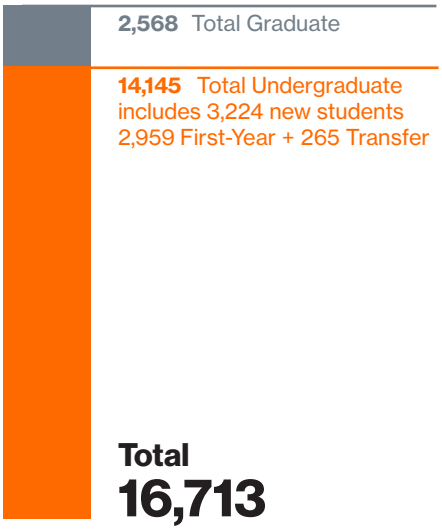
RIT

[Admissions Guide]

RIT is a collaborative community of thinkers, makers, and doers. We blend technology, the arts, and design in bold and purposeful ways, empowering students to explore big ideas and tackle real-world challenges from day one. With more than 90 majors, a world-leading co-op and experiential learning program, groundbreaking research, and globally recognized access services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, RIT offers a path for every kind of innovator. Here, creativity meets impact—and imagination gets to work.

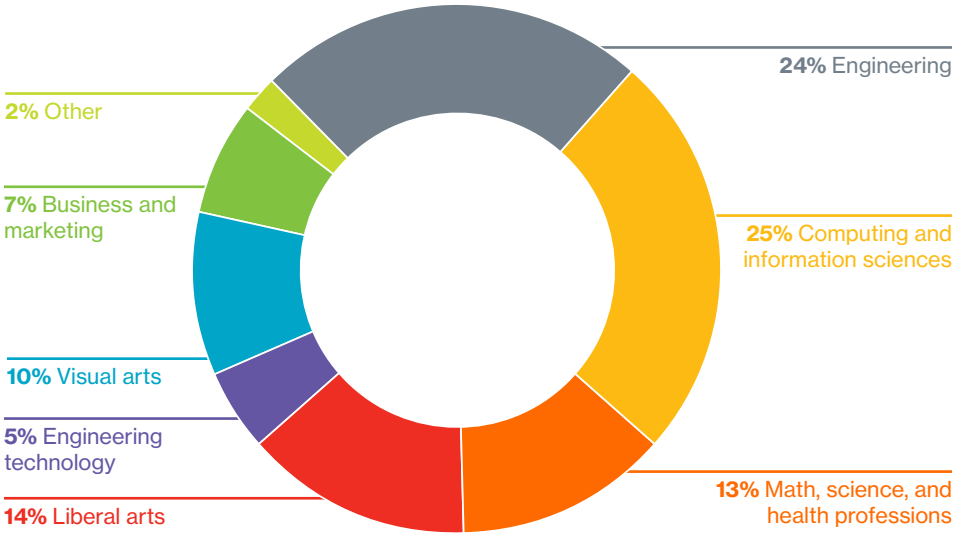
Total enrollment

Main campus fall 2025



Bachelor's degrees awarded

Class of 2025



Geography of student body

(undergraduate)

43% New York

53% Other US

4% International

RIT's Global Campuses

First-Year Admissions Overview

Admission Pathways

Applicants select from three entry paths:

1 Apply directly to a major and start your desired course work right away.

2 Apply to a college-based Exploration Option to learn more about specific majors within a college.

3 Apply to the Individualized Program major to design a degree around your interests, goals, and career aspirations.

RIT is test-optional. You may choose to apply SAT/ACT test-optional, or choose to have scores considered with your application.

Admission to RIT is competitive, but our admission process is a personal one. Each application is reviewed holistically for strength of academic preparation, counselor recommendations, and your personal career interests. We seek applicants from a variety of geographic, social, cultural, and economic backgrounds.

For all bachelor's degree programs, a strong performance in a college preparatory program is expected. Generally, this includes 4 years of English, 3-4 years of mathematics, 2-3 years of science, and 3 years of social studies and/or history. **See specific math and science requirements and other recommendations below.**

College	Majors and Options	Specific Math and Science Requirements and Other Recommendations	Middle 50% of Accepted Applicants for 2026
College of Art and Design	**School of Art** • Illustration • Medical Illustration • Studio Arts – Ceramics Option – Furniture Design Option – Glass Option – Metals and Jewelry Design Option – Printmaking Option – Painting Option – Sculpture and Expanded Forms Option • Studio Arts Exploration Option[1] **School of Design** • 3D Digital Design – 3D Visualization Option – Game Arts Option • Graphic Design • Industrial Design • Interior Design • New Media Design	• All programs require studio art experience and a portfolio of original artwork except New Media Design. • Portfolio guidelines can be found at rit.edu/artdesign/portfolio-requirements. • Medical illustration requires biology.	**GPA** 90-95 (100) 3.5-4.0 (4.0) SAT 1280-1440 ACT 29-33
	School of Film and Animation • Film and Animation – Animation Option – Production Option • Motion Picture Science	• Film and Animation requires a portfolio. Guidelines at rit.edu/artdesign/portfolio-requirements. • Motion picture science requires 4 years of math which must include algebra, geometry, algebra 2/trigonometry, and pre-calculus. Calculus is preferred. Chemistry or physics is required and both are recommended.	**GPA** 90-95 (100) 3.5-4.0 (4.0) SAT 1300-1430 ACT 31-34
	School of Photographic Arts and Sciences • Photographic and Imaging Arts – Advertising Photography Option – Fine Art Photography Option – Photojournalism Option – Visual Media Option • Photographic Sciences • Photographic Arts Exploration Option[1]	• Photographic sciences requires 4 years of math which must include algebra, geometry, algebra 2/trigonometry, and pre-calculus. Calculus is preferred. Chemistry or physics is required and both are recommended.	**GPA** 88-94 (100) 3.3-3.9 (4.0) SAT 1150-1350 ACT 28-33
Saunders College of Business	• Accounting • Finance • Global Business Management • Hospitality and Tourism Management • Management Information Systems • Marketing • Supply Chain Management • Business Exploration[1]	• 3 years of math is required (algebra, geometry, algebra 2/trigonometry). Pre-calculus preferred.	**GPA** 90-95 (100) 3.5-4.0 (4.0) SAT 1290-1440 ACT 29-34
Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences	• Artificial Intelligence • Computer Science • Cybersecurity • Game Design and Development • Human-Centered Computing* • Information Technology* • New Media Interactive Development • Software Engineering • Computing Exploration[1]	***Programs** • 3 years of math is required (algebra, geometry, algebra 2/trigonometry). Pre-calculus preferred. • Chemistry or physics is required; both preferred. • Computing electives preferred. **All Other Programs** • 4 years of math is required (algebra, geometry, algebra 2/trigonometry, pre-calculus). Calculus preferred. • Chemistry or physics is required; both preferred. • Computing electives preferred.	**GPA** 91-96 (100) 3.6-4.1 (4.0) SAT 1360-1500 ACT 31-35
Kate Gleason College of Engineering	• Biomedical Engineering • Chemical Engineering • Computer Engineering • Electrical Engineering • Industrial Engineering • Mechanical Engineering • Microelectronic Engineering • Engineering Exploration[1]	• 4 years of math is required (algebra, geometry, algebra 2/trigonometry, pre-calculus). Calculus preferred. • Chemistry and physics are required. • Biomedical Engineering requires biology.	**GPA** 93-97 (100) 3.8-4.2 (4.0) SAT 1360-1490 ACT 31-35
College of Engineering Technology	• Civil Engineering Technology • Computer Engineering Technology • Electrical Engineering Technology • Environmental Sustainability, Health and Safety • Mechanical Engineering Technology • Mechatronics Engineering Technology • Robotics and Manufacturing Engineering Technology • Packaging Science • Engineering Technology Exploration[1]	• 3 years of math is required (algebra, geometry, algebra 2/trigonometry). Pre-calculus preferred for all programs. • Chemistry or physics required and biology recommended. • Technology electives preferred.	**GPA** 90-95 (100) 3.5-4.0 (4.0) SAT 1300-1450 ACT 29-34
College of Health Sciences and Technology	• Biomedical Sciences • Diagnostic Medical Sonography (Ultrasound) • Exercise Science • Global Public Health • Nutritional Sciences • Physician Assistant (BS/MS)	• 3 years of math is required (algebra, geometry, algebra 2/trigonometry). Pre-calculus is preferred. • For Global Public Health, pre-calculus and/or statistics is preferred. • Biology and chemistry are required for all programs.** **Diagnostic Medical Sonography does not require chemistry but does prefer chemistry and physics.	**GPA** 92-96 (100) 3.7-4.1 (4.0) SAT 1300-1440 ACT 30-34
College of Liberal Arts	• Advertising and Public Relations • Applied Modern Language and Culture – Chinese Option – French Option – Japanese Option – Spanish Option • Communication – Journalism Option • Criminal Justice • Economics • English • History • Humanities, Computing, and Design • Global Futures • Museum Studies • Philosophy • Political Science • Psychology • Sociology and Anthropology • Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies • Liberal Arts Exploration[1]	• 3 years of math is required (algebra, geometry, and algebra 2/trigonometry). • Strong performance in English and Social Studies is expected.	**GPA** 90-95 (100) 3.5-4.0 (4.0) SAT 1290-1450 ACT 28-33
College of Science	• Applied Mathematics • Applied Statistics and Data Analytics • Biochemistry • Bioinformatics and Computational Biology • Biology • Biotechnology and Molecular Bioscience • Chemistry • Computational Mathematics • Environmental Science • Imaging Science • Neuroscience • Physics	**Math Programs and Imaging Science** • 4 years of math is required (algebra, geometry, algebra 2/trigonometry, pre-calculus). Calculus preferred. • Chemistry or physics is required and both are recommended. **Physics** • 4 years of math is required (algebra, geometry, algebra 2/trigonometry, pre-calculus). Calculus preferred. • 3 years of science; physics is required. **All Other Programs** • 3 years of math is required (algebra, geometry, algebra 2/trigonometry). Pre-calculus recommended. • Biology and Chemistry are required.	**GPA** 93-98 (100) 3.8-4.3 (4.0) SAT 1350-1500 ACT 31-35
National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID)	**Deaf and hard-of-hearing applicants—including those with cochlear implants or one-sided deafness—applying to bachelor's programs in one of the other colleges should refer to the information for that RIT college.**		
	Bachelor's Degree Programs • American Sign Language-English Interpretation	• Strong performance in English is expected • Must demonstrate competency to begin at ASL II or higher	**GPA** 89-96 (100) 3.4-4.1 (4.0) SAT 1140-1320 ACT 23-28
	• Community Development and Inclusive Leadership	• Strong performance in English and social sciences is expected • ASL fluency required for hearing students applying to the Deaf Leadership and Deaf Community Advancement tracks	**GPA** 89-95 (100) 3.4-4.0 (4.0) SAT 1140-1320 ACT 23-28
	The Pre-baccalaureate Studies option is available for students who are close to qualifying for a bachelor's degree but need up to one academic year of additional preparation before entering a bachelor's degree program in business, computing and information technology, engineering, liberal arts, science and mathematics, or visual communications and imaging arts.		If submitting test scores, NTID recommends the ACT. **GPA** 81-88 (100) 2.6-3.3 (4.0) ACT 18-21
	Associate Degree Leading to Bachelor's Degree (A + B) Programs (Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students ONLY) • Applied Liberal Arts • Applied Mechanical Technology • Business • Business Administration • Civil Technology • General Science • Information Technology • Laboratory Science Technology • Precision Manufacturing Technology	• 3 years of math for engineering and science; 2 for other programs • 2 years of science for engineering and science; 1 for other programs • English language skills as evidenced by application materials	If submitting test scores, NTID recommends the ACT. **GPA** 81-88 (100) 2.6-3.3 (4.0) ACT 18-21
	Career-focused Associate Degree Programs (Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students ONLY) • 3D Graphics Technology • Applied Information Technology • Architectural and Civil Drafting Technology • Business Administration • Business Technology • Career Exploration Studies[1] • Design and Imaging Technology • Laboratory Science Technology • Mobile Application Development • Precision Manufacturing Technology	• College-bound high school curriculum • English language skills as evidenced by application materials • Career-related electives desirable	If submitting test scores, NTID recommends the ACT. **GPA** 80-86 (100) 2.5-3.1 (4.0) ACT 14-17
School of Individualized Study (SOIS)	**Individualized Program**[2]	**All Programs** • 3 years of math is required and must include algebra, geometry, and algebra 2/trigonometry • Strong performance in English and Social Studies is expected	**GPA** 91-96 (100) 3.6-4.1 (4.0) SAT 1250-1510 ACT 33-34

[1] A one-year program for students wishing to explore before selecting a specific major.
[2] This degree offers students the opportunity to create individualized undergraduate programs of technical and professional study.

RIT Honors Program

Honors students are among the best of the best at RIT. The Honors Program celebrates their talents and potential with special courses and learning opportunities that enrich the RIT academic experience, leadership and service options that aid personal growth, and a supportive community to develop lifelong relationships.

Learn more rit.edu/honors

RIT Combined Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Degrees

Earn two degrees in less time and with a cost savings. Outstanding first-year applicants may be offered Conditional Early acceptance to a graduate program. Current students can apply through the Enrolled Student Pathway after their second or third year of study.

Learn more rit.edu/accelerated

Accelerated Law School Partner Programs

The accelerated 3+3 BS/JD fast-tracks your pathway to law school, maximizing time and financial resources. Apply by RIT application deadlines to be considered for conditional acceptance to Syracuse University College of Law or University at Buffalo School of Law.

Learn More rit.edu/liberalarts/33-bs-jd-pre-law-program

Combined Accelerated Bachelor's + Master's Degrees

Earn both your bachelor's and master's degrees in less time and at a lower cost.

Save Time and Money
Complete both degrees faster and receive a guaranteed 40% scholarship on graduate tuition.

Diversify Your Education
Choose from 80+ accelerated pathways designed to match your academic and career goals.

Maximize Your Earning Potential
Graduate with advanced knowledge, stronger credentials, and greater earning potential.

Simple Admission
No GRE or GMAT. No separate graduate application once program requirements are met.

Explore all 80+ accelerated bachelor's + master's pathways.
Scan the QR code to find programs that match your interests.
Explore +1 MBA and Architecture/M.Arch pathways, too.

rit.edu/accelerated

Two Ways to Get Started

Pathway One: Conditional Early Acceptance

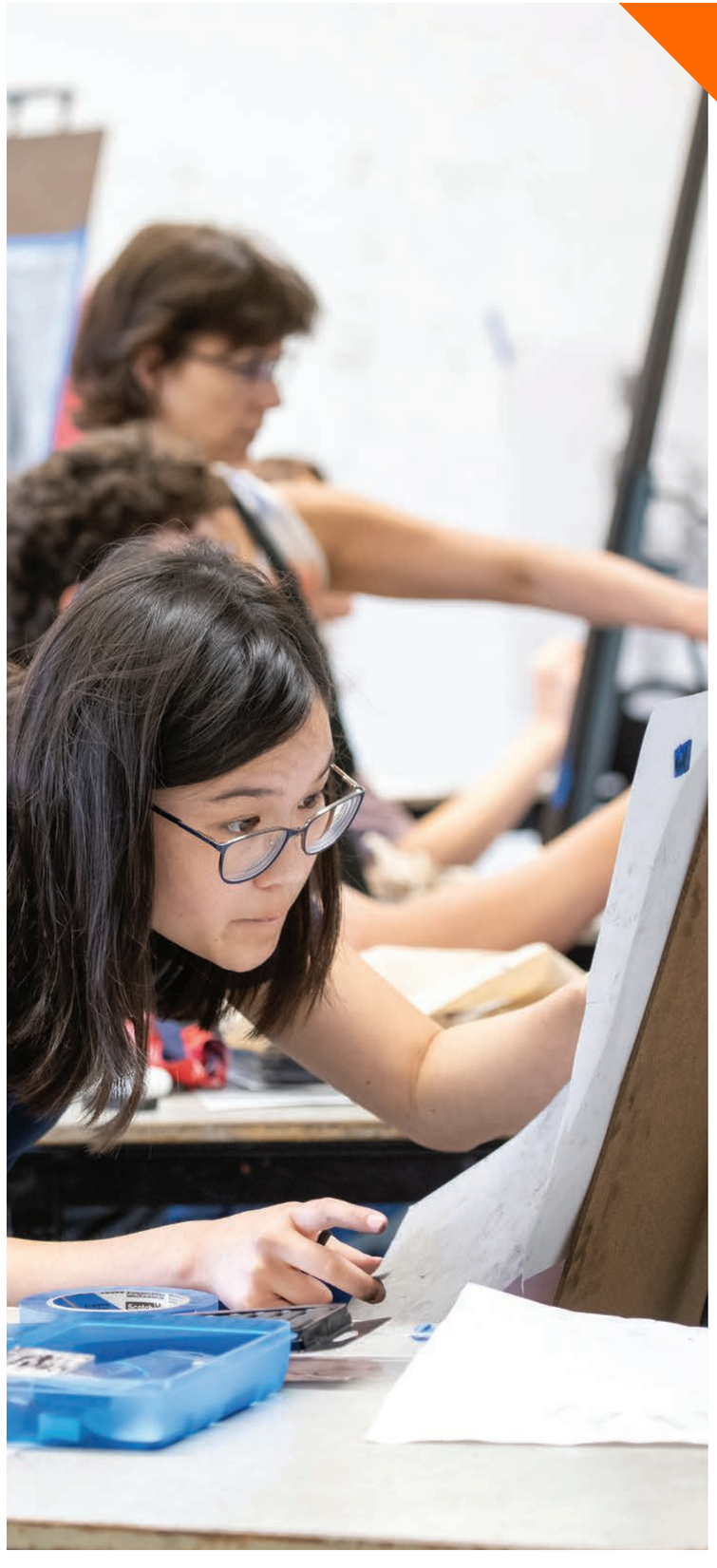
RIT offers outstanding first-year applicants early conditional acceptance to an accelerated bachelor's/master's program. You don't need to apply. If selected during admission review, you'll receive personalized academic guidance throughout your undergraduate experience and reserve your place in the graduate program while completing the required milestones.

rit.edu/CABM-ea

Pathway Two: Apply After You Enroll

Didn't receive conditional early acceptance or decide later that you'd like to pursue a master's degree? You can apply through your academic program during your second year at RIT. Students admitted through this pathway receive the same benefits, including the 40% graduate tuition scholarship.

rit.edu/CABM-enrolled



Portfolio Review Information

Portfolio Requirements

A portfolio is required for admission to most BFA programs in RIT's College of Art and Design.

Not required for:

BS in Motion Picture Science, BFA in New Media Design, or programs in the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences.

What to Submit

7–10 pieces of your strongest original artwork

Show your creativity, ideas, technical skills, and artistic voice

Portfolio pieces could include but are not limited to paintings, drawings, photographs, sculptures, time-based work, renderings, and storyboards

Do not submit AI-generated work, mood boards, or internet images

Illustration, medical illustration, painting, and printmaking applicants: Include drawings created from direct observation (see QR code for details)

rit.edu/artdesign/portfolio-requirements

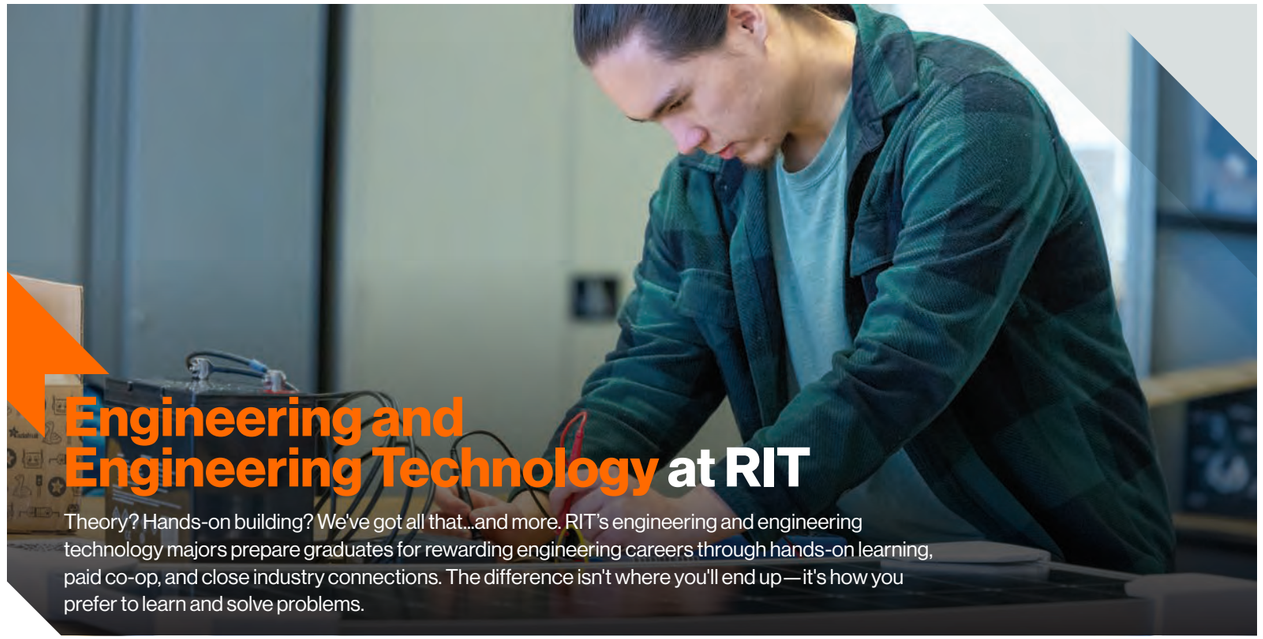
How to Submit

Upload your portfolio through the RIT Admissions Portal by your application deadline or present it at select portfolio review events.

Scan for complete portfolio guidelines, file requirements, and submission instructions.

rit.edu/artdesign/portfolio-requirements

Questions? portfolios@rit.edu



Engineering and Engineering Technology at RIT

Theory? Hands-on building? We've got all that...and more. RIT's engineering and engineering technology majors prepare graduates for rewarding engineering careers through hands-on learning, paid co-op, and close industry connections. The difference isn't where you'll end up—it's how you prefer to learn and solve problems.

Engineering Majors

General Characteristics

By gaining a strong theoretical understanding of math and science principles, students learn to use fundamental scientific and engineering principles to create new technologies.

Math and Science

Students complete a four-course sequence in calculus and differential equations

Students complete a two-course sequence in calculus-based physics

Completing the math and science requirements is essential to progress through the early technical courses

Course Work

Relies more heavily on calculus preparation and is more calculus-based

Typically provides a strong theoretical background with some application

Includes fundamental principles focusing on where the equations come from, the importance of equations, the detailed derivation of the equations, and how to use the equations in solving engineering problems

Engineering Technology Majors

General Characteristics

Students take a hands-on, lab-focused approach in learning how to apply math, science, and engineering principles to implement new technologies and solve real-world problems.

Math and Science

Students complete a three-course sequence in calculus and differential equations (a four-course sequence is optional)

Students complete a two-course sequence in algebra and trigonometry-based physics (calculus-based physics is optional)

Completing the math and science requirements is essential, but progression through the early technical courses will not be hindered

Course Work

More algebra- and trigonometry-based and relies less heavily on calculus preparation

Typically focused on application blended with some theoretical background

Includes fundamental principles focusing on where the equations come from, the importance of equations, and how to use the equations in solving engineering problems

Engineering

Outcomes + Experience

95.4%

Career Outcomes
Engineering and Engineering Technology graduates are employed or continuing their education within six months.

100%

Participation in Paid Co-op
All engineering and engineering technology majors complete paid, full-time engineering co-op experiences with leading employers

$82K

Average Starting Salary

120K+ sq. ft.

The SHED
A campus hub for makerspaces, project teams, collaboration, and innovation.

13

Accelerated Bachelor's + Master's Pathways
Earn two degrees in less time.

Senior Design
Solve real engineering challenges for industry sponsors before graduation.

Student Performance Teams
Build race cars, rockets, robots, solar vehicles, steel bridges, and more.

Entrepreneurship
Launch ideas through competitions, mentoring, funding, and startup resources at the Simone Center

Engineering or Engineering Technology?
Explore the similarities, differences, and which path might be the right fit for you.

Scan the QR code to learn more.

rit.edu/admissions/engineering-vs-engineering-technology

Early Admission Programs

Act sooner, know earlier.

Early Decision is for students who are certain RIT is their top choice.

Apply by November 1 (EDI) or by January 1 (EDII) to:

- Receive the earliest possible decision and merit scholarship notification for EDI by mid-December EDII by mid-January
- Stand out in a small pool of applicants and benefit from higher acceptance rates, especially for competitive majors
- Get a full review of your scholarship and financial aid eligibility before the deposit deadline
- Wrap up your college search early – if accepted, you'll commit to RIT by January 15 (EDI) or February 15 (EDII) and stress less during your senior year

Early Decision I and II are binding. We're committed to ensuring that RIT is the right fit for you, both academically and financially. Once you accept our offer and pay your enrollment deposit, you should withdraw your applications from other colleges.

Early Action is for students who are excited about RIT and ready to apply early and hear back sooner.

Apply by November 1 to:

- Receive your decision and merit scholarship notification by late-January
- Express your interest in RIT without having to commit early
- Get your scholarship and financial aid offer before Regular Decision applicants
- Have until May 1 to make your final decision

Early Action is non-binding. If accepted, you can still consider other schools until May 1. This option shows your strong interest in RIT while keeping your options open.

Why wait?

Join the 20% of RIT students who start their RIT journey through Early Decision.

- Apply in a smaller, more committed applicant pool.
- Benefit from higher acceptance rates than Early Action and Regular Decision.
- Receive your scholarship and financial aid offer before you're asked to make your enrollment deposit.
- Be among the first to select your housing preferences.
- Connect with other accepted students and begin building your RIT community early.

Learn more about Early Decision →

Scan to explore deadlines, benefits, and FAQs.

rit.edu/early-decision

Applying

Timelines

Early Decision I

Application Deadline
November 1

Decision Notification
Mid-December

Deposit Deadline
January 15

Early Decision II

Application Deadline
January 1

Decision Notification
Mid-January

Deposit Deadline
February 15

Early Action

Application Deadline
November 1

Decision Notification
Late January

Deposit Deadline
May 1

Regular Decision

Application Deadline
January 15

Decision Notification
Mid-March

Deposit Deadline
May 1

RIT Nondiscrimination
Notice can be found here: rit.edu/nondiscrimination

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