

Educational Professionals of Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing Students FAQs

What is Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf (RIT/NTID)?

Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) is a private university comprised of nine colleges on the same campus. The National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), the world's first and largest technological college for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, is one of those nine colleges. RIT/NTID is the most accessible college in the world for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, serving more than 1,100 deaf and hard-of-hearing students from around the world, all of whom live, study, and work alongside hearing students on campus.

Who is eligible to attend RIT/NTID?

There are deaf and hard-of-hearing students enrolled in ALL nine RIT colleges in associate, associate+bachelor's, and bachelor's degree programs, as well as graduate and doctoral programs. If your student is interested in any of the many academic opportunities offered at RIT/NTID, they are eligible to study here!

[Learn more about RIT and NTID: rit.edu/ntid]

Who is eligible for the reduced tuition rate at RIT/NTID?

Eligibility determination is individualized for each student. Generally speaking, a student must have significant bilateral hearing loss and/or a substantial hearing-related service history (utilized, requested, or recommended services) to be eligible for the reduced tuition rate. We also look at functional impacts, family history, and potential progression, and may request documents such as testimonials, or an IEP and 504. Students with cochlear implants and BAHA are automatically eligible. Some students with one-sided deafness and centralized auditory processing disorder are also eligible. **Students should not try to determine eligibility on their own.** Students should submit an audiogram to NTIDadmissions@rit.edu, so that we can consider all factors in determining eligibility.

Is the reduced tuition rate only for students in the College of NTID at RIT?

The reduced tuition rate is not limited to study in the College of NTID. This rate is in effect for study in ALL nine of RIT's colleges, at all degree levels, including graduate level study, and for domestic students from any state. This rate also applies to hearing students studying majors offered at the College of NTID, such as American Sign Language–English Interpretation and Community Development and Inclusive Leadership (Deaf Leadership option only).

[Learn more about the reduced tuition rate: rit.edu/ntid/tuition]

My student does not know sign language. / My student is fluent in ASL. Should they consider to RIT/NTID?

Yes! RIT/NTID is home to students of **all communication modes**. The number of ASL, sign and speech, and spoken-language students is now evenly distributed at one-third each within our deaf and hard-of-hearing student population. Many RIT students attended mainstream schools, while others attended schools for the Deaf. Some grew up in families where they were the only deaf person. Others came from culturally Deaf families. Some communicate using spoken English, while others use sign language or a combination of both. No matter their communication mode, your students will be able to connect with peers, faculty, and staff who have shared experiences.

[Find the right fit for your students at RIT/NTID: rit.edu/ntid/fit]

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I only have one college bound deaf/hard-of-hearing student. Can RIT/NTID visit my school?

Absolutely. If not in person, then we will schedule a virtual visit. RIT/NTID admissions counselors travel far and wide to visit at least 400 high schools each year. Most of our visits are one-on-one with individual students. We also offer webinars and virtual sessions that students and their families can attend. Students, families, and stakeholders such as yourself are also welcome any time to visit campus for Open House and/or a personalized visit schedule.

[Connect with a counselor or schedule a visit: rit.edu/ntid/visit]

Is my student academically ready for RIT/NTID?

Each degree level and RIT college maintains their own admission requirements, and RIT/NTID admissions counselors **work with each student to find the best starting place**. We have students who begin in a bachelor's degree program on day one, students who move into a bachelor's degree program after completion of an associate degree, and students who enter the workforce following completion of a career-focused associate degree program. In addition, there are multiple pre-college transition programs that support incoming students and help to bolster student retention. Your students should work directly with an RIT/NTID admissions counselor to determine the most fitting degree pathway.

[Explore RIT/NTID's degree pathways and academic offerings: rit.edu/ntid/academics]

Is there anything available for younger deaf/hard-of-hearing students?

RIT/NTID offers multiple programs and competitions for middle and high school students, including those offered on campus, virtually, and in your state! Students can participate in programs and competitions focusing on STEM subjects, business, computing, health sciences, art, and career exploration, like Explore Your Future (EYF) or the SpiRIT Writing Competition. Through these programs, young students will meet deaf and hard-of-hearing role models, experience access services like interpreting and real-time captioning, and develop the skills they need to achieve success in college.

[Learn more about programs for middle and high school students: rit.edu/youthprograms]

What is available to me as an educational professional of deaf/hard-of-hearing students?

RIT/NTID offers professional development opportunities and conferences for teachers of deaf and hard-of-hearing students, like the NTID Regional STEM Center (NRSC) / DeafTEC Math and Science Conference, which brings together teachers from middle school to community college to collaborate on strategies and resources for teaching mathematics to deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

Through our partnership with *Continued.com*, we provide certified professional development for ASHA-licensed audiologists (AUDs), speech-language pathologists (SLPs), and other professionals working in deaf and hard-of-hearing education, interpreting, and related support fields, extending our reach to support a full spectrum of practitioners.

[Learn more: rit.edu/ntid/mathandscienceconference]

RIT/NTID offers a dual-credit course opportunity, called Project Fast Forward, in schools for the deaf and in public high schools with programs for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. We provide teachers with the training, resources, and support they need to teach these courses at their high schools, and to engage students in transformative learning experiences. Professional development training for teachers and guidance counselors is provided free of charge, and teachers earn 1.5 hours of CEU credit.

[Learn more about this program: rit.edu/ntid/pff]