RIT



Working Together to Support Your Future Success

RIT/NTID Financial Aid and Scholarships

For First-Year Students and Their Families, 2027–2028

Recognized for Value

RIT has been recognized by several leading college rankings and guides for its value. In the 2025 U.S. News & World Report "Best Value Schools" list, RIT ranked #41.

Class of 2024

2,625
Bachelor's Degrees Awarded

91%
Outcomes Rate*
Total percentage of RIT graduates, including NTID-supported students in all of RIT's colleges, who have entered the workforce, enrolled in full-time graduate study, or are pursuing alternative plans (military service, volunteering, etc.)

*Based on a knowledge rate of 79% (total percentage of graduates for whom RIT has verifiable data).

95%
Outcomes Rate
For RIT's deaf and hard-of-hearing graduates

100%
Outcomes Rate
For graduates of RIT/NTID's ASL-English Interpretation BS Degree

7%
Full-Time Graduate Study

1%
Alternative Plans

Proven Outcomes

83%
Employed

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 FAFSA
We recommend filing as soon as possible after the FAFSA becomes available on October 1. Have your results sent to RIT by including our federal school code, which is 002806.

3

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.

4

Apply for state scholarships and grants and for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)
Check with your state scholarship and VR agencies for application information and forms.

5

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.

Admission Application Deadline	FAFSA Recommended Filing Date
EARLY DECISION 1 11/1	EARLY DECISION 1 11/1
EARLY DECISION 2 1/1	EARLY DECISION 2 1/1
EARLY ACTION 11/1	EARLY ACTION 1/15
REGULAR DECISION 1/15	REGULAR DECISION 1/15

2027-2028
Scholarships and Financial Aid

Merit-Based Scholarships

No separate application is required to receive RIT's most generous merit-based scholarships. All admitted incoming students are automatically reviewed to determine which level of RIT merit-based scholarships will be offered.

Merit scholarships range from $6,000 - $12,000* annually for first-year students ($24,000 to $48,000* over the length of the undergraduate degree)

Most students receive merit-based scholarships. This is in addition to the substantially reduced tuition rate

> 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.

Students who meet the eligibility requirements for multiple RIT merit-based scholarships will be offered the scholarship of highest value unless otherwise indicated.

Notes

- This information covers the most commonly offered financial aid programs available to full-time undergraduate students at RIT. Information is correct as of 9/26.
- Many programs require satisfactory academic progress (SAP) toward degree completion to maintain eligibility (see RIT Financial Aid & Scholarships website).
- 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.
- Scholarships provided by RIT are prorated for NTID-supported students to reflect lower NTID tuition rates.

Additional Merit-Based Scholarships	Eligibility	Amount	Additional Information/Where to Apply
RIT Alumni Referral Award	Allows alumni to nominate one incoming undergraduate student applying for admission to RIT.	$500 per year. Renewable.	Deadlines apply.
RIT/FIRST Scholarships	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.
High School Awards	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. Not stackable.	Eligible students must be nominated by their high schools in the junior year for consideration.
RIT National Merit Scholarship	Offered to admitted first-year students who are National Merit Scholar finalists and name RIT as their first-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.
RIT Performing Arts Scholarships	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
RIT Project Lead The Way Scholarships	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.
Veterans Benefits (GI Bill, Vocational Rehab., Yellow Ribbon)	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.
Need-Based Grants			
RIT Grants	Students demonstrating financial need.	Amounts vary depending on need.	File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
Destler/Johnson Rochester City Scholars	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.
Say Yes to Education Scholarships	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.
NTID Regional STEM Center (NRSC) at NTID Scholarship Fund NTID Regional STEM Center (NRSC) Project Fast Forward Scholarship	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 a 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.	$3,000, 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.
Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)	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. An estimated VR support amount may appear on the financial aid package. Students must apply to VR directly to be considered for support and receive confirmation of eligibility and amount of support.	Refer to rit.edu/ntid/tuition/state-by-state-vr to find the VR office closest to you for application instructions.
Tuition Assistance Program (New York State)	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).
Federal Pell Grant	Students who are pursuing their first bachelor's degree and meet need criteria.	$740 to $7,395 per year. Prorated for part-time study.	File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant	Students with high financial need (normally those who qualify for Federal Pell Grant).	$100 to $4,000 per year. Average offer is $800.	File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
Other State Grants	Varies.	Amounts vary.	State education department in state of residency.
Loans			
Federal Direct Loans—Dependent Students	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).
Federal Direct Loans—Independent Students	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).
Federal Direct PLUS Loans	Parent of a FAFSA eligible dependent student who is enrolled at least half time in a degree program.	Beginning July 1, 2026, Parent PLUS Loans will be capped. Parents of undergraduate students will be eligible to apply up to $20,000 per academic year per student, with a lifetime maximum of $65,000 per student.	File the FAFSA and apply online at studentloans.gov.
Employment			
Federal Work-Study Program	Students with financial need. Work on campus.	RIT pays the New York State minimum wage for Regular Student Worker jobs - currently $16.00/hour.	File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Contact the RIT Student Employment Office.
RIT Employment Program	No financial need requirement. Work on campus.	RIT pays the New York State minimum wage for Regular Student Worker jobs - currently $16.00/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 and NTID-supported students such as students in the ASL-English Interpretation Education program. As a result, we are able to offer 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.

2026-2027 Charges for Full-Time Resident Students

Academic Year (Based on two Semesters)

$41,736

$22,376
Tuition

$10,980
Residence Hall Room (Double)

$7,280
Meal Plan (Standard)

$1,100
Student Activity/Health Services Fees

One-time new student orientation charge ranging from $430 to $1,930



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

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:

1 Payment Options

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

2 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 Unsubsidized 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.

3 Federal Direct PLUS Loan

The Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) is a federally guaranteed loan that helps parents of dependent undergraduate students finance education costs. Beginning July 1, 2026, Parent PLUS Loans will be capped. Parents of undergraduate students will be eligible to apply up to $20,000 per academic year per student, with a lifetime maximum of $65,000 per student. 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.

4 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.

5 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 on-campus 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.

Learn more about loans and student employment at
rit.edu/financialaid

Learn more about payment plans at
rit.edu/studentfinancialservices

faq

We want to help you understand the ins and outs of financing your college education at RIT. Here are some questions we frequently receive from prospective students and parents:

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?

See our recommended filing deadline dates on page 3. These 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 need-based 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 provided 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.



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 as early as possible. 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 permanent address. 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?

Q2

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

Q3

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

Q4

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

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.

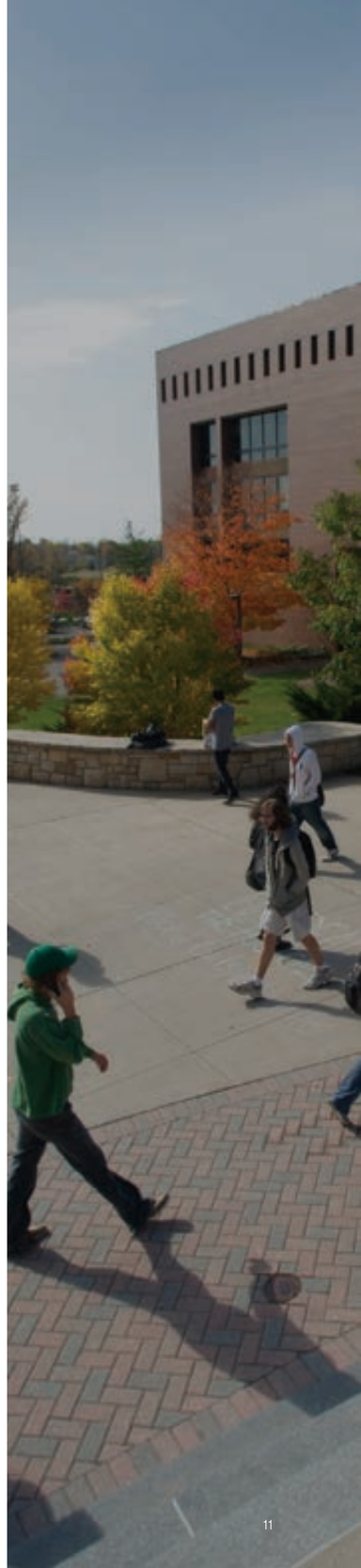
irs.gov

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



RIT | Rochester Institute of Technology

NTID Office of Admissions
52 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5604

First Class Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rochester, N.Y.
Permit 626

Financial Aid Information Inside...
rit.edu/financialaid

RIT does not discriminate. RIT promotes and values diversity within its workforce and provides equal opportunity to all qualified individuals regardless of race, color, creed, age, marital status, sex, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, veteran status, or disability.

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