



**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS  
ABOUT THE COST OF A GRADUATE DEGREE AT EASTMAN 2026-2027**

*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 \$13,404/semester (for 2026-2027) 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. MM and DMA composition students take 460 lessons at a rate of \$8,936 (3 units billed at 4). Secondary lessons taken for elective credit are at a rate of \$4,468 for half-hour lessons (430, 1.5 units billed at 2). Students should consult with the Associate Director of Graduate Advising and Services to determine if secondary lessons are permitted for their degree program.

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

All other courses are billed per unit. For 2026-2027, the per-unit rate is \$2,234.

**3) What additional fees am I responsible for?**

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

Mandatory Health Fee: estimated \$480 per semester

Graduate Activity Fee: \$86 per semester

Comprehensive Fee: \$255 per semester

Orientation Fee: \$352 (charged only in the first semester of your degree program)

University Health Insurance: estimated \$4,200 (required if non-institute insurance is shown to be insufficient)

\* These rates will fluctuate every year. For a full description of all current tuition charges and fees, please see <https://www.rochester.edu/adminfinance/bursar/billing-and-payment/billing-and-fees/>

**4) What constitutes a full-time load?**

Students must register for 9 units per semester to be considered a full-time student. DMA students need to take 20 units per year in order to complete 60 units of coursework within six semesters.

**5) 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. For registrations under 9 units in a semester, the scholarship will be adjusted to maintain the same percentage of tuition described in your scholarship letter.

**6) Will I need to take any remedial courses?**

During orientation week, placement exams in music theory are administered to all incoming students. 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 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>

#### **7) 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.

#### **8) 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.**

#### **9) Is there an appeal process for more aid once I have accepted my 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. Students who encounter unanticipated hardship during their enrollment may submit a financial aid appeal, but should understand that school funds are typically fully spent, and very little additional aid will be available. Domestic students appealing their offer should submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and may have access to student loans. All students appealing for additional aid must also complete the Graduate Income & Expense Statement. Appeals are considered by the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies in consultation with the Office of Financial Aid and the Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. It is sometimes necessary for a student to take a leave of absence in order to address their financial situation.

#### **10) If I am taking out student loans, will the funds be available immediately upon arrival in Rochester?**

Since graduate tuition is charged per-credit, loan funds are not disbursed until you have finished registering for courses. Therefore, it is a good idea to arrive in Rochester with funds to cover your immediate expenses of rent, food, etc.