

June 22, 2016

# R·I·T Parent & Family Programs

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Dear Parents,

The Parent and Family Programs office would like to welcome the families of our incoming Tigers to the RIT community! This is a busy and exciting time for families preparing to send students to college. We know there is a lot on your minds, and we are here to support your transition. Please follow these newsletters over the summer months for information, and remember the resources available to you as incoming families:

- [Parent and Family Programs website](#): Find RIT resources and advice on how to support your student in a variety of areas, including health and safety, academics, and campus life.
- [Facebook community](#): Feel connected to RIT through photos of campus and students, information about what's happening at RIT, and interactions between parents.
- [2016 New Family Online Orientation](#): This is your guide through this summer and fall as you become an RIT family; includes summer to-do lists, conversations to have, and what to expect during move-in day, the first month, and the first semester.
- [2016 Family Orientation](#): Family Orientation is held at RIT on August 16-17 and is intended to introduce families to their student's academic program, the resources and services at RIT, and life on campus. Registration will be available in early July.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [parents@rit.edu](mailto:parents@rit.edu) or 585-475-4198.

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## ***News and Deadlines***

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### **DiscoverRIT**

Parents of incoming students: Registration for DiscoverRIT pre-orientation programs is open, and there is still room in several programs. DiscoverRIT gives incoming undergraduate students the opportunity to come to campus early and participate in fun, small-group projects and activities. These programs are optional, and are a fun way to make early connections with campus, faculty and staff, and other students. There are 17 programs to choose from; some have already hit capacity, but students can register for a waitlist. The deadline to register is July 18. For more information, please visit the [DiscoverRIT website](#).

### **Tigers Care Emergency Fund-Matching Gift Challenge**

The Tigers Care Emergency Fund assists students in need of short-term emergency financial support. Assistance can include a cab ride from the hospital following a medical emergency (\$20), covering a prescription co-pay (\$10-\$40), or a cab to an off-campus medical appointment (\$40). An anonymous donor has pledged to **match all contributions up to \$25,000**. What that means is your gift of \$50 will be matched with an additional \$50, thus providing \$100 to support students in times of need.

To contribute to the Tigers Care Emergency Fund, please visit the [campaign website](#). For questions, please contact Megan Jaros at: [megan.jaros@rit.edu](mailto:megan.jaros@rit.edu).

### **Fall Billing**

All billing notifications are sent electronically to students at their RIT email address. Your student has the option of [granting parent access](#) to his/her eServices account. Once you've been granted access and created your own account, you will receive all notifications and have the option to view and pay tuition statements. Your student can also choose to grant you access to view grades and class schedules, check balances and add funds to Tiger Bucks and Food Debit accounts, and view the status of financial aid.

The fall 2016 billing statement will be generated on July 7 and will be due by August 15. The option to sign up for a payment plan for the fall term will be available beginning July 8 through the [eServices site](#). The charges, less any anticipated financial aid, will be divided into four installments. Please visit the [Student Financial Services website](#) for more information about the payment plan.

### **Financial Aid Reminder**

Parents of incoming students: In preparation for fall, be sure that you and your student have completed all of the financial aid requirements by logging into [eServices](#). Click on "Financial Aid and Scholarships" to see what is still required. As mentioned above, your student can grant you access to financial aid information on eServices. All financial aid documents should be submitted by September 1 to ensure that your student's financial aid award is applied towards RIT billable charges.

Parents of returning students: Financial aid award notifications for 2016-2017 returning students have been going out since late March. Students are notified by email when their financial aid awards are viewable and can be accepted on the Financial Aid and Scholarships section of [eServices](#). Financial Aid awards are contingent on students meeting [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) (SAP) standards after spring term.

If you have questions, please contact the [Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships](#) at 585-475-2186.

## **Semester in Croatia**

Your student can spend the spring 2017 semester in Dubrovnik, Croatia on an RIT faculty-led program studying Games and Tourism. In this multi-disciplinary program, students across majors such as new media marketing, hospitality, and game design will work together to use game design principles to create engaging experiences for travelers. Students take two game design courses at RIT Croatia in Dubrovnik and 2-3 additional elective courses of their choice for a total of 12-15 credits. Program highlights include experiencing how games can be used to improve the experience of travel and living and learning in King's Landing, where HBO's Game of Thrones is filmed. The application deadline is November 1, 2016; interested students should visit the [Games and Tourism website](#) or contact Dr. Elizabeth Lawley, Faculty Director ([elizabeth.lawley@rit.edu](mailto:elizabeth.lawley@rit.edu)) for more information.

To learn more about study abroad opportunities, visit the [RIT Global website](#).

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## ***Program Profile: College Restoration Program***

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The [College Restoration Program](#) (CRP) is an intensive, one-semester academic intervention program for students facing academic suspension and probation. For many students, CRP is the chance to acquire the skills needed to be successful at RIT. As a parent, you hope that your student will not have any academic challenges, but if he/she does, CRP might be an option.

The primary goal of CRP is to help students determine why they are struggling academically and to give them tools to succeed and continue in their academic programs. CRP staff work with students to: set and accomplish goals, increase self-esteem, manage day-to-day lives, advocate for themselves, live a healthy and balanced life, and become prepared for reinstatement into degree-seeking programs at RIT. CRP consists of three components:

- *CRP courses*—Students take Academic Strategies and Motivation and Wellness, designed to help students become more successful in college
- *Credit-bearing courses*—Student take up to ten credit-bearing classes towards their degree
- *Mentoring*—Students are assigned a mentor with whom they meet weekly to discuss academic progress and concerns

In order to be eligible for CRP, a student must receive a referral from his/her academic program. Academic departments must also provide recommended coursework and reinstatement/acceptance criteria for students following CRP. Additionally, eligible students must have a GPA between 0.0 and 2.5 and must not have any account holds or incomplete grades.

Successful program completion requires a minimum CRP GPA of 2.0, with final grades of at least a C in both CRP classes. GPA requirements for credit-bearing courses will depend on acceptance criteria determined by the academic department.

### *Parent Support*

As a parent, please check in frequently with your student regarding academic progress and personal well-being. Simply asking “how are classes going?” is not always enough to get the true answer. Consider asking:

- Are you going to class?
- Have you received feedback on any assignments?
- How do you manage your schedule and assignments?

- Have you visited your professor's office hours?
- How are you sleeping?
- Are you making time for socializing and you-time?

If you suspect a problem, encourage your student to talk with professors about course expectations and seek out the many [academic support resources](#) available at RIT. If your student realizes he/she may be facing probation or suspension, it may be time to discuss the possibility of a referral to CRP with his/her academic advisor.

For additional information, please visit [the CRP website](#) or contact CRP staff: Dawn Herman, Director ([dahldc@rit.edu](mailto:dahldc@rit.edu)) and Rob Eckhardt, Assistant Director ([rjerla@rit.edu](mailto:rjerla@rit.edu)).

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## ***Information and Updates***

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### **Protecting Belongings on Campus**

Whether your student is new or returning, you are likely sending him/her to campus with some expensive items (laptops, headphones, bikes, video game systems, etc.) Please remind your students that they need to lock all their personal items when unattended. Public Safety reports theft of unattended items as one of the biggest safety-related problems at RIT. Here are some tips you can share with your students:

- Always lock your dorms rooms and apartments
- While studying at the Wallace Center or other locations on campus, do not leave items unattended, even for a moment
- Purchase a U-Lock for your bicycle
- Get a padlock for your locker at the Student Life Center, or borrow one for daily use from the cage
- If a theft does occur, contact [Public Safety](#)

### **Support for Students Exploring Major Options**

Many students do not know what major to choose when entering college, nor do they graduate with the same major they entered college with. The decision to select or change a major should be carefully considered, and there are many resources at RIT to assist students who need guidance. New freshman or transfer students wishing to make a change of program should contact the [Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#) to inquire about changes, which are based on academic qualification and program capacity. New and returning students should consider these resources and what fits best for them:

- A student's home college is a resource for students who are sure about the college, but unsure about what major within the college to choose. Many of the RIT colleges have an exploration option as part of their first-year curriculum.
- [University Studies](#) is a resource for students exploring majors that span across multiple colleges and multiple areas. University Studies is a one year, university-level exploration program where students can take time to explore their options. This academic program combines the elements of career and major exploration along with academic coursework and academic advising, which helps students make an informed decision when choosing a major.
- [The Office of Career Services](#) is a starting place for students who don't know how to begin. Here, students can explore factors that contribute to career choice including interests, abilities, personality, and values. Online career assessment is available as part of this process.

### **Parent Poll**

Each month, we ask parents to respond to our Parent Poll and provide feedback on a topic related to RIT, your student, and you. In May, we asked parents what the primary thing

they look for when visiting the RIT parent website. Parents are primarily looking for: parent event information, information about how to support their student's academic life, and how to support their student's personal/social life. Please take a moment to answer our [June question](#).

## **Parent Tip of the Week**

### ***Developing Healthy Roommate Relationships***

The college roommate relationship is an important one. For many incoming students, this will be the first time sharing a close, personal space with another person. Returning students may have to negotiate with a new person with different habits. Encourage your student to use the summer to get to know his/her roommate(s) and begin conversations about expectations. As your student connects with roommate(s), suggest they discuss:

- Who will bring what? Try not to duplicate items in order to make the most of their space.
- Should the room/apartment have quiet hours?
- How do students feel about guests? Overnight guests?
- What are the expectations for room cleanliness?
- What are students' study habits? Will students use the room for studying?
- What are students' sleeping habits? What time do students go to sleep/wake up?

Student Resident Advisors (RAs), who work closely with students in residence halls and apartments, suggest that roommates complete the [Roommate Agreement form](#). This will make it easier to resolve any disagreements throughout the year. Remind your student to be flexible with his/her roommate and revisit and revise the agreement occasionally, as schedules and preferences may change. If your student and his/her roommate ever have a disagreement that they are struggling to resolve, suggest they reach out to an RA. RAs are trained to help roommates work through disagreements, big and small. Early communication and knowing where to go for help when conflicts occur will make your student's roommate experience a success.

## **Listserv Preferences**

If you would like to change your email preferences for this list or unsubscribe from the Parent and Family E-Newsletter, you can do so on the [Parent and Family Programs website](#). *Please note that updating or removing your email address from this list does not change or remove your information from the official RIT parent database.*

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Sincerely,  
Chelsea Petree

### **Chelsea A. Petree, Ph.D.**

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## **Confidentiality Note**

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**To unsubscribe or change your email preferences, please do so on the [Parent and Family Programs website](#), and not the link below.**

Thank you.