

## **Prospective Undergraduate Students - Appealing Your Financial Aid Offer**

**Who should appeal?** If Eastman is where you want to be, and the cost is standing in the way, that is a basis for an appeal. We give priority to appeals that are based on financial need, beginning with those for whom there is a gap between the cost of attendance (COA) and the expected family contribution (EFC) plus the aid offered (COA – EFC + scholarship/student loans = gap).

We will also consider appeals based on changes in circumstances (job loss, for example). If the income reported on the FAFSA for 2021 is significantly higher than in 2022, for example, you should contact our Financial Aid Office about this change.

And finally, while we don't request competing offers, we will review an appeal based on them if you send them to us (as long as all other requested information has also been provided). But ultimately, the question behind the appeal is not whether another school is less costly for you, but how close we are to making Eastman affordable for you if it is where you would prefer to enroll.

### **Before appealing your financial aid offer, consider the following facts and questions**

Eastman is not able to meet demonstrated need for all students. There may be a gap between your FAFSA-generated EFC + the aid in your package and the total cost of attendance. This can be the basis of an appeal, but it should be pursued with the understanding that we will not necessarily be able to close the gap entirely.

61% of Eastman students are taking out the standard student loans, which results in post-baccalaureate student debt of approx. \$25-27K.

Before starting an appeal, consider the additional amount you will be requesting, keeping in mind that we put forward as strong an offer as we can to begin with, and have very little wiggle room to work with.

Be sure you have submitted FAFSA to Eastman School of Music (school code 008124). We don't consider an appeal without a completed FAFSA, and may in some cases request a CSS Profile in order to get a better picture of the family's finances.

**The role of faculty:** at Eastman, the faculty are not involved in financial aid decisions. While they play a critical role in rating auditions, and are certainly hoping we are making it possible for you to attend, decisions about scholarship levels are determined by the Associate Dean of Admissions and Enrollment and the Director of Financial Aid, based on a budget established by the Dean of the School and the Director of Finance.

To start an appeal, write to [financialaid@esm.rochester.edu](mailto:financialaid@esm.rochester.edu) or call 585-274-1070