

R·I·T



2019–2020
**FINANCIAL AID
AND SCHOLARSHIPS**
FOR FRESHMEN

An Exceptional Value An Outstanding Investment An Affordable Choice

RIT has been recognized by several leading college rankings and guides for its value and affordability, including *The Fiske Guide to Colleges*, *Kiplinger Magazine*, and *Princeton Review*. In the 2018 *U.S. News & World Report* "Best Value Schools" list, RIT ranked #41 among national universities.

A Commitment to Affordability

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.

More than 77 percent of RIT full-time undergraduate students receive some type of financial assistance each year. Last year, RIT undergraduates received more than \$320 million from all sources, including more than \$223 million in scholarships and grants.

In addition, many students take advantage of our payment plans, tuition pre-payment plan, and opportunities for students to earn substantial salaries through RIT's internationally recognized cooperative education (co-op) program. We believe that we can help you and your family afford the quality education you are looking for. The investment you make in an RIT education will last your lifetime.

Merit-Based Scholarships

Merit-based scholarships at RIT are awarded in recognition of outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements, regardless of a student's financial need. These scholarships are most often awarded based on a review of information already provided to RIT's Office of Undergraduate Admissions as part of the admission process. A separate application is not required for most of these scholarships.

Some students who are awarded merit-based

scholarships choose not to apply for need-based financial aid. Many others receive merit-based scholarships as part of a comprehensive financial aid award that may also include RIT need-based grants, federal- or state-sponsored grants, loans, or employment opportunities.

Need-Based Financial Aid

Need-based financial aid is awarded to students who demonstrate financial need. The information that your family provides on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used to calculate an expected family contribution toward educational expenses, based on a government-approved formula. If your expected family contribution is less than the total cost of an RIT education (tuition, fees, room and board, and allowances for books, supplies, transportation, and personal expenses), you have demonstrated financial need. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will determine your eligibility for RIT, federal, and other financial aid programs based on financial need.

Applying for Need-Based Financial Aid

At RIT, new students complete only the FAFSA to apply for need-based financial aid. You automatically will be considered for all need-based financial aid programs provided by RIT, as well as federal and state financial aid programs. You can complete the FAFSA online.

77%

OF FULL-TIME
UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS

RECEIVED MORE THAN

\$320
million

IN FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE FROM
ALL SOURCES

www.rit.edu/financialaid

Here is how to apply: You may complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.gov. Have results sent to RIT by including our federal school code, which is 002806.



The application is available beginning October 1 but our priority filing deadlines are listed below so that you will receive your award information prior to your admission deposit deadline:

FAFSA Priority Filing Deadline

Early Decision 1 **November 1**

Early Decision 2 **January 1**

Regular Decision **January 15**

If you are a resident of New York state, you also can apply for the **New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)** by completing the *TAP on the Web* application at www.TAPweb.org. If you are not a resident of New York state, check with your state scholarship agency to see if you can use your state scholarship or grant at RIT.

Your Financial Aid Award

Your financial aid award may contain a combination of several types of aid from a variety of sources, including the federal

government, state government, and RIT. Your award may include grants, scholarships, student loans, or part-time employment. The scholarship and financial aid programs used most often at RIT are outlined in charts on pages 4 and 5 of this publication.

Basic Steps for First-Time Applicants

Apply for admission. You should start your application for admission early in your senior year. RIT will not offer you a financial aid award until you have been admitted.

Complete the FAFSA. This should be done as soon after October 1 as possible. File the form on the web at www.fafsa.gov. Have results sent to RIT by including our federal school code, which is 002806.

Watch for your Student Aid Report (SAR). You will receive a SAR when you file your FAFSA. Your SAR will be sent to the email address you list on the FAFSA. Review the SAR and make any needed corrections.

Apply for state scholarships and grants. Check with your state scholarship agency for application information and forms.

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 at www.rit.edu/financialaid.

**Rochester Institute of Technology
Office of Financial Aid
and Scholarships
Bausch & Lomb Center
56 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5604**

Phone: 585-475-2186
Fax: 585-475-7270
Email: ritaid@rit.edu
For deaf and hard-of-hearing students: ntidaid@rit.edu

Merit-Based Scholarship Programs

General Guidelines

More than 65 percent of full-time freshmen receive merit-based scholarships each year.

Merit-based scholarships are competitive and awarded in recognition of outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements, regardless of financial need. Some students who are awarded merit-based scholarships choose not to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for need-based financial aid consideration. Other students receive merit-based scholarships as part of their financial aid award.

General guidelines pertaining to merit-based scholarships listed below include the following:

- All admitted freshmen are reviewed by the Scholarship Selection Committee to determine each student's eligibility for RIT merit-based scholarships.
- In most cases, a separate merit-based scholarship application is not required (see page 4 for exceptions).
- Merit-based scholarships are available to full-time students only.
- **Students who meet the eligibility requirements for more than one RIT merit-based scholarship will be awarded only the highest valued scholarship.**
- All RIT merit-based scholarships are renewable for up to eight semesters of full-time study (excluding terms of cooperative education during which no tuition is charged) at the same monetary level, contingent upon the student maintaining a cumulative grade-point average of 2.8 or higher (measured at the end of each academic year), along with any additional requirements outlined at the time the award is made.
- Only in rare cases will any combination of merit-based and need-based scholarships and grants exceed full tuition.
- **To receive full consideration, all freshman admission applications for fall entry should be submitted to RIT by November 1 (Early Decision 1), January 1 (Early Decision 2), or January 15 (Regular Decision).**

Merit-Based Scholarships for Freshmen

Merit-based scholarships for entering freshmen are competitive and awarded based on a comprehensive review of their academic record

and letters of recommendation. Consideration may also be given to outstanding leadership, service, entrepreneurship, citizenship, or creativity. Portfolio evaluations or other evidence of creative excellence will also be considered for applicants to art, crafts, design, film, and photography programs.

The primary merit-based scholarship programs for entering freshmen are:

- **RIT Presidential Scholarships—** Presidential Scholarships are awarded to a select number of admitted freshmen. Recipients demonstrate exceptional academic performance, and receive exemplary letters of recommendation as well as strong entrance exam scores. **\$14,000 to \$20,000 annually.**
- **RIT Founders Scholarships—** Named to recognize the individuals instrumental in founding RIT and its forerunners, Founders Scholarships are awarded to admitted freshmen who are outstanding academically, are active and involved in their schools or community, or demonstrate special talents or abilities. Consideration may also be given to outstanding leadership, service, entrepreneurship, citizenship, or creativity. Portfolio evaluations or other evidence of creative excellence will also be considered for applicants to art, crafts, design, film, and photography programs. **\$8,000 to \$12,000 annually.**
- **RIT Founders Scholarships for International Students—**The Founders Scholarship for International Students is awarded to highly qualified admitted international students. Amounts vary; based on merit.

Other merit-based scholarship programs include:

- **RIT National Merit Scholarship—** RIT is a full participant with the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) program for National Merit Scholars. Admitted freshmen designated as NMSC finalists who name RIT as their first-choice school will receive the highest Presidential

Scholarship offered (\$20,000). Recipients also qualify for an additional **\$2,000 annually** through a combination of the RIT National Merit Scholarship and/or RIT NMSC Recognition Award.

- **RIT National Hispanic Scholar Award—**RIT honors the recipient's academic excellence by providing an **annual \$2,000** scholarship in addition to any other RIT scholarships the student may receive. Recipient must be designated by the College Board as a National Hispanic Recognition Program scholar.
- **RIT NMSC Recognition Award—**provided to recipients who receive the **\$1,000 annual** RIT National Merit Scholarship.
- **RIT National Co-op Scholarships—**awarded to admitted freshmen based on the strength of a student's academic record and a required essay. **\$8,000 annually.**
- **RIT/FIRST Robotics Scholarships—**awarded to admitted freshmen based on the strength of a student's academic record and who have participated on a high school FIRST team. **\$8,000 annually.**
- **RIT Project Lead The Way Scholarships—**awarded to admitted freshmen based on the strength of a student's academic record and who complete two or more PLTW courses. **\$8,000 annually.**



- **RIT Hillside Scholarships**—awarded to admitted freshmen based on the strength of a student’s academic record and involvement in the Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection program. **\$12,000 annually.**
- **RIT High School Junior Awards Program**—Awarded to award recipients who are admitted and enroll at RIT in the fall immediately following graduation from high school. **Students must be nominated by their high schools in the junior year for consideration. \$8,000 annually.**
 - *RIT Computing Medal Scholarships*—recognizes high school juniors who have distinguished themselves academically, and demonstrate ability in computing.
 - *RIT Innovation & Creativity Award Scholarships*—recognizes high school juniors who have distinguished themselves academically, and demonstrate outstanding achievement in innovation, creativity, or entrepreneurship.

Additional information can be found on pages 4 and 5 of this publication, and on the Financial Aid and Scholarships website at www.rit.edu/financialaid.

What Does It Cost to Attend RIT?

Each year we develop estimated expense budgets for undergraduates at RIT. Tuition and fees are generally consistent from student to student, but total expenses may vary depending upon such factors as housing and meal plans. Student expense budgets include a \$2,054 yearly allowance for estimated books, transportation, and personal expenses. Financial aid awards take these estimated costs into consideration in addition to tuition and fees and room and board, so that your aid award more accurately reflects all costs associated with your attendance.

Charges for full-time resident students enrolling for the first time in 2018-2019 are listed at right. Charges for 2019-2020 will be announced in March 2019.

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



2018-2019 Charges for Full-Time Resident Students Enrolling for the First Time Fall Semester 2018

	Academic Year (2 Semesters)
Tuition*	\$43,546
Residence Hall Room (Double)	\$7,598
Board Plan (Standard)	\$5,448
Fees	\$584
Total	\$57,176

* Tuition expenses are lower for deaf and hard-of-hearing students sponsored by NTID. Please contact the NTID Admissions Office for additional information: 585-475-6700 or 585-743-1366 videophone.

2019–2020 Undergraduate Freshman Scholarships and Financial Aid

Merit-Based Scholarship General Guidelines

All admitted freshmen are reviewed by the Scholarship Selection Committee to determine each student's eligibility for RIT merit-based scholarships. Unless otherwise noted, no separate application is required.

Merit-based scholarships are competitive and are awarded in recognition of exceptional or outstanding academic achievement. Consideration may also be given to outstanding leadership, service, entrepreneurship, citizenship, or creativity. Portfolio evaluations or other evidence of creative excellence will also be considered for applicants to art, crafts, design, film, and photography programs.

To receive full consideration, applicants for fall entry must apply by November 1 (Early Decision 1), January 1 (Early Decision 2), or January 15 (Regular Decision). **Students who meet the eligibility requirements for more than one RIT merit-based scholarship will be awarded only the highest valued scholarship.** Unless otherwise noted, merit-based scholarships require a 2.8 cumulative grade-point average for renewal.

Merit-Based Scholarships	Eligibility	Amount
<i>RIT Presidential Scholarships</i>	Awarded to a select number of entering freshmen. Recipients demonstrate exceptional academic performance; receive exemplary letters of recommendation as well as strong entrance exam scores.	\$14,000 to \$20,000 per year. Renewable.
<i>RIT Founders Scholarships</i>	Named to recognize the founders of RIT and its forerunners, Founders Scholarships are awarded to admitted freshmen who are outstanding academically, are active and involved in their schools or community, or demonstrate special talents or abilities. Consideration may also be given to outstanding leadership, service, entrepreneurship, citizenship, or creativity. Portfolio evaluations or other evidence of creative excellence will also be considered for applicants to art, crafts, design, film, and photography programs.	\$8,000 to \$12,000 per year. Renewable.
<i>RIT Founders Scholarships for International Students</i>	The Founders Scholarship for International Students is awarded to highly qualified admitted international students. Amounts vary; based on merit.	Amount varies based on merit. Renewable.
<i>RIT Recognition Scholarships</i>	Provided to a select number of students who demonstrate meritorious academics, community involvement, leadership, or other characteristics that the university deems of value.	Minimum award is \$1,000. Renewable.

In addition to the award criteria listed above, the following merit-based scholarships have specific selection criteria and/or application procedures.

Merit-Based Scholarships	Eligibility	Amount	Additional Information
<i>RIT National Merit Scholarship/ RIT NMSC Recognition Award</i>	Awarded to admitted freshmen who are National Merit Scholar finalists and name RIT as their 1 st choice school for NMSC.	\$1,000 or \$2,000 per year depending on need. Renewable as long as student meets NMSC guidelines.	RIT will receive finalist rosters from NMSC. Combination of the two awards equals \$2,000. Recipients of these awards automatically qualify for our highest Presidential Scholarship (\$20,000).
<i>RIT National Hispanic Scholar Award</i>	Awarded to admitted freshmen who are recognized by the College Board as National Hispanic Recognition Scholars.	\$2,000 per year. Renewable.	RIT will receive an official roster from the College Board NHRS program.
<i>RIT National Co-op Scholarships</i>	Awarded to outstanding admitted freshman students who, through their essay, reflect a clear enthusiasm for experiential learning.	\$8,000 per year. Renewable. Up to 10 awarded each year.	Submit scholarship application online at: www.waceinc.org .
<i>RIT/FIRST Robotics Scholarships</i>	Awarded to outstanding admitted freshman applicants who have participated on a high school FIRST team.	\$8,000 per year. Renewable. Up to 20 awarded each year.	Download scholarship application at: www.usfirst.org .
<i>RIT Project Lead The Way Scholarships</i>	Awarded to outstanding admitted freshmen who have completed two or more PLTW courses.	\$8,000 per year. Renewable. Up to 20 awarded each year.	Submit a letter of recommendation from a PLTW teacher along with RIT admission application and school transcripts by January 15.
<i>RIT Hillside Scholarships</i>	Awarded to admitted freshman students to recognize outstanding graduates of the Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection program. Recipients are identified based on involvement in the Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection program.	\$12,000 per year. Renewable.	
<i>RIT Computing Medal Scholarships</i>	Award recipients nominated by their high schools who are admitted and enroll at RIT in the fall immediately following graduation from high school.	\$8,000 per year. Renewable.	Eligible students must be nominated by their high schools in the junior year for consideration.
<i>RIT Innovation & Creativity Award Scholarships</i>	Award recipients nominated by their high schools who are admitted and enroll at RIT in the fall immediately following graduation from high school.	\$8,000 per year. Renewable.	Eligible students must be nominated by their high schools in the junior year for consideration.

ROTC Scholarships	Students enrolling in ROTC who are academically qualified.	Amounts vary.	Air Force: 585-475-5197 Army: 585-475-2881 Navy: 585-275-4275
RIT ROTC Room and Board Scholarships	Awarded to Army, Air Force, or Navy ROTC cadets awarded three- or four-year scholarships prior to enrollment.	Up to the amount of a standard default room and board plan, minus other financial aid and benefits.	Contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.
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.	Visit our Military & Veterans website: www.rit.edu/emcs/ptgrad/veterans1.php or contact the Veterans and Military Services Office at 585-475-6641.

Need-Based Grants	Eligibility	Amount	Where to Apply
RIT Grants	Students demonstrating financial need.	Amounts vary depending on need.	File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after October 1.
RIT RCSD Scholarships	Awarded to qualified freshmen who are graduates of the Rochester City School District who have both lived in the city and attended an approved high school within the RCSD for the last three years of high school.	Full tuition through a combination of RIT scholarships and state and federal need-based grants.	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, awarded 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.
Tuition Assistance Program (New York State)	Full-time students who are New York state residents and meet state income guidelines.	\$500 to \$5,165 per year for entering freshmen.	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.	\$625 to \$6,095 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 award is \$500.	File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
NYS Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)	Economically and academically disadvantaged residents of New York state.	Varies according to need and New York state funding.	Contact HEOP Office at RIT (585-475-2506) for eligibility guidelines.
Other State Grants	Varies.	Amounts vary.	State education department in state of residency.

Loans	Eligibility	Amount	Where to Apply
Federal Direct Loans	All students enrolled at least half time in a degree program.	Maximum amount: 1st year: \$3,500; 2nd year: \$4,500; 3rd, 4th, 5th: \$5,500. Additional maximum \$2,000 Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan—all years.	File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
Federal Direct Loans—Independent Students	All independent undergraduates enrolled at least half time in a degree program.	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 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 www.studentloans.gov .

Employment	Eligibility	Amount	Where to Apply
Federal Work-Study Program	Students with financial need. Most jobs provided on campus. Some community service positions are available.	Varies, depending on hours and wage rate. RIT wage rates start at \$10.40 per hour.	File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
RIT Employment Program	No financial need requirement. May be on campus or off.	Varies, depending on hours and wage rate. RIT wage rates start at \$10.40 per hour.	RIT Student Employment Office.

Notes

- This chart covers the most commonly awarded financial aid programs available to full-time undergraduate students at RIT. Information is correct as of 6/18.
- Most 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 priority filing date 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 will be prorated for NTID-sponsored students to reflect lower NTID tuition rates. Please see NTID version of this publication if you are a deaf or hard-of-hearing applicant.

Financing Options at RIT

There are several loan programs, employment programs, and payment plans available to assist families in meeting their expected family contribution. 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

1 Student Financial Services offers a number of payment options that will allow you to schedule your payments each semester. Information is included in Orientation materials, or contact Student Financial Services at 585-475-6186.

RIT Tuition Prepayment Plan

2 This plan allows you to prepay two or more years' tuition costs at the current tuition rate. Students receiving need-based financial aid are not eligible for this plan, but students who receive only merit-based scholarships may participate.

Federal Direct Loan

3 The Federal Direct Loan program is the most widely used student loan program, and it includes an "unsubsidized" Direct Loan program. In this program, students who do not qualify (based on need) to have the government pay loan interest while they are enrolled in college may choose to borrow an unsubsidized Direct Loan and pay the interest due during that period themselves.

This means that any RIT student enrolled at least half time may borrow the maximum loan amount for the current academic year. Depending on financial need, interest accrued during the period of enrollment may be subsidized (paid by the government) or unsubsidized.

Independent students may add unsubsidized interest loans of \$4,000 to \$5,000 in addition to their normal Direct Loan amounts (resulting in a maximum \$12,500 eligibility for third-, fourth-, and fifth-year undergraduate students). For detailed information on this loan and other federal loans visit www.studentloans.gov.

Federal Direct PLUS Loan

4 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 educational costs. A parent may borrow up to the full cost of education minus other financial aid awarded. PLUS loans have a fixed interest rate set by the federal government.

Parents who 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. Dependent students may be eligible for up to \$4,000 as a freshman or sophomore, and \$5,000 as a junior or senior.

RIT Student Employment

5 This program is similar to the Federal Work-Study Program but does not take financial need into consideration. Students are employed on or off campus and earn wages that may be used to meet educational expenses. Employment is coordinated through RIT's Student Employment Office.

Cooperative Education

6 Paid cooperative education (co-op) employment is a required or optional component of most degree programs at RIT. While students do not typically enter co-op positions until after their second year of study, co-op earnings from that point can represent a substantial contribution toward college expenses. Last year, co-op students generated more than \$45 million through employment (see page 8).

Alternative Educational Loans

7 Alternative Educational Loans are private (non-federal) loans offered through banks to supplement financial aid awards. We encourage students and families to use alternative loans as a last option after first pursuing all federal loan options (Direct and PLUS). For additional information on alternative loans see the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships website at www.rit.edu/financialaid.

FAQ

Q: 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, so you can'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.

Q: When should I apply for aid?

You should file your FAFSA after October 1 or soon after you have applied for admission. Our priority filing deadline dates are established so that 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!

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

In most cases, the answer is yes, but not in every case. 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 siblings in college at the same time you are attending RIT; and
- more or fewer family members living at home.

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:

Q: Are all families expected to contribute toward educational expenses?

If the student is dependent upon his or her parents for support, then the expected family contribution will include amounts from both the student and parents based on their respective incomes and assets. The contribution for students who are financially independent of their parents is based on the student's income and assets, as well as on those of the student's spouse if married. The amount you potentially need to contribute toward educational expenses is the difference between your cost of attendance (see page 3) and the financial aid you are offered.

Q: Does RIT offer academic merit-based scholarships?

Yes. Merit-based scholarships are offered based on a student's academic record, leadership potential, or other factors, and financial need is not taken into consideration. At RIT, most merit-based scholarships for new students are awarded through our Presidential Scholarship and Founders Scholarship (see page 2). There also are a number of merit-based scholarships awarded to RIT upperclass students based on academic performance at RIT.

Q: 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 you lived with in the past 12 months. If you did not live with one parent more than with the other, provide information for the parent who provided you the most financial support. (Support would include money, gifts, loans, housing, food, clothes, medical care, etc.) Child support payments from your other parent will be taken into consideration, and information about the income and assets of any step-parent must also be provided. 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.

Q: What is an EFC?

EFC stands for Expected Family Contribution. This is used by all colleges and universities to determine a student's eligibility for federal financial aid programs. The EFC is calculated by the federal government's processor, based on the information you provide on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), using a formula known as the federal methodology. Your EFC will be the same at all colleges that receive results from your FAFSA. After you file your FAFSA, you will receive information from the federal processor that will inform you of your calculated EFC.

Q: 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.

Q: I have just been notified that I will receive a scholarship from my high school. How 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 award as a result of receiving an "outside scholarship," we will make every effort to reduce the student's loan and/or Federal Work-Study award before reducing any RIT grants. You can find links to many sources of free and reputable information concerning outside scholarships on our website at www.rit.edu/financialaid.



RIT Offers Quality and Value

RIT is perennially recognized as one of the world's leading universities. *U.S. News & World Report* ranks RIT among the top 100 in the "National Universities" category. That same publication has listed RIT's College of Art and Design, Saunders College of Business, and Kate Gleason College of Engineering among the country's best. *Princeton Review* includes RIT in its "Best 382 Colleges" and the 2017 edition of *Colleges That Create Futures*.

Merit-Based Scholarships for Upperclass Students

The RIT Nathaniel Rochester Society (NRS) Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship created in 1991 to recognize RIT undergraduate students for their outstanding academic and leadership achievements here at RIT. More than 100 scholarships are awarded each year by the NRS Scholarship Committee. The maximum award is \$2,000 for four semesters of academic study, and the scholarship is available to students who have achieved second-year standing at RIT with a GPA of 3.4 or higher. Additional information on the NRS Scholarship can be found at www.rit.edu/giving/nrs/scholarships.



Financial Benefits of Cooperative Education

All academic programs at RIT offer an experiential component. Some programs require a practicum or internship, and many feature an optional or required cooperative education component. RIT's cooperative education (or co-op) program offers more than 4,400 students practical employment

experience in conjunction with classroom learning each year. Co-op typically begins after completion of the sophomore year and requires that the student spend two or more co-op work periods employed in a full-time, paid position related to the student's academic interests. Nearly 2,300 co-op employers across the United States and overseas participate in RIT's cooperative education program.

In addition to work experience, there are significant financial advantages to participating in co-op. Last year, co-op students generated more than \$45 million through employment.

Average co-op salaries for specific academic programs may be obtained from the Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education website at www.rit.edu/oce. A portion of these cooperative education earnings can be used to offset tuition expenses charged when the student returns to the classroom.

Since tuition and fees are not charged while students are employed in co-op and not attending classes, the tuition costs associated with four years of education can also be spread over a more extended period of time. This often makes an RIT education more affordable.

Admission and Financial Aid Dates to Remember

Prospective freshmen applying for admission should be aware of the timetable below.

	Admission Application Deadline	Admission Notifications Begin	FAFSA Filing Priority Deadline	Financial Aid/Merit Notifications Begin
Early Decision 1	November 1	Mid-December	November 1	Mid-December
Early Decision 2	January 1	Mid-January	January 1	Mid-January
Regular Decision	January 15	Mid-March	January 15	Mid-March

Additional Information

Financial aid awards for admitted candidates will outline scholarships, grants, work-study opportunities, and low-interest 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 awards. Using the Federal FAFSA will allow you to apply for financial aid with no processing fee and will allow us to process your financial aid information more quickly.

Financial Aid and Scholarships Webpage

Visit www.rit.edu/financialaid for more information about financial aid. Our website walks you through the application process at RIT and provides details about the types of aid available. It also links to several free scholarship searches to assist in your research.

Financial Aid and Scholarships Office Hours

Our office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Counselors meet with students and parents on a walk-in and appointment basis.

If you have questions regarding financial aid or scholarships, you are encouraged to call 585-475-2186 to speak with a counselor or to request an appointment.

Our office also can be reached through email at ritaaid@rit.edu. Our fax number is 585-475-7270.

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. More information on federal tax credits and deductions can be found by contacting the Internal Revenue Service at www.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.

RIT is also one of more than 300 members of the **Sage Scholars Tuition Rewards Program**, a unique private college savings program. Tuition Rewards are discounts off tuition at participating private colleges and universities. For additional information, contact Sage Tuition Rewards at www.sagescholars.com.


Additional information can be found on the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships website at www.rit.edu/financialaid.



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Important Financial Aid Information Inside . . .

Important Dates



	October 1	FAFSA forms available online at www.fafsa.gov
Early Decision 1	November 1	Admissions applications deadline for merit-based scholarship consideration. Priority filing data for FAFSA
Early Decision 2	January 1	Admissions applications deadline for merit-based scholarship consideration. Priority filing data for FAFSA
Regular Decision	January 15	Admissions applications deadline for merit-based scholarship consideration. Priority filing data for FAFSA

www.rit.edu/financialaid