From Eastman’s Academic Policy Handbook:

02.05.05 Auditing a Course

Students may register to audit certain courses that are not required in their degree programs. Courses which require the registrant’s active participation (e.g., ensembles, opera theater, applied music instruction) are not appropriate for audit registration. Auditors may not contribute to class discussion nor will any class work they do be evaluated by the instructor. They will receive neither grade nor credit for the audited course. The fee for audit registration is listed on the University Bursar’s Office Schedule of Tuition & Fees [www.rochester.edu/adminfinance/bursar/charges.htm](http://www.rochester.edu/adminfinance/bursar/charges.htm).

Permission to audit must be obtained in writing from the instructor, and any change of registration from credit to audit (or vice versa) must be accomplished before the end of the fourth week of classes. Before student audit status is approved, the prospective auditor must reach agreement with the professor of the course to be audited concerning attendance or other expectations to be met by the student.

From the College, University of Rochester:

Auditing a course within Arts, Sciences and Engineering related to a degree program is permitted for full-time and part-time graduate students when approved by the course instructor. There is a fee to audit a course that is not covered by tuition scholarship. PhD students may petition to have this fee covered by the Dean’s Office if the audit is required as part of the student’s program of study. The petition to cover the audit fee must be submitted before the end of the Add/Drop period via the Audit Fee Waiver Request Form, which must be signed by the student's faculty advisor and the course instructor.

The audited course will appear on the student’s transcript provided the student attends throughout the course. Students who wish to receive credit for such a course may do so by (1) changing the registration in the office of the graduate registrar prior to the end of the sixth full week of classes in a given semester, and (2) paying the required tuition for the course. Note that once a course has been audited, it cannot be repeated for credit without prior approval of the Dean of Graduate Studies.

From UR College Center for Advising Services (CCAS):

Full-time students in the College may audit a course and receive no academic credit with no extra tuition charge during the academic year. “Audit” courses are not recorded on the student’s transcript. The student needs only the oral permission of the instructor to attend the course. Students may not change from “credit” to “audit” after the fourth week of the semester.
Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University:

A course audit does not count towards the number of credit hours required for full-time status. It is not possible to audit courses that require any sort of class participation, such as lessons, chamber music or repertoire classes, and it is not possible to audit any graduate review courses to prepare for the graduate entrance exams. An audited class will not fulfill any degree requirements.

The Jacobs School of Music of Indiana University has a long tradition of openness in its performing and academic activities. Students and visitors to the campus may benefit from opportunities to attend lectures, rehearsals, lessons, or other activities. These activities may range from informal observation for a limited number of sessions to the following regulations:

Permission to observe classes informally is at the discretion of the supervising teacher. Limitations in seating capacity may make it impossible to include auditors or observers. Permission to audit formally (i.e., with registration and fees) is primarily the responsibility of the supervising teacher, but is subject to the following regulations:

1. Students may not register as auditors for any class that involves class participation. This includes classes in written theory, sight singing, ear training and keyboard, instrumental techniques, ballet, and others. To determine if a class falls under this provision, the student should consult the chair of the department in which the class is given.

2. Students may register as auditors for music performance classes (applied music), but they will not be counted as part of the faculty load, and they will not perform themselves. To observe or audit a lesson, students must have permission not only from the supervising teacher, but also from the student whose lesson is being heard.

3. Formal auditing or informal observation of classes is not intended as preparation for exemption or proficiency tests. Permission to observe or audit a class may be denied by the supervising faculty member on this basis.

4. Music majors may not audit graduate review courses in music theory. They may audit graduate review courses in music history and literature only if they have no more opportunities remaining to take the graduate entrance proficiency examinations.

5. Official audit status for a class requires the approval of the professor in charge. During the first week of classes, the student should obtain written approval from the professor. This approval will need to be taken to the Registrar’s Office so that they can add the class to the student’s schedule as an auditor. There is a fee of $25/credit hour.

6. No class that has been officially audited may be used towards degree credit of any kind in the Jacobs School of Music unless (a) the student passes a validation examination and any other requirements of the course under the supervision of the professor teaching the course, (b) the student has met any prerequisites for the course (to be verified by the approving faculty member), and (c) the student pays full tuition for the course.
Indiana University Bloomington:

Interested in a class, but don’t want to worry about how it’ll affect your GPA? You can take the class for no credit, which is known as auditing a class. Audited classes aren’t counted as completed academic credit and don’t count toward certification. They’ll be listed on your grade report and on your transcript as “NC” (no credit). You won’t receive a grade for classes you audit.

Each school and department can choose whether or not to allow students to audit a class. Talk to your advisor, and check with the program you’re interested in to see what its policies and requirements are for auditing. Note that in some cases, you will not be able to get permission to audit a class.

Spanish classes and Kelley School of Business undergraduate classes can’t be audited. You may audit Maurer School of Law courses only if you are a degree-seeking graduate student.

Audit one class

If you’re enrolled in one or more classes for credit and want to audit only one course, you can submit your request on or after the day you register for the term. You’ll need to have an audit authorization signed by each course department and return it to Student Central using our secure contact form.

Northwestern University:

(Auditing is only discussed for The Graduate School (not the Bienen School of Music) and for summer music seminars)

From The Graduate School: “Course auditors are not given formal recognition by either TGS or the Registrar. The auditing of any graduate course without formal registration by full-time graduate students in good standing is permitted depending on the limitations of space and facilities, and permission of the instructor.”

University of Michigan:

From the Rackham Graduate School Academic Policies, Section 4 entitled, "Coursework, Grading and Academic Standing"@ rackham.umich.edu/policies/academic_policies/section4/

With permission of the advisor and the course instructor, a student may enroll in a course as a visitor (auditor) rather than for credit. A notation of “VI” appears on the transcript when the course is completed successfully (section 4.5). After a grade has been issued, a course may not be changed from letter grade to visit (audit) status, or vice versa. A visit (audit) will not be counted toward degree credit requirements. Full fees will be assessed at the current rate of tuition. After registering for the course online via Wolverine Access, the student must register for this status in person at the Registrar’s Office and present a Drop/Add form with the signatures of both the instructor and the student’s department graduate chair or advisor. Before enrolling, the student must confer with the instructor to reach an agreement on what will constitute satisfactory completion of the course. The student is expected to attend class regularly and may be asked to submit assignments and take examinations. Elections of
visited (audited) courses must appear on the class schedule printout provided at registration. Students should check their class schedule printouts for accuracy and completeness.

**Juilliard:** – no mention of auditing courses

**Peabody:** – Audit mentioned, but no definition

**Yale:** – one policy for College and the graduate/professional schools of the university:

It is the usual expectation that an auditor does not take tests or examinations or write papers for a course for evaluation by the instructor. Occasionally, however, an auditor may wish to do such work and may request the instructor to evaluate it. If the instructor wishes to cooperate with the auditor in this way, the instructor does so on a voluntary basis and not as an obligation.

The University Registrar’s Office does not keep a record of courses audited. It is not possible, therefore, for a student’s transcript to show that a course has been audited, or for a transcript to be issued that records the auditing of a course.