# Working Together to Support Your



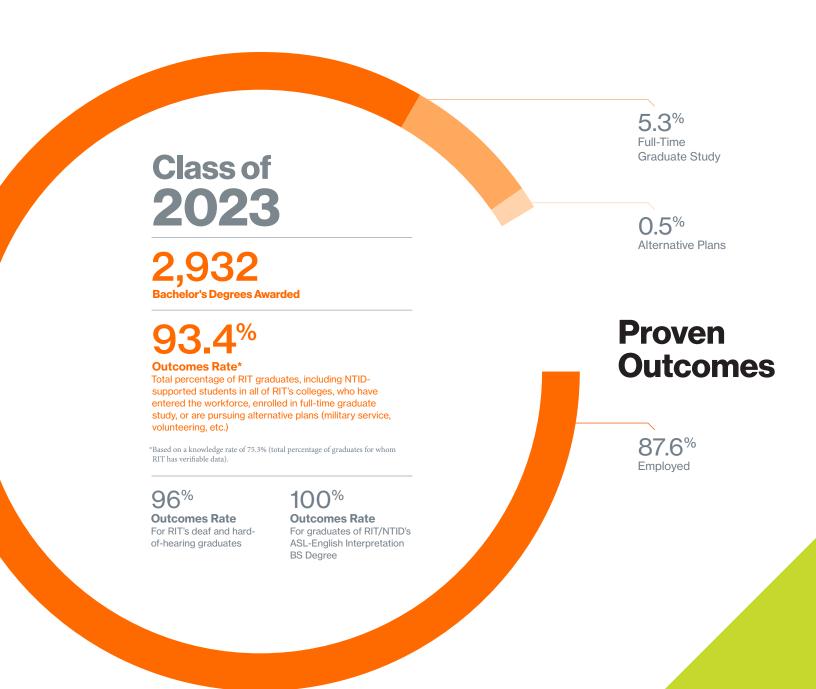
# RIT/NTID Financial Aid and Scholarships

For First-Year Students and Their Families, 2025-2026

RIT Rochester Institute of Technology

# **Recognized for Value**

RIT has been recognized by several leading college rankings and guides for its value. RIT ranked #41 among national universities.



# **An Investment in You**

RIT offers a comprehensive financial aid program consisting of merit-based scholarships and a full range of need-based grants, loans, and campus employment programs that provide assistance to RIT students and families.

#### **Basic Steps for First-Time Applicants**

1

# Apply for admission

You should start your application for admission early in your senior year. Financial aid notifications are sent after you have been offered admission to RIT. 2

# Complete the RIT Financial Aid Application

(Early Decision I and Early Decision 2 only).

3

# Complete the FAFSA

This should be done as soon as the FAFSA is available. Have your results sent to RIT by including our federal school code, which is 002806.

studentoid gov

4

#### Watch for your FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)

You will receive your FSS when you file your FAFSA. Your FSS will be sent to the email address you list on the FAFSA. Review the FSS and make any needed corrections.

5

#### Apply for state scholarships and grants and for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

Check with your state scholarship and VR agencies for application information and forms 6

# Research other sources of aid

Use free, reputable sources of information on private scholarships. We provide links to the major sources directly from our website.

rit.edu/financialaid

# Admission Application **Deadline**

**EARLY DECISION 1** 

**11/**1

**EARLY DECISION 2** 

1/1

**EARLY ACTION** 

11/1

REGULAR DECISION

RIT Financial Aid Application Recommended Filing Deadline

**EARLY DECISION 1** 

**12/**1

**EARLY DECISION 2** 

1/1

EARLY ACTION

**Not Applicable** 

REGULAR DECISION
Not Applicable

FAFSA Recommended Filing Deadline

**EARLY DECISION 1** 

1/15

EARLY DECISION 2

1/15

EARLY ACTION

1/15

REGULAR DECISION

1/15



# 2025-2026 Scholarships and Financial Aid

#### **Merit-Based Scholarships**

- > 100% of students receive merit-based scholarship funding
- > Merit scholarships range from \$10,000 \$25,000 annually for first-year students (\$40,000 \$100,000\* over the length of the undergraduate degree)
- > No separate application is required to receive RIT's most generous meritbased scholarships. All admitted incoming students are automatically reviewed to determine which level of RIT merit-based scholarships will be offered.
- > There are additional scholarships that are either stackable, meaning they can be combined with an RIT merit-based scholarship to increase the total scholarship funding, or they may replace a merit-based scholarship that is of lower value. Some of the additional scholarships require a separate application and some have specific deadlines. See the chart for reference.

#### Notes

- This information covers the most commonly offered financial aid programs available to full-time undergraduate students at RIT. Information is correct as of 11/24.
- Many programs require satisfactory progress toward degree completion to maintain eligibility (see RIT Undergraduate Bulletin).
- > Federal student aid programs are subject to government appropriations.
- Filing the FAFSA by the recommended filing deadline will ensure priority consideration for all programs. Applications filed after this date will receive consideration as long as funds remain available.
- In addition to the aid criteria listed above, the additional merit-based scholarships shown at right have specific selection criteria and/or application procedures.

# Additional Merit-Based Scholarships

**RIT National Merit Scholarship** 

**RIT National Scholars Award** 

RIT/FIRST Scholarships

RIT Project Lead The Way Scholarships

**High School Awards** 

**RIT Performing Arts Scholarships** 

RIT Alumni Referral Award

Veterans Benefits (GI Bill, Vocational Rehab., Yellow Ribbon)

#### **Need-Based Grants**

RIT Grant

Destler/Johnson Rochester City Scholars

Say Yes to Education Scholarships

NTID Regional STEM Center (NRSC) at NTID Scholarship Fund

NTID Regional STEM Center (NRSC) Project Fast Forward Scholarship

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

Tuition Assistance Program (New York State)

Federal Pell Grant

**Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant** 

Other State Grants

#### Loans

Federal Direct Loans—Dependent Students

Federal Direct Loans—Independent Students

**Federal Direct PLUS Loans** 

#### **Employment**

Federal Work-Study Program

RIT Employment Program

Eligibility	Amount	Additional Information/Where to Apply
Offered to admitted first-year students who are National Merit Scholar finalists and name RIT as their first-choice choice school for NMSC.	\$2,000 per year. Renewable as long as student meets NMSC guidelines.	RIT will receive finalist rosters from NMSC. Recipients of these scholarships automatically qualify for an additional \$2,000 per year.
Offered to admitted first-year students who are recognized by the College Board's African-American Recognition, Hispanic Recognition, Indigenous Recognition, and Rural and Small Town Recognition programs.	\$700 per year. Renewable.	RIT will receive an official roster from the College Board National Recognition Program.
Offered to outstanding admitted first-year students who have participated on a high school FIRST team.	\$2,500 per year. Renewable. Up to 20 awarded each year.	Complete and submit the scholarship application at rit.edu/first- scholarship. Must apply for admission to RIT by January 15 to be considered.
Offered to outstanding admitted first-year students who have completed two or more PLTW courses.	\$2,500 per year. Renewable. Up to 20 awarded each year.	Must apply for admission to RIT by January 15 to be considered.
Scholarship recipients nominated by their high schools who are admitted and enroll at RIT in the fall immediately following graduation from high school.	\$4,000 per year. Renewable.	Eligible students must be nominated by their high schools in the junior year for consideration.
Recognizes individual achievement and talent in the performing arts. Regardless of major, all full-time admitted freshman undergraduates are eligible for consideration. A separate application and a digital audition are required.	Amounts vary. Renewable based on continued participation in the performing arts at RIT.	Learn more at: rit.edu/performingarts/academics/performing-arts-scholarship
Allows alumni to nominate one incoming undergraduate student applying for admission to RIT.	\$500 per year. Renewable.	Deadlines apply.
Eligibility depends on veteran benefit being sought.	Can cover up to full cost of attendance depending on program and other aid sources.	Contact the Office of Veteran Student Success at 585-475-6641 or visit our Military & Veterans website: rit.edu/admissions/veterans.
Students demonstrating financial need.	Amounts vary depending on need.	File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
Offered to entering first-year students from approved public and charter schools within the Rochester City School District. Student must live in the city and attend approved high schools within the district for the last three years of high school. Students must graduate from an approved high school and enroll at RIT in the fall semester immediately following graduation. Income limits apply.	Full tuition through a combination of RIT scholarships and state need-based grants. Renewable.	Must apply for admission to RIT by January 15 and be certified by the high school guidance office to be considered.
In partnership with Say Yes to Education, offered to participants in the Say Yes to Education program.	Full tuition through a combination of the RIT scholarships and state and federal need-based grants.	Must apply for admission to RIT by January 15 and be certified by Say Yes to be considered.
The NTID Regional STEM Center (NRSC) offers a limited number of scholarships to students who are admitted into STEM majors or STEM major students who have completed dual-credit STEM course, offered by NTID Project Fast Forward, at their high school. Priority is given to underserved students with financial need and the scholarship is primarily available, but also available to students outside of the targeted NRSC geographic area, to students residing in these states: Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.	\$5,000, renewable up to a specific number of semesters while funds remain available from NRSC.	Must apply for admission to RIT by January 15; selection made by scholarship committee.
VR provides need-based financial assistance for eligible clients with vocational training that may include college expenses. States have various names for VR, and services vary depending on need and the state in which a student lives.	Need-based financial aid programs. Amount of support varies greatly.	Refer to rit.edu/ntid/tuition/state-by-state-vr to find the VR office closest to you for application instructions.
Full-time students who are New York state residents and meet state income guidelines.	\$1,000 to \$5,665 per year for entering first-year students.	File New York State TAP Application and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
Students who are pursuing their first bachelor's degree and meet need criteria.	\$767 to \$7,395 per year. Prorated for part-time study.	File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
Students with high financial need (normally those who qualify for Federal Pell Grant).	\$100 to \$4,000 per year. Average offer is \$500.	File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
Varies.	Amounts vary.	State education department in state of residency.
All FAFSA eligible dependent, undergraduate students enrolled at least half time in a degree program, not otherwise in default.	Maximum amount (including Unsubsidized): 1st year: \$5,500; 2nd year: \$6,500; 3rd, 4th, 5th: \$7,500.	File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
All FAFSA eligible independent undergraduates enrolled at least half time in a degree program, not otherwise in default.	Maximum amount (including Unsubsidized): 1st year: \$9,500; 2nd year: \$10,500; 3rd, 4th, 5th: \$12,500.	File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
Parent of a FAFSA eligible dependent student who is enrolled at least half time in a degree program.	Total cost of education minus all other financial aid awarded.	File the FAFSA and apply online at studentloans.gov.
Students with financial need. Work on campus.	RIT pays the New York State minimum wage for Regular Student Worker jobs - currently \$15.00/hour.	File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Contact the RIT Student Employment Office.
No financial need requirement. Work on campus.	RIT pays the New York State minimum wage for Regular Student Worker jobs - currently \$15.00/hour.	Contact the RIT Student Employment Office.

# What does it cost for NTID-sponsored students to attend RIT?

RIT receives federal support for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. As a result, we are able to offer you a top-quality education at a substantially reduced tuition rate for qualified students enrolled in ALL colleges of RIT. Student expense budgets currently include a \$2,800 yearly allowance for estimated books, transportation, and personal expenses. Financial aid offers take these estimated costs into consideration in addition to tuition and fees and housing and food, so that your aid offer more accurately reflects all costs associated with your attendance.

Students from all income ranges are offered aid, and as a result, find an RIT education to be affordable.

# 2024-2025 Charges for Full-Time Resident Students

Academic Year (Based on two Semesters)

\$37,642

#### \$20,550

Tuition

#### \$9,366

Residence Hall Room (Double)

#### \$6,776

Meal Plan (Standard)

#### \$950

Student Activity/Health Services Fees

RIT MAGIC Spell Studios

# Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships

Bausch & Lomb Center 56 Lomb Memorial Drive Rochester, NY 14623-5604 585-475-2186 V/VRS ritaid@rit.edu

#### **NTID Office of Admissions**

52 Lomb Memorial Drive Rochester, NY 14623-5604 585-475-6700 585-743-1366 (videophone) NTIDadmissions@rit.edu

MAGIC

# Financing Options at RIT

There are several loan programs, employment programs, and payment plans available to assist families in meeting educational costs. The programs listed below are available to students or parents without regard to financial need. Any family may participate in one or more of these programs:

Payment Options
Student Financial
Services offers a number
of payment options that will
allow you to schedule your
payments each semester.

rit.edu/sfs

**Federal Direct Loan** The Federal Direct Loan program is the most widely used student loan program. It includes an Unsubsidized Direct Loan, and, if there is a demonstrated need level, it may include a Subsidized Direct Loan. The Subsidized Direct Loan allows interest to be paid by the government while the student is enrolled; The Unsubsidzied Direct Loan program requires interest to be paid by the student while attending school unless the student opts to have interest capitalized (interest is added to the principal amount borrowed) so no payment is required while in school. RIT students who have filed a valid FAFSA and has enrolled at least half time may borrow the maximum loan amount for the current academic year.

studentaid.gov

**Federal Direct PLUS Loan** Perhaps the most popular aid program used to finance the family contribution is the Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS). This is a federally guaranteed loan that helps parents of dependent undergraduate students finance education costs. A parent may borrow up to the full cost of education minus other financial aid offered. PLUS loans have a fixed interest rate set by the federal government.

Students whose parents are denied for the PLUS loan based on a review of their credit may request that an additional Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan be processed in the student's name. A dependent student may be eligible for up to \$4,000 as a first-year or second-year student, and \$5,000 as a third-year or fourth-year student.

studentaid.gov

Alternative Education Loans
Alternative Education
Loans are private (non-federal)
loans offered through banks
and financial institutions to
supplement financial aid offers.
We encourage students and
families to use alternative loans
as an option after first pursuing
all federal loan options (Direct
and PLUS). Visit our website for
more information.

rit.edu/financialaid

RIT Student
Employment
Federal Work Study
and RIT Campus Employment
are two types of student
employment that may be listed
in student financial aid offers.

Federal Work-Study is a federally funded on-campus work program based on demonstrated financial need. To apply for Federal Work Study, students must first complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form.

RIT Campus Employment provides an opportunity to work on campus even if students do not demonstrate financial need for the Federal Work-Study program.

Many students use oncampus employment to help cover their expenses while completing their degree. RIT has more than 12,000 jobs available each year and students typically work 10 – 20 hours per week. Employment is coordinated through RIT's Student Employment Office.

rit.edu/financialaid



# If I am a deaf or hard-of-hearing student enrolling in a BS degree program, do I pay the same rate as a hearing student?

No. A reduced tuition rate is available to deaf and hard-of-hearing students who are enrolled in an RIT bachelor's degree program whose audiogram demonstrates a significant hearing loss. The audiogram is used to determine your eligibility for the reduced tuition rate.

# We've been told we probably will not qualify for aid. Should we bother to apply?

Yes, you should! Many factors are taken into consideration in determining a family's financial need, and each family's circumstances are unique. You won't know what you'll qualify for without completing the aid application process. There is no arbitrary cutoff for determining a family's eligibility for financial aid. The income range of those eligible for some amount of assistance is wide.

#### When should I apply for aid?

Early Decision students should first file the RIT Financial Aid Application immediately after applying for Admission. All student applicants should file the FAFSA as soon as it is available to them. Our recommended filing deadline dates are established so we can notify you of your aid eligibility as soon as possible after you have been admitted. Don't wait until you have received your admission notification to complete the FAFSA!

### Will I be eligible for the same amount of financial aid each year?

In most cases, the answer is yes. Every effort will be made to continue a similar level of institutional gift aid each year.

Students receiving merit-based scholarships do not need to reapply to renew those scholarships. Merit-based scholarships automatically will be renewed at the same level, as long as the renewal requirements are met.

Students must reapply for need-based financial aid each year. Assuming you remain in good academic standing, file the application forms by the recommended deadline, and demonstrate a similar level of need, you can expect approximately the same level of institutional gift aid each year.

Examples of circumstances that might cause a change in a need-based financial aid award could include, but are not limited to:

- > a significant rise or drop in family income;
- > more or fewer family members living at home.

### What happens if our financial need changes after I enter college?

While many families' financial needs remain constant while a student is attending college, some families will experience significant changes in their ability to contribute to their children's education. Sometimes these changes can even occur during the middle of an academic year. We are always willing to review financial aid appeals from families experiencing difficulties due to significant changes in their circumstances. Contact our office for additional information.

#### What is an SAI?

SAI stands for Student Aid Index. It is calculated by the federal government based on the information you provide on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The SAI is the same at all colleges you send your FAFSA to and is used to determine a student's eligibility for federal financial aid programs. After you file your FAFSA, you will receive information on your FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) that will inform you of your calculated SAI. Review your FSS to ensure all FAFSA entries are accurate.

## Are all families expected to contribute toward education expenses?

If the student fits the definition of a dependent student, the SAI on the FAFSA will be calculated using information from both the student and their contributors (biological parent, adoptive parent, stepparent) based on their respective incomes and assets. The calculated SAI for students who fit the definition of an independent student, will be based on the student's income and assets, as well as on those of the student's spouse, if married. The amount a student or family would potentially need to contribute toward educational expenses is the difference between the cost of attendance (see page 6) and the financial aid offered.

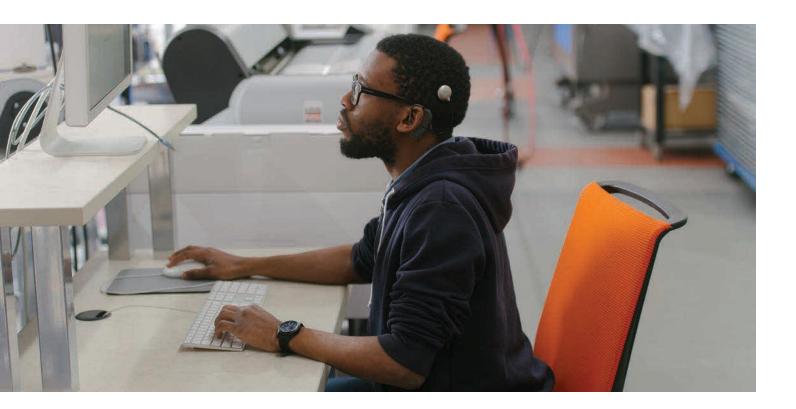
# If my parents are divorced or separated, which parent should provide the information required to apply for aid?

You should answer the questions using information about the parent who provides the most financial support to the student in the previous 12 months. Support would include money, gifts, loans, housing, food, clothes, medical care, child support, etc. Any step-parent information must also be provided if the parent who provides the most financial support to the student has remarried. We realize these situations can be sensitive and complicated. Please feel free to discuss your individual circumstances with one of our counselors. All information will remain confidential.

# I was notified that I will receive a scholarship from my high school. Will this scholarship affect my financial aid?

We encourage students to apply for scholarships awarded by private organizations. In many cases, no alteration to a student's financial aid award is necessary. If we are required to amend the financial aid offer as a result of receiving an "outside scholarship," we will make every effort to reduce the student's loan and/or Federal Work-Study offer before reducing any RIT grants. Merit-based scholarships usually are not impacted. You can find links to many sources of free and reputable information concerning outside scholarships on our website.

rit.edu/financialaid



# Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is a federally funded state program that helps individuals with disabilities acquire job-specific skills to be competitive in the workplace. Because education and training can be an integral step in getting a good job, Vocational Rehabilitation often provides college funding to residents who meet specific requirements.

All deaf and hard-of-hearing students are encouraged to apply for VR. VR is named differently from state to state (i.e., DOR, BVR, MRC, ACCES-VR). To apply for Vocational Rehabilitation funding, contact the Vocational Rehabilitation office nearest your home. Vocational Rehabilitation agencies in each state have their own methods of determining if you will be eligible for funding and the level of support you may receive. There is no national standard.

The RIT Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships may include an estimate of your VR support in your aid notification if we believe you might be eligible. However, only your state VR agency can determine your eligibility and the dollar amount. Should this differ from our estimate, RIT will adjust your financial aid offer if necessary.

#### Four Important Things to Ask Your VR Counselor:

#### Q1

How does my state decide how much funding I will receive?

#### Q3

Does it matter if my parents claimed me on their taxes?

#### Q2

If I receive Supplemental Security Income, does that affect the VR support I am eligible for?

#### Q4

NTID has a summer orientation program for new students enrolling in an associate degree program. Will VR pay for this orientation program?

Additional information about Vocational Rehabilitation and a state-by-state directory of VR agencies can be found on our website.

rit.edu/ntid/vr

#### Additional Information

Financial aid offers for admitted applicants will outline scholarships, grants, work-study opportunities, and student loans.

#### What about the CSS Profile Form?

Please note that RIT has chosen **not** to use the College Scholarship Service Financial Aid Profile form used by some universities to process financial aid offers.

#### Financial Aid and Scholarships Contact Information



585-475-2186 V/VRS Live Chat

rit.edu/admissions/financial-aid#bot



ritaid@rit.edu

#### Tax Benefits and Other Help with College Expenses

There are some significant tax benefits for families of college students.

The American Opportunity Tax Credit can be claimed for tuition and certain fees you pay for higher education. It is a tax credit of up to \$2,500 of the cost of qualified tuition and related expenses paid during the taxable year.

The Lifetime Learning Tax Credit is available for all types of postsecondary education. This credit provides up to \$2,000 per tax return. The Tuition and Fees Tax Deduction can reduce your taxable income by as much as \$4,000 and may benefit you if you are not eligible for any of the tax credits.

The state of New York has created the New York 529 College Savings Plan, which provides New York residents annual tax-exempt contributions to the plan of up to \$5,000 per contributor.

RIT is one of more than 270 members of the **Private College 529 Plan**, the only national prepaid tuition plan for independent colleges. Prepaid tuition plans allow families to lock in future tuition at current prices.

If you have invested in a 529 plan, you will need to contact your account administrator for details on disbursements. Payments or authorizations to bill can be mailed to Student Financial Services at the following address:

Office of Student Financial Services 25 Lomb Memorial Drive Rochester, NY 14623





NTID Office of Admissions 52 Lomb Memorial Drive Rochester, NY 14623-5604 First Class Mail U.S. Postage PAID Rochester, N.Y. Permit 626

#### **Important Financial Aid Information Inside...**

rit.edu/financialaid

ADMISSION APPLICATION DEADLINE RIT FINANCIAL AID
APPLICATION RECOMMENDED
FILING DEADLINE FAFSA SUBMISSION RECOMMENDED DEADLINE **EARLY DECISION 1 EARLY DECISION 1 EARLY DECISION 1 EARLY DECISION 2 EARLY DECISION 2 EARLY DECISION 2 EARLY ACTION EARLY ACTION EARLY ACTION Not Applicable REGULAR DECISION REGULAR DECISION REGULAR DECISION Not Applicable**