UNDERGRADUATE FINANCIAL AID HANDBOOK

Eastman School of Music • ACADEMIC YEAR 2026–27

MELIORA

University of Rochester
Eastman School of Music

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An Introduction to Financial Aid

PURPOSE OF FINANCIAL AID

The purpose of the Eastman School of Music's financial aid program is to provide an opportunity for students and families to be able to afford the cost of attendance. Eastman's financial aid consists of need-informed merit as well as state and federal grants, loan programs and work. Merit scholarships are awarded to recognize academic and musical achievement based on the applicant's audition and a review of their admissions application as part of the admissions process. The merit award may be adjusted slightly based on the family's size and financial information. Eastman is committed to making attendance at our University as affordable as possible for as many students as possible through a combination of scholarships, grants, loans, and student employment opportunities.

RECEIPT OF FINANCIAL AID

Receipt of any Eastman scholarship aid requires full-time enrollment. Funds will not be advanced to you or applied to your account until registration is complete. Full-time enrollment refers to registering for at least twelve credit hours per semester. During the summer enrollment period, federal aid may be available to students attending full-time or part-time studies. Check with the financial aid office to determine if your program and enrollment qualify.

Calculation of Financial Need

ESTIMATED COST OF ATTENDANCE

The cost of attendance used to calculate your financial need is in the table below. *These figures represent the actual amounts for the 2026-27 academic year, as approved by the Board of Trustees in March. Not all of these figures represent direct costs, meaning you do not pay these dollars directly to the Eastman School of Music.*
Housing and Food charges may vary based on selected options.

Cost of Attendance Academic Year 2026–27	**Residential Students**	**Off-Campus Students**	**Students Living with Parents**
Tuition	$71,750	$71,750	$71,750
Mandatory Fees (activity, health, comprehensive)**	$2,384	$2,384	$2,384
Housing/Food Allowance	$21,328	$12,386	$6,670
Personal Expenses	$1,022	$1,022	$1,022
Transportation*	$600	$600	$600
Total	**$97,084**	**$88,142**	**$82,426**

**Standard travel listed. Higher travel allowances exist for international students and most out-of-state residents.*
***including an orientation & first year fee of $392 for first-year students only. ***

Health Insurance: The Eastman School of Music requires that all students either participate in the College's health insurance plan or have comparable medical coverage. If you are covered by an existing policy that meets University standards, you may waive University-sponsored insurance. All full-time students are required to indicate their preference by completing the online Health Insurance Enrollment/Waiver process annually. The link is on the University Health Service home page at https://www.aetnastudenthealth.com/en/rochester/index.html. The form is removed from this page once the deadline has passed each year. Undergraduate students should complete this process by July 1 to avoid being charged for health insurance on the July billing statement.

Books: The cost of books is included in your tuition, and no additional expenses for books will be charged to you. Read more about the University's book program, UR Essentials, at (**https://www.rochester.edu/provost/for-students/ur-essentials/).**

Student Loan Fees: If a Federal Direct (Subsidized or Unsubsidized) Loan is included in your aid package or if your parents borrow a Federal PLUS Loan, an additional allowance will be added to your student expense budget for the Department of Education required loan origination fees. This fee is not a charge on your student account but rather a deduction from the credit that appears on your bill since the

Department of Education is the one that "collects" this fee. Check with the financial aid office to determine the exact amount of your fees, ensuring your billing statement accurately reflects what you expect.

Other Adjustments to the Student Expense Budget: The Financial Aid Office has some discretion in developing a realistic budget for an independent student's particular situation. If you are an independent student, the budget in your financial aid award may reflect adjustments to the standard budget to accommodate your circumstances.

ESTIMATED RESOURCES

Your financial aid award reflects our estimate of the resources available to you from federal, state, institutional, and private sources. This estimate is based on the need analysis methodology of the Department of Education (for domestic students) and/or the College Board (for international students) and adjusted in individual cases by university policy. Your eligibility for federal financial aid has been determined according to the procedures outlined in the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and review of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

DEPENDENT STUDENTS

Parent Contribution: The figure is based on information your parent(s) supplied in your financial aid application, on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and/or the CSS Profile form, and other documents. In addition to income and assets, individual financial circumstances are also considered. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Eastman Financial Aid Office.

You are responsible for notifying the Financial Aid Office at once of any substantial change in your family's situation, such as an increase or decrease in income or assets of more than $10,000, a loss of a job, etc. Any of these factors may cause a change in the calculation of your parent(s) contribution.

Student Income Contribution: Eastman expects financial aid recipients to save a significant portion of their earnings from employment so that they may share the costs of their education.

A total of $2,200 is the minimum amount you should plan to save from your income and use toward your college expenses. Your contribution is typically based on a calendar year's income that is two years prior to the application year and is equal to the greater of either a standard minimum amount or 50% of your income after allowances for taxes and other expenses. For the academic year 2026-2027, your information will be based on the 2024 income tax year.

Your earnings from employment may be less than the expected level because of summer school attendance, summer music participation, participation in voluntary community projects, or lack of employment opportunities. If this occurs, the shortfall will not result in an additional scholarship but may be offset by employment opportunities during the academic year or through a loan included in your financial aid package.

Student Asset Contribution: A contribution from your assets is determined by assuming that as much as 25% of your current savings and other assets, as reported on the FAFSA and/or CSS Profile, will be available for educational purposes.

Student's Other Resources and Benefits: If you indicated that you would receive assistance from other sources or benefits from a governmental agency, such as the Veterans Administration or vocational rehabilitation, these have been included in your estimated resources. If your benefit level changes during the academic year, you must inform the Financial Aid Office at once.

FINANCIAL NEED

Most financial aid at the Eastman School of Music is initially administered based on merit and then adjusted according to financial need. Need is shown if your estimated contributor resources are less than your student expense budget for the academic year. For example, if a year's educational costs are $90,000 and your Student Aid Index is $15,000, your need would be calculated as $75,000. Note that merit scholarships, grants, work, as well as loans, are used to meet need if one exists. Although we are unable to meet the full demonstrated need of all our students, we strive to make Eastman as affordable as possible for all admitted students.

If you are eligible for federal or state financial aid, you can expect your Student Aid Index to remain fairly consistent from year to year as long as your family circumstances remain stable. Prospective students are required to file the FAFSA for domestic students and the CSS Profile for international students to ensure eligibility is maximized. As a returning student, your merit aid will be renewed automatically (assuming you maintain satisfactory academic progress), and you will only need to file a FAFSA if you want to apply for federal student aid, such as Pell, SEOG, Federal Work Study, and Direct Loans.

Many factors are taken into consideration when calculating the Student Aid Index. Below are a few that may play a significant role in determining the financial need of dependent students:

Contributors' income: The higher a contributor's income is, the larger the expected contribution is likely to be, and if it is lower, the contribution is likely to be less. The need formulas are adjusted each year for inflation. If a contributor's income increases at the rate of inflation, the contributor's contribution— adjusted for inflation— should be about the same if other factors are the same.

Allowances against contributors' income: The need formulas consider various allowances against income. Some are basic, such as federal, state, and local income taxes, social security taxes, and basic family living expenses. Others are related to specific circumstances, such as medical and dental expenses, tax lien s, and support for extended family, among others. Some of these issues recur from year to year, while others do not. If we made extra allowances in one year, they may not be relevant in subsequent years. When reviewing financial aid applications for business owners, additional information, such as the IRS Schedule C, Schedule E, Forms 1120, 1120S, 1065, and/or K-1, may be required. Any business losses related to depreciation of business assets or property are not permitted to offset other forms of income and are, essentially, added back to income as part of the analysis.

Family assets: Certain family assets—home equity, other real estate equity, bank accounts, investments, businesses, and farms—are considered in calculating a contributor's contribution. The value or indebtedness of assets may change from year to year, especially if assets are used to pay part of the contributors' contribution. The values may also change because of economic conditions.

Family size: As children grow and move out, the number of people in the family may decrease. A change in family size may have some effect on the parents' contribution.

Number of children in college: The question about the number of children in college has been removed from the eligibility formula, although it is still being asked. Eastman will not be able to award additional gift aid due to more children in the family attending college.

Financial Aid Award

All students at Eastman receive a renewable merit award as part of their original admission offer. This is one piece of their financial aid package. Financial aid packages may also include self-help (employment and need-based and non-need-based loans) and gift aid (scholarships and need-based grants). Self-help requires you to work or borrow for a part of your educational expenses. Scholarships and grants do not require work or repayment. You do not have to accept aid offered in the form of self-help in order to receive gift aid from Eastman. Eastman, however, will not replace the self-help expectation with scholarship or grant assistance. No one is obligated to accept any portion of the package we offer. You may reduce or decline your loans or your job assistance and still keep your scholarships and grants.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

All admitted applicants, both domestic and international, are considered for merit scholarships. Eastman merit scholarships are awarded at the time of admission and are based on the applicant's musical and academic merits, the school's enrollment needs, and the applicant's financial need (this formula of awarding merit scholarships is called need-informed). Merit scholarships are generally awarded as an Eastman Undergraduate Merit Scholarship. The total amount of a student's merit award will remain the same each year, provided the student continues to meet satisfactory academic standards. Eastman's merit scholarships are four-year awards (up to 10 semesters for Dual Degree or the completion of their degree, whichever comes first). Transfer students' awards are renewable based on the entering class year (for example, three years for an entering sophomore).

You will receive one-half of the annual scholarship amount for up to eight semesters (up to ten semesters for Dual Degree or the completion of your degree requirements, whichever comes first) of full-time undergraduate enrollment, provided you remain in good standing, make satisfactory academic progress towards your degree and maintain a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.0 or higher. An undergraduate's merit scholarship will have a monetary reduction each semester if the CGPA falls below 3.0 or if these expectations are not met. Award amounts do not increase with tuition and fee increases.

SELF-HELP

The first portion of financial need, after merit-based aid, is usually met with aid in the form of self-help. In some cases, self-help is reduced due to outside scholarships, or a student's income contribution exceeds the usual expected level.

ACADEMIC YEAR EMPLOYMENT

The usual expectation is that you will be able to earn a minimum of $2,000 from need-based employment during the academic year. This represents approximately five hours of work on campus per week. An individual student may be eligible for more if their need, job, and schedule allow. Student earnings from academic year employment are used for out-of-pocket personal expenses. Due to your academic schedule or extracurricular activities, you may want to replace part or all of your academic year employment expectation with non-need-based borrowing. You may do so within the limits of the loan programs.

Please note that the Financial Aid Office cannot guarantee that you will be able to arrange a specific type or amount of work.

If you want to alter the amount of academic year employment in your financial aid package, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

There are two categories of academic year employment:

Federal Work-Study: A federal program under which students with financial need may be employed either on campus by the University or off campus by a governmental agency or non-profit organization in nonsectarian and nonpartisan activities in the public interest. Wages are paid through a combination of funds from the federal government and the Eastman School of Music. The amount you may earn through academic year need-based employment is shown in your award. You may not earn more than the need-based employment limit. If you reach your limit before the end of the academic year, you should contact the Financial Aid Office to see if an increase is possible. In some cases, you can continue to work as a campus student employee and don't need to change your job position. There may also be cases where you need to find alternative employment, referred to as Campus Employment.

Campus Employment: Work on campus without regard to your financial need and for which the College bears the full cost of compensation.

Limits on Work Hours: *In general, you should not work more than 20 hours a week during any week in which classes are held, and no more than 40 hours a week at other times, including summer. US students who exceed these limits may jeopardize their status as a "full-time student" under Internal Revenue Service rules, which could affect their parents' ability to claim federal education tax credits for them and may subject them to FICA taxes during the school year. International students who exceed these limits may jeopardize their student visa status.*

Work Opportunities: *On-campus employment opportunities include work in the Concert Office, the Sibley Music Library, the Student Living Center, Eastman's food service and administrative offices, to name a few. The current hourly wage for on-campus student employment begins at $16.00. Paychecks are issued directly to the student employees on a biweekly basis. It is the students' responsibility to see that their hours of employment are properly recorded and submitted to their supervisor for timely approval.*

Resident Assistant (RA) Positions: *RA positions are available through a highly competitive Application and training process with appointments made for one academic year. RA positions are paid through an annual stipend. Per federal regulations, this amount is included as part of the financial aid award. The RA stipend replaces items in the financial aid package in the following order: unmet federal need, Federal Work Study, Federal Unsubsidized Loans, and Federal Subsidized Loans. Since every financial aid application is different, if you have questions, contact the Eastman Financial Aid Office.*

STUDENT LOANS

Subsidized and Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans are included in initial financial student notifications. Eastman School of Music believes that the self-help expectations cited in your award are reasonable and realistic. If you fall short of the expected level of student income contribution and/or want to reduce the expected level of academic year earnings, you should weigh very carefully a decision to undertake an additional student loan.

If you have exhausted all of your Federal loan options and are in need of additional borrowing assistance, you may want to pursue an Alternative Loan. Alternative educational loans are private loans (non-federal) offered through banks, lenders, or credit unions to supplement financial aid awards. The Eastman School of Music is required to certify these loans to ensure that the loan amount does not exceed the cost of attendance after all other financial aid. Most alternative loans are disbursed equally into student accounts according to enrollment plans. We encourage students and their families to consider alternative loans after researching their interest rates and repayment rules and carefully comparing those to all federal loan options. If you decide that an alternative loan is right for you, you may borrow from any lender you choose. When choosing a lender for an alternative loan, consider the following factors:

loan costs (including interest rates and fees), borrower benefits and discounts, and the lender's reputation for customer service. For assistance in reviewing private loan options, visit **(https://www.elmselect.com).**

NEED-BASED GRANTS

Need-based grants—gift aid— are for U.S. citizens or permanent residents and may be included in your financial aid award if you are a high-need student and meet yearly financial requirements that are outlined in our packaging policies. All need-based grants are awarded after your merit-based grants and scholarships are applied to meet your need. Need-based scholarships and grants include:

- **Federal Pell Grant**
- **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)**
- **State Scholarship or Grant**
- **Outside Scholarships and Employer's Benefits**

Federal Pell Grant: If your financial aid package shows an amount for a Federal Pell Grant, we estimate that you are eligible for this program. Pell Grants are based on need as determined by completion of the FAFSA.

If you have not completed the FAFSA, please do so as soon as possible. This is the only way to apply for a Federal Pell Grant (or any other federal student financial aid). To apply, submit the FAFSA. You may complete the form at **studentaid.gov** using the Eastman School of Music's federal code, which is 008124.

Within a few days of submitting the FAFSA, you should receive an email with your FAFSA Submission Summary from the federal government. If you have not received your FAFSA Submission Summary within two weeks, please call (800) 433-3243. For international callers or those unable to make a toll-free call, please use the following number: (334) 523-2691. If you have listed the Eastman School of Music on your FAFSA, we will receive your FAFSA data electronically from the US Department of Education.

The information in your FAFSA Submission Summary must agree with your (and, if you are dependent, your contributors') federal income tax returns, with the CSS Profile data, and with any other information you have provided to us. If the information on the FAFSA Submission Summary is incorrect or does not match other information in your application, we must revise the information and submit the revised version to the federal government for reprocessing. If you have any questions about your FAFSA Submission Summary, please contact the Eastman Financial Aid Office.

Federal regulations require that we consider Pell eligibility before we assign other federal financial aid. Because of this, you must submit a timely Free Application for Federal Student Aid to ensure that your

Federal Pell Grant will be processed prior to the end of the academic year. If the academic year ends prior to the successful completion of processing your application, you will not be eligible to receive your Pell Grant. We cannot substitute any other financial aid for a lost Federal Pell Grant. Once successfully processed, your Federal Pell Grant will be credited to your student account in semester installments.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG): A federal program that provides grants of approximately $500–$2000 a year to students with the greatest financial need. Federal SEOG assistance will be credited to your account in semester installments. There is a limited amount of FSEOG given to each institution, so an on-time application increases your odds of being able to receive this if you are financially eligible.

State Scholarship or Grant: Residents of New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont are potentially eligible to receive a state scholarship or grant for use at the Eastman School of Music. Although there may be restrictions because of state reciprocity agreements, it is expected that you will apply for assistance through your state scholarship or grant program at the same time you complete your FAFSA.

If your financial aid package shows an amount for a state scholarship or grant, we anticipate that you are eligible for assistance from your state's program. If you are not eligible for a state award, you should notify the financial aid office immediately. If you are eligible for a state scholarship, but the aid is lost because you failed to submit a timely application or are not meeting minimum satisfactory academic progress requirements, Eastman will not replace this loss with its own funds. You can make up for this through additional borrowing or employment.

A state scholarship or grant will be credited to your account as soon as funds are received from the state agency.

Outside Scholarships and Employer's Benefits: If you have informed us of any assistance that you are to receive from organizations outside the University, this has been included in your financial aid notice. You must notify the Financial Aid Office if you receive any outside assistance, regardless of the amount. The University allows the amounts you receive in outside scholarships to replace self-help in the financial aid award. If self-help is completely replaced by outside aid, any excess amount may reduce grant or scholarship aid that would otherwise be provided by the Eastman School of Music. If you are receiving benefits from an employer, these funds may replace grants from Eastman, with any excess replacing self-help aid. An outside scholarship, including employer benefits, cannot be used to replace a part of your family resources; it must be taken into account in the financial aid award, in accordance with federal regulations and Eastman School of Music policy.

Outside scholarship funds will be credited to your account as soon as they are received from the donor organization.

529 Plans: Proceeds from College Savings or Prepaid Tuition Plans (established under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code) will not be reflected in your financial aid package. The full cash value of these funds are usually included in the calculation of your family contribution. Any proceeds to be used in the academic year must be accessible prior to the bill due date of each semester.

ENDOWED/NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

Eastman benefits from the income of many endowed/named scholarships. These funds help subsidize overall institutional student aid, allowing Eastman to plan in advance for a generous financial aid budget that includes both merit scholarships and grants. Many scholarships and grants offered by the Eastman School of Music are funded in part by generous donations from individuals and organizations. If you receive a scholarship funded by an individual, you may be asked to write a thank-you letter to the donor.

Receiving a named scholarship is made possible through the generous support of alumni, parents, friends, foundations, and corporations. These awards recognize academic achievement and other criteria designated by the donor, many times including financial need.

Verification Required

If your financial aid messages include the notation “Verification Required,” your financial aid application was selected by the Department of Education for verification of the data you supplied in the FAFSA. The Financial Aid Office is required to collect supporting documentation from you. No federal grants may be credited to your account, no federal loans may be approved for you, and no employment under the Federal Work-Study Program may be authorized for you until we have concluded the verification process in accordance with federal regulations. If verification is required in your instance, please return the required documents to the Financial Aid Office promptly. Required documents will be listed and can be accessed through the Financial Aid portal, ESM FAOnline **(https://faonline-esm.rochester.edu/).**

Renewal or Applying for Financial Aid

In general, you are eligible to receive financial aid at the Eastman School of Music for a total of eight semesters. Eastman's merit scholarships are four-year awards (up to five years for Dual Degree or completion of all requirements, whichever comes first). Transfer students' awards are renewable based on the entering class year (for example, three years for an entering sophomore). A student may continue to receive financial aid at the Eastman School of Music, provided the following requirements are met:

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- Satisfactory academic progress, as evidenced by your ability to continue enrollment at the Eastman School of Music and successful maintenance of the minimum expectations for federal, state, and institutional Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Students' academic records are reviewed each semester by the Satisfactory Academic Progress committee in accordance with the academic standards defined in the Undergraduate Student Handbook.

- Domestic students receiving federal aid (Pell, SEOG, Direct student loans, Parent PLUS loans, Federal Work Study) must complete the FAFSA by April 1 of the prior academic year. We have limited FSEOG funding, which requires us to award it based on meeting this April 1 deadline and on a first-come, first-served basis thereafter. Additional information, including income tax returns and other documentation, may also be required. The Financial Aid Office will distribute information about renewal application procedures by the end of the fall semester.

LATE APPLICATION POLICY

Financial aid initial and renewal applications that are incomplete after the stated deadlines (**Feb. 28th for incoming and April 1st for returning Undergraduates and May 1st for returning Graduates**) may see a reduction in Federal Work Study or FSEOG if all funds have been committed to students who filed on time.

Appeals

If you have questions concerning your financial aid award, contact the Financial Aid Office. You must submit an appeal for reconsideration of an award to the Financial Aid Office by providing a detailed letter or email explaining the situation and supporting documentation.

The information should address changes in circumstances, unusual expenses, special situations, or additional information not already presented in the financial aid application. Submitting a financial aid appeal does not guarantee that we will be able to offer additional aid. We can discuss other financing options with you, including additional non-need-based loans. Appeals are not guaranteed to be approved; you must still pay any bills and all owed at the time they are due while an appeal is being evaluated.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Changes in a family's financial situation that will be considered for an appeal.

Divorced or separated parents: If your parents become divorced or separated after you have completed your application for financial aid.

Large change in income: Loss of a job or major reduction of hours worked. (Voluntary retirement is not a valid reason for appealing for more support from Eastman.)

Death of a Parent: We will require documentation confirming this.

Large and unusual Medical and Dental expenses: These expenses must exceed the income protection allowance already calculated within the FAFSA formula.

Sibling Enrollment expenses: If you indicated in your application that a dependent sibling will be enrolled full-time in college during the 2026-27 academic year, and your appeal is based at least partly on this information, you will need to provide proof of your sibling's enrollment. This alone is not a reason for an appeal as it is a planned expense.

Catastrophic Event: A man-made or natural disaster that affects your family's financial situation and expenses.

Dependency Status (Unusual Circumstances): Most Eastman School of Music undergraduates are considered dependent for financial aid purposes, meaning that both students and parents (or custodial parents' household income: i.e., Parent and Stepparent) will be expected to contribute to the student's education expenses. If you have circumstances (i.e., parental abuse, abandonment, or parents cannot be located or should not be contacted) that prevent your parents from completing the required forms, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

International students: With your application for admission, you will be considered for merit-based scholarships. You must use the CSS Profile form to provide us with financial information, allowing us to make a need-informed decision on your merit award. International students are considered for renewable scholarships just like the domestic students. Eastman's need-informed scholarships are awarded at the time of admission and are based on a complete review of the application file and audition. Other factors can include the school's enrollment needs and our overall goal of making an Eastman education accessible to admitted students. Applicants unable to secure the necessary funding to cover the cost of attendance, either through private funds or sponsorship, will be unable to obtain their visa and will therefore be unable to attend the Eastman School of Music.

BORROWING FOR INSTRUMENT REPAIR/PURCHASE

We understand that your instrument is a vital tool for advancing your education. If it is determined by your professor that you must repair or purchase a new instrument to continue your studies at Eastman, and you don't have the finances available, we will support you in borrowing a reasonable amount to facilitate this need. A reasonable amount will be determined in consultation with the applied teacher and academic affairs. For planning purposes, this typically falls within the range of $10,000 to $15,000. Regarding the purchase of an instrument, this can only be done once during your studies at Eastman. Repairs will be evaluated for necessity at each instance if there is no other financial means of getting your instrument fixed.

Taxable Scholarships/Grants

Payments of taxable scholarships and fellowships to students who are nonresident aliens for tax purposes are reportable to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and are generally subject to withholding of US federal income tax. Taxable scholarships include any amount paid to an individual as a scholarship or fellowship grant that exceeds required tuition and fees.

Taxable scholarships are subject to withholding and are reported to each student on IRS Form 1042¬S. Form 1042-S indicates the amount of the taxable scholarship and the amount of tax withheld. The withholding rate is 14% on taxable scholarships and fellowships paid to nonresident aliens temporarily present in the United States in "F," "J," "M," or "Q" nonimmigrant status. Payments made to non-resident alien individuals in any other immigration status are subject to a 30% withholding tax.

There may be no withholding if the payment of the scholarship/fellowship is exempt under a tax treaty between the US and the recipient's home country. To determine the application of any tax treaties and the appropriate tax withholding, nonresident alien students must complete their tax records in Sprintax (software administered by the University's Payroll office). Form 1042-S will still be issued to report a student's taxable scholarship or fellowship amount, even if the student is not subject to tax withholding because of the application of a tax treaty.

All nonresident alien students and scholars are required by federal government rules to file US income tax Form 1040NR or 1040NR-EZ with the IRS, *even if they have no tax liability,* and Form 8843, *even if they have no income.*

Take 5 Scholars Program

The Take 5 Scholars Program, unique to the University of Rochester, provides free tuition for an additional year or semester of study designed to enrich a student's curriculum. Take 5 affords students the opportunity to indulge in studying a topic of interest; to learn for the sake of learning, without the concern that it will enhance their job prospects or graduate school applications. Students complete an application that includes a proposal for a sustained and coherent interdisciplinary program of study.

Take 5 courses may be used for academic enrichment only. They cannot be used to satisfy graduation, major, minor, or cluster requirements in any way. Furthermore, Take 5 is not an opportunity to earn additional credentials, such as fulfilling pre-med requirements, completing certificate programs, or the requirements of another major. Students must demonstrate on their application that they could complete all graduation requirements on time without Take 5 courses. All integrated T5/UG semesters prior to the fifth year must include at least 12 credits of coursework required for the degree program (e.g., major, minor and/or clusters). This is done prior to the full completion of your degree requirements. If interested see https://www.esm.rochester.edu/academic-affairs/esmstudents/take5/ and speak with your academic advisor as soon as possible to ensure it can be worked into your time at Eastman.

Take 5 students receive a grant in the amount of free tuition for semesters where they are only taking courses for their Take 5 experience and are responsible for any fees and living costs. Participants are not eligible for additional semesters of institutional or state assistance but speaking with the financial aid office of your academic plan is strongly advised. Students may consider private loan options to finance living expenses (such as housing and food) and additional costs beyond tuition. If interested please read https://www.esm.rochester.edu/academic-affairs/esmstudents/take5/ and speak with your academic advisor as soon as possible to ensure it can be worked into your time at Eastman and you understand the financial implications.

Military Benefits

The Eastman School of Music extends its gratitude for your service to our country and appreciates your contributions to our campus community. We are committed to serving as a resource to veteran students and their families. The Financial Aid Office determines award eligibility and ensures that it is disbursed to the student's account when applicable.

Post 9/11 GI Bill® benefits:

If you served on active duty, you might be eligible for education benefits offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. If you are the spouse or child of a service member, you may be eligible for transfer of the service member's Post 9/11 GI Bill® benefits.

The Eastman School of Music is a Yellow Ribbon school. Veterans with 100% Post-9/11 coverage will have tuition and mandatory fees covered in full. Your VA benefits will cover up to the maximum amount allowed, and Eastman will match the remaining expenses dollar for dollar.

Outside Military Tuition Assistance Programs:

Veterans and their dependents may be eligible for several military tuition assistance programs. Military tuition assistance sources include, but are not limited to, New York State Veterans Tuition Awards (VTA), Recruitment Incentive and Retention Program (RIRP), ArmyIgnitED Tuition Assistance, and federal veteran's benefits through Chapters 33,35 and 1606.

If you are currently serving in the military, you may be eligible for funding offered through the Department of Defense Tuition Assistance program. Check your eligibility status and the amount you qualify for with your service prior to enrolling.

Further information regarding veteran's education benefits may be found at the US Department of Veterans Affairs website **(*https://www.va.gov/education/*).**

Consortium/Contractual Agreements

A consortium/contractual agreement is a contract between a matriculated, Eastman School of Music undergraduate student, the Eastman School of Music, and a host college or university. This contract grants a student permission to enroll directly through a host institution during the summer or academic year and then transfer completed credits back toward her/his Eastman School of Music degree while utilizing federal financial aid.

Students with a consortium/contractual agreement are entitled to their Federal Direct Loan and Federal Pell Grant for the corresponding academic term if they are eligible. Eastman aid is NOT transferable. These non-transferable sources include, but are not limited to, Eastman School of Music merit scholarships and Federal Work-Study.

Students interested in pursuing a consortium/contractual agreement during the academic year or summer must contact their financial aid counselor to discuss the process and to request the consortium/contractual agreement form. You will be required to complete this form, have it signed by the Senior Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs, include a copy of your course approval form, and return the form to the Financial Aid Office. Upon completion of the form by the Host institution and Eastman, the Financial Aid Office will award federal financial aid as noted previously and defined in the agreement. Additionally, enrollment in each of the listed courses must be confirmed before any federal financial aid disbursements occur. This verification cannot take place until the class or program is in session. Students should be prepared to pay the Host institution's bill up front, if required.

Students pursuing a consortium/contractual agreement for any term, including summer, must enroll in and successfully complete a minimum of six credits in order to be eligible for Federal Direct Loans.

APPENDIX

STUDENT LOANS

Loan proceeds will be credited to the student account after the student has signed a promissory note and completed Entrance Counseling **(studentloans.gov)** and will first be applied to any current or outstanding balance due.

Federal Direct Loans: There are both subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans for students. According to federal regulations, the amount of subsidized loan that you may borrow is limited to the difference between your student expense budget and the sum of your family contribution, benefits, and any other financial aid you receive. Unsubsidized loans only take into consideration benefits and other aid, including subsidized loans.

Under the Federal Direct Student Loan program, you may borrow a Loan (either subsidized, unsubsidized, or a combination) of as much as $5,500 as a first-year student, $6,500 as a sophomore, and $7,500 a year as a junior or senior.

The cumulative loan maximum for dependent students is $31,000, of which no more than $23,000 can be from the subsidized loan program.

Independent students (and dependent students whose parents are unable to borrow a federal PLUS Loan) may borrow additional unsubsidized loans of up to $6,000 as a first-year student or sophomore, and up to $7,000 as a junior or senior. The cumulative maximum for independent students (and dependent students whose parents are unable to borrow a federal PLUS Loan) is $57,500, of which no more than $23,000 can be from the subsidized loan program.

The interest rate on subsidized Federal Direct Loans is fixed for the life of the loan. Payment of principal and interest begins after a six-month grace period which starts after graduation or falling below half-time enrollment status. Interest rates will be determined each June for new loans for the upcoming award year, which runs from July 1 to June 30.

The interest rate on unsubsidized loans is also fixed. However, the borrower bears interest charges from the date the loan is disbursed. Interest on unsubsidized loans may either be paid as it accrues or be deferred and capitalized (i.e., added to the loan principal) while you are in school and for a grace period of six months after graduation or falling below half-time enrollment status. Payment of principal (and interest, if deferred) begins after the grace period.

The usual repayment period is ten years. There are also provisions for other repayment terms, and these options should be discussed thoroughly with your loan servicer. You will receive a notification from your loan servicer once your loan has been processed.

Repayment may be deferred for graduate school or study in an approved graduate fellowship program. Deferments may also be approved in the event of temporary disability, unemployment, or economic hardship. Deferments apply to both principal and interest for subsidized loans, but to principal only for unsubsidized loans (although accrued interest may be capitalized). The loan will be canceled in the event of death or total and permanent disability.

The unsubsidized loan program is not need-based, but to borrow an unsubsidized loan, it must be determined that you are ineligible for the subsidized program. The maximum amount of an unsubsidized loan that may be borrowed is the difference between the annual limits cited above and the amount of any subsidized loan. In addition, an unsubsidized loan is regarded as replacing a part (or all) of your family contribution and, therefore, cannot exceed that amount (reduced by any parent loan).

There is a loan origination fee charged (1.057% for 26-27) by the federal government on Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Direct Loans. The Loan origination fee for Direct PLUS loans is 4.338%. This fee is determined annually, and the new rates take effect for disbursements on or after October 1 of each year. This amount will be deducted from the loan before the remainder of the loan is credited to the student account.

You must complete and electronically sign a “master promissory note” and complete Entrance Counseling online with the US Department of Education before a loan may be disbursed as a credit to your student account. Loans in subsequent years do not require a new promissory note. The loan will be disbursed in two installments.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Financial Aid Office
Eastman School of Music
26 Gibbs Street
Rochester, NY 14604

Website: https://www.esm.rochester.edu/financialaid/
Consumer Information: https://enrollment.rochester.edu/financial-aid/consumer-information/
Phone: (585) 274-1070
Fax: (585) 232-8601
Email: financialaid@esm.rochester.edu

Glossary of Terms

Cost of Attendance – An estimate of total educational costs for the nine-month school year, including tuition, mandatory fees, housing, food, books and supplies, personal expenses, and transportation.

CSS Profile – A form required by some colleges in the financial aid application process. The University of Rochester/Eastman School of Music requires the CSS Profile for all students, available at profileonline.collegeboard.com. Our school code is 2224. There is a nominal fee for this form, depending on your family income.

FAFSA Submission Summary – A federal government report, sent to the student, which contains the federal Student Aid Index (SAI) and provides a summary of the information submitted on the FAFSA.

Federal Direct Loans – Low-interest loans provided by the federal government. Borrowing limits vary depending on a student's year in college.

Federal Direct Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) – A federal credit-based loan, not based on need, available to parents of undergraduate students.

Federal Direct Subsidized Loans – Loans, based on financial need, for which the government pays interest while the student is in college.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans – Loans available without regard to financial need and for which students accrue interest expenses while still in college.

Federal Work Study (FWS) – A federal program that offers students the opportunity to meet some of their indirect costs by working part-time on campus or off campus at an approved nonprofit agency. As with any employment, neither a job nor a specific number of hours is guaranteed. A student must earn work-study funds, which are paid in the form of a paycheck, based on the number of hours worked.

Financial Aid Package – A combination of scholarships, grants, loans, and work study.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – The form (available at studentaid.gov) that you must complete and send to the federal processor to determine your eligibility for federal financial aid. The Eastman School of Music's school code is 008124.

Gift Aid – Financial aid, such as a grant or scholarship, that does not need to be repaid.

Grants – Aid given to students by the federal government, state agencies, and colleges/universities with no expectation of repayment. At Eastman, most, but not all, of the aid is merit-based.

Merit Scholarships – Awards based on academic achievement, talent, and adjusted based on financial need.

Outside Scholarships – Scholarships available through sources such as religious and civic organizations, your employer, and local businesses.

Pell Grants – Federal Grants awarded to students with the highest level of demonstrated need. For 2025-2026, grant awards range from $740-$7,395 per year.

Private Loans – Credit-based educational loans that can help meet your family's expected contribution. You should consider the Federal Direct Loan programs before considering a private loan.

Special Circumstances – Changes in a student and/or parent's financial circumstances.

Student Aid Index (SAI) – The amount you are expected to contribute toward the cost of your education, based on all contributors' earnings, savings, net assets, and other financial information.

Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) – A federal grant awarded to low-income Pell Grant recipients.

Unusual Circumstances – Changes in a student's dependency status.

UR Essentials – Undergraduate students can now rent their course textbooks and other select materials, physical or electronic, free of charge through UR Essentials. UR Essentials is a course material delivery model that simplifies the student experience and ensures students have access to all required materials on or before the first day of classes. Through this program, physical books are packaged and provided to students on a rental basis, in addition to providing access to digital material, if required. At the end of the semester, students will receive email reminders to return rented physical course materials to the Eastman Bookstore.

There is no cost to full-time undergraduate students to participate in UR Essentials. Since there is no cost, books and supplies are not included in the cost of attendance. For more information about this program, please visit the UR Essentials website **(https://www.wdev.rochester.edu/provost/for-students/ur-essentials/).**

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