



Office of University Undergraduate Admissions
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
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This brochure will help you understand the complexities of the **college selection** process and focus on some of the most **important issues** you and your student will encounter. It will also direct you to sources for the most **useful information** about admissions, costs and financial aid, academics, and student life.

What should parents know about college?

Some frequently asked questions...

Q HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT COLLEGES?

Your student is receiving a lot of mail from various colleges—it's important to look through everything to get an idea of all of the options available. You can request more printed information or visit each school's web site. You can visit Rutgers on the web at admissions.rutgers.edu.

Web sites generally provide the most comprehensive and up-to-date information about a school. Visiting these sites will help to:

- Familiarize you with the academic, student life, and career offerings of each college;
- Guide you in making realistic academic and financial choices;
- Alert you to admissions and financial aid deadlines and help your student meet them;
- Arrange a visit to the campus or take a virtual tour.

Q WHAT ABOUT CAMPUS VISITS?

A campus visit is one of the most critical things you can do together. Obtaining firsthand impressions and information will help your student make the right choice about where to continue his or her education. Some colleges require advance registration for tours or open houses; others welcome visitors at any time. Go to admissions.rutgers.edu/visiting for more information about visiting Rutgers.

Q CAN I AFFORD THIS?

No doubt about it—paying for a college education is one of the most significant financial investments that most families will make. It is important to frankly discuss what choices are realistic and affordable early in the admissions process so that time, energy, and emotions are not wasted on unaffordable schools that your student will not likely be able to attend if admitted. Your student may qualify for need-based financial aid and/or academic scholarships, however, so it is essential to have all of the facts before you make decisions about affordability. Here are some suggestions to help you gather the necessary information:

- Visit college web sites and review cost, need-based financial aid, and scholarship information;
- Familiarize yourself with the financial aid application process by visiting the federal government's web site for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.ed.gov.
- Many schools provide financial aid calculators to help you estimate out-of-pocket costs. Rutgers provides calculators at studentaid.rutgers.edu/calc.asp.

Q WHAT IF MY CHILD IS UNDECIDED ABOUT A MAJOR?

Don't be concerned if your student is undecided about a major, or if he or she has several areas of interest and is having trouble focusing on what major to ultimately pursue.

- Majors are not usually a factor in the admissions process, unless the student is applying for a special accelerated program combining a bachelor's and an advanced degree or if the student is applying to a particular type of college such as an engineering or fine arts school.
- Most first-year college students are undecided about their major.
- College students frequently change their minds about their academic and career interests; students will have ample opportunities in their first two years of college to explore the possibilities.

Q WHAT ABOUT RUTGERS?

It is often best to attend a school that offers a broad selection of academic programs from which to choose. Rutgers is a comprehensive university that offers more than 100 areas of study. Visit admissions.rutgers.edu/majors to view a complete list.

Rutgers is also a research powerhouse, receiving more than \$240 million annually in research and training grants from public and private sources. In a recent survey, 60% of Rutgers seniors reported participating in a research project with faculty. These opportunities enrich our students' education and also make them more competitive for graduate school admission or employment. Visit admissions.rutgers.edu/research for details.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT RUTGERS?

Here is a list of important phone numbers and useful web sites:

RUTGERS ADMISSIONS admissions.rutgers.edu
Rutgers-Camden 856/225-6104
Rutgers-Newark 973/353-5205
Rutgers-New Brunswick/Piscataway 732/932-INFO

RUTGERS FINANCIAL AID studentaid.rutgers.edu
Rutgers-Camden 856/225-6039
Rutgers-Newark 973/353-5151
Rutgers-New Brunswick/Piscataway 732/932-7057

OTHER RUTGERS INFORMATION

Campus Information Services 732/932-INFO
Career Services admissions.rutgers.edu/careers
Catalogs ruweb.rutgers.edu/catalogs
Computing Services ruc.s.rutgers.edu
Dining Services rci.rutgers.edu/~rudining
Housing housing.rutgers.edu
Registrar registrar.rutgers.edu
Scholarships admissions.rutgers.edu/scholarships
Study Abroad studyabroad.rutgers.edu

OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES

ACT act.org
Federal Student Aid Information Center fafsa.ed.gov
800/4FEDAID
New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority hesaa.org
800/792-8670
SAT (College Board) collegeboard.com
Visiting New Jersey state.nj.us/travel

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