



**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE COST OF A GRADUATE DEGREE AT EASTMAN**

Please read carefully, as once a financial offer is agreed to, the student is expected to have a plan for meeting expenses not covered by school funds for the duration of their degree program.

1) How much do lessons cost?

Lessons are billed at a fixed rate of \$12,300 (for 2024-2025) for a one-hour lesson per week (460A – 4 units billed at 6). Most MM students will take 4 semesters of 460A lessons, while most DMA students will take 6 semesters of 460A lessons.

2) How am I charged for all of my other courses?

All other courses are billed per unit. For 2024-2025, the per-unit rate is \$2,050.

3) What additional fees am I responsible for?

The following fees will be added to your tuition bill every semester:

Mandatory Health Fee: estimated \$400 per semester*

Graduate Activity Fee: \$80 per semester

Comprehensive Fee: \$246 per semester

Orientation Fee: \$324 (charged only in the first semester of your degree program)

University Health Insurance: estimated \$4,000 (required if non-institute insurance is shown to be insufficient)*

*Dollar amounts for these fees are shown at the actual 2024-2025 rates, with the exception of the health fee, which is an estimate based on the current 23-24 rate. These rates will fluctuate every year. For a full description of all current tuition charges and fees, please see <http://www.esm.rochester.edu/registrar/fees/>.

4) Am I allowed to move funds from my tuition scholarship from one academic year to another?

No. You must use the amount of tuition scholarship you are granted within an academic year (i.e., between 1 July and 30 June of the following year).

5) What constitutes a full-time load?

Students must register for 9 units per semester to be considered a full-time student. DMA students typically average 10 units per semester in order to complete 60 units of coursework within six semesters.

6) Do I need to be a full-time student to receive a Graduate Tuition Scholarship?

No. Your receipt of a Graduate Tuition Scholarship is independent of your full- or part-time status.

7) Will I need to take any remedial courses?

During orientation week, placement exams in music history and music theory are administered to all incoming students. In addition, incoming MM students in Performance, Accompanying, Early Music, Film Composition, Opera Directing, and Conducting take a listening exam. International students for whom English is not their native language are assessed through individual interviews, following a

review of their admissions files. Based on the results of the placement exams and interviews, students may be required to enroll in some remedial coursework.

Remedial courses on the 100-level do not count towards degree requirements, but do carry a tuition charge (generally 1.5 units per course). Such remedial courses are not covered by your Graduate Scholarship.

The following courses are considered remedial for graduate students at Eastman: any 100-level course, including TH 117, TH 118, and MHS 119; JCM 119; MHS 480 (2 units, for doctoral students); EAP 101, EAP 102, and any 100-level foreign-language courses used to fulfill a foreign-language degree requirement. *Please see the following link in the Academic Policy Handbook for details:

<https://www.esm.rochester.edu/registrar/policy/05-00/#05.03>

8) Is there a residency requirement for my degree?

Yes. All graduate degrees at Eastman (except for the Master of Arts in Music Leadership) have at least a one-year full-time residency requirement. One year of residence is defined as two consecutive semesters of full-time study.

Residency requirements vary by degree and major, so please check the [Academic Policy Handbook](#) to find out the specific requirements for your degree.

Residency is also required for graduate students who have an assistantship. Generally, master's students should plan to be in residence for two years, DMA students for three years, and PhD students for 4-5 years.

9) Must I be a full-time student after I fulfill my residency requirement?

No. You only need to be a full-time student for the following reasons:

- 1) You are an international student on an F-1 or J-1 visa.
- 2) You need UR health insurance and are not covered by another policy.

If you do not need full-time status for any of the above reasons, you may register as a part-time student. It is important to keep in mind that virtually all course work (with the exception of the online MA in Music Leadership) is only offered in-person on the Eastman campus. Students who complete only one year of residency generally tend to finish part-time through mostly summer coursework.

If you choose to drop down to part-time status and have a Federal Loan, please check with the Financial Aid Office to make sure you will still be eligible. **Students are typically eligible for loans or deferment of past loans if they are registered for at least 6 units.**

10) Is there a process for appealing my financial offer?

Acceptance of an offer implies that the student finds the offer to be agreeable and has a reasonable plan for meeting any expenses not covered by school funds for the duration of their degree program. If you have concerns about your ability to afford your offer, we can consider an appeal. To help us understand the context of your appeal, you are welcome to share PDF copies of other offers with the understanding that we may not be in a position to match another school's offer. Ultimately, the question we are attempting to answer is not whether another school is less costly for you, but how close we are to making Eastman affordable for you, if this is where you would prefer to enroll. To appeal, send a message to: gradstudies@esm.rochester.edu with your first and last name in the subject line.