatory for all need-based aid consideration.
- Late filing of the FAFSA will delay the completion of your financial aid package and may affect the availability of funds.
- A High School Graduation or its equivalent is required for eligibility for Federal need-based aid.
- If you do not want to be considered for need-based aid, indicate that on the online application.
- International students (who are neither U.S. citizens nor permanent residents) do not qualify for federal need-based aid.

### Transfer Applicants

- If you are currently enrolled in a member school of NASM (National Association of Schools of Music), have your music school sign Eastman's NASM Release Form.
- As a member of NASM, Eastman cannot ethically offer you merit-based financial assistance without this release.

### Dual Degree Candidates (Applicants to the Eastman School of Music and the College of Arts, Sciences and Engineering of the U. of Rochester)

- All financial aid documents must be submitted to both Eastman's and the College's Office of Financial Aid. Both Federal School Codes must be listed on the FAFSA: **Eastman (008124)**, **the College (002894)**. Additionally, the College requires a CSS Profile application. The College CSS Profile school code is **2928** and their priority deadline is **February 1**. Both Eastman and/or the College will offer you a financial aid package, but not without your required documents. By May 1<sup>st</sup> you will have to decide whether to accept the package from Eastman **or** the College, and we will contact you to discuss which package is recommended.
- Dual degree students (students working on two degrees - a BM and a BA or BS) pay only one tuition to the University, and have only one scholarship package in support of that tuition: either the package offered by Eastman or the package from the College. The scholarship package you select will determine whether the University of Rochester College of Arts, Sciences and Engineering **or** The Eastman School of Music is the student's ultimate billing campus. Dual Degree students may reside on either campus, regardless of the financial aid package chosen.

### Outside Scholarships

- All applicants are encouraged to look for outside scholarships. We suggest looking at music clubs, service clubs, city and state organizations, competitions, and searching the internet. For a starting point, we recommend [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com). You must report any outside scholarships to the Eastman Financial Aid Office.

### Some answers to other questions...

- You will generally receive your financial aid package with your letter of acceptance.
- If you maintain status as a full-time student with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and are making satisfactory progress in your degree studies, your merit scholarship will be renewed through all 8 semesters of study (up to 10 semesters for entering Dual Degree students, for a regular 5 year program).
- Eligibility for all **need-based** financial aid requires annual filing of the FAFSA. Need-based aid may change from year to year depending on changes in family income and circumstances, as reported in the FAFSA. Students are responsible for timely submission of the necessary paperwork to be fully eligible for the annual review of all need-based funds.