The Value of a Rutgers Education

The average graduation rate for Rutgers students is higher than that of N.J. four-year public colleges. 52% of Rutgers students graduate in four years and 76% graduate within six years. The average for N.J. four-year public colleges is 42% (four years) and 67% (six years).

Rutgers is committed to assisting students in making connections between their academic experiences and career paths. In 2013, 85% of Rutgers students who completed an internship had two or more job offers after graduation.

Rutgers has a 92% first-year student retention rate, which shows that Rutgers takes good care of its first-year students. The national average is 77% and the N.J. average is 82% according to the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.

Rutgers graduates have average student loan debt less than the national average and less than other N.J. colleges and universities. The average student loan debt for 2014 Rutgers graduates: Rutgers University–New Brunswick, $25,334; Rutgers University–Newark, $25,697; Rutgers University–Camden, $28,541. Average student loan debt for 2014 graduates of N.J. colleges and universities was $28,318 and the national average was $28,950 according to the Institute for College Access & Success. According to Edvisors, a website about planning and paying for college, the average graduate of the Class of 2014 left with about $33,000 in debt.

Only 3.5% of Rutgers students default on their student loans. The national average default rate is 14%. The lower default rate indicates that Rutgers students are able to find adequate means of income after leaving school and can afford to pay back their student loans.

You can review consumer information about Rutgers including comprehensive information about the cost of attendance, graduation rates of admitted students, and Rutgers faculty at oirap.rutgers.edu/Consumer-Info.html.
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
An Investment for the Future

At Rutgers, you get a world-class education without a big-ticket price tag.

**Academics**
- 100+ majors
- Top-ranked departments
- Internationally respected faculty
- Opportunities to earn an advanced degree while completing a bachelor’s

**Diversity**
- Students from 115+ countries and all 50 states
- Multifaceted community includes commuting, first-generation, and nontraditional students
- Students, faculty, and staff of varied racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds

**Locations**
- Close proximity to major metropolitan areas, cultural institutions, corporations, shorelines, farmlands, and natural preserves
- Multiple educational and career opportunities beyond the classroom

**History and Prestige**
- 250-year history as a colonial college, land-grant institution, and the state’s largest, most comprehensive public research university
- Positive name recognition for a distinct competitive advantage

*Rutgers’ top-notch academics, diversity, locations, and history and prestige result in a high-demand degree, which makes Rutgers a valuable investment for the future.*
Financing Your Education AT RUTGERS

The cost of higher education represents a significant financial investment. At Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, we are committed to helping all eligible students finance their education. In 2014–2015, undergraduate students attending the university received more than $593 million through a wide range of need- and merit-based aid programs. More than 79% of all Rutgers students receive some type of financial aid, and Rutgers’ average financial aid offer for the 2014–2015 academic year was $16,008.

Attending Rutgers may be more affordable than you think. To help eligible students afford a Rutgers education, the university offers scholarships, grants, loans, student employment, and convenient payment plans.

This brochure explains the financial aid application process and answers some of the questions most frequently asked by students planning to attend Rutgers.

Applying for financial aid

To be considered for financial aid at Rutgers, follow these steps:

1. Create a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID at fsaid.ed.gov. The FSA ID is a username and password combination that allows you to sign your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) electronically. You and your parent each must create a FSA ID.

2. Complete the FAFSA online at fafsa.gov. If you do not have access to a computer, you may obtain a FAFSA from your guidance office or the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 800-4FEDAIL (800-433-3243).

3. Step 6 (Step 5 for online version) of the FAFSA requires the following information:
   - Federal School Code: 002629
   - Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
   - 620 George Street
   - New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1175

4. Submit the FAFSA online or by mail. The earlier the U.S. Department of Education’s Central Processing System receives the application, the sooner the financial aid process can begin. The FAFSA becomes available after October 1 of each calendar year. To receive maximum consideration for need-based or merit scholarships, we encourage you to file the FAFSA by December 1.

   If you submit the FAFSA by December 1, you should receive a financial aid notification in mid-January. We strongly encourage you to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to submit the correct tax information on the FAFSA.

5. Visit the Office of Financial Aid website at financialaid.rutgers.edu for updated information about the application process.

   All candidates who file the FAFSA are automatically considered for all funds for which they are eligible. Financial aid is available to both first-year and transfer students. Students must reapply for financial aid each year by Rutgers’ priority filing date of March 15.

   To maximize your financial aid and merit scholarship eligibility, we strongly recommend students complete the university online admissions application and the FAFSA by the following priority deadlines:
   - December 1: First-Year Students (2017–2018 FAFSA)
   - February 1: Transfer Students (2017–2018 FAFSA)
   - October 1: All Spring Applicants (2016–2017 FAFSA)

   Merit/need based award notification:
   - January 15: First-Year Students
   - March 15: Transfer Students
The cost of attending Rutgers

The chart below shows costs for the 2016–2017 academic year at Rutgers for both New Jersey and non-New Jersey residents. Your actual costs will depend on a number of variables, including which school you attend, the meal plan you select, where you choose to live, the books required for your courses, and your personal expenses. The figures listed are subject to change. You and your family should anticipate increases in future years.

Typical room (academic year/double occupancy), board (minimum required plan for first-year students), and mandatory fees. Amounts will vary according to school and personal choices. Tuition and fees can be found at studentabc.rutgers.edu/tuition-and-fees.

### 2016–2017 Expenses

#### Rutgers University–New Brunswick

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>New Jersey Residents</th>
<th>Non-New Jersey Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commuter</td>
<td>On Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$11,408*</td>
<td>$11,408*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees</td>
<td>$2,964\†</td>
<td>$2,964\†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room and Board</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>$12,134\†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$14,372</td>
<td>$26,506</td>
</tr>
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</table>

* Part-time tuition: $862/credit hour for the School of Arts and Sciences for New Jersey residents.

† Typical room (academic-year suite/double occupancy); board (deluxe plan); and mandatory fees. Amounts will vary according to school or college and personal choices. For figures specific to your school or college, visit studentabc.rutgers.edu/tuition-and-fees.

#### Rutgers University–Newark

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>New Jersey Residents</th>
<th>Non-New Jersey Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commuter</td>
<td>On Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$11,408*</td>
<td>$11,408*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees</td>
<td>$2,421\†</td>
<td>$2,421\†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room and Board</td>
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<td>$12,923\†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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</table>

* Part-time tuition: $862/credit hour for the Newark College of Arts and Sciences for New Jersey residents.

† Typical room (academic-year suite/double occupancy); board (Ranger plan); and mandatory fees. Amounts will vary according to school or college and personal choices. For figures specific to your school or college, visit studentabc.rutgers.edu/tuition-and-fees.

#### Rutgers University–Camden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>New Jersey Residents</th>
<th>Non-New Jersey Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commuter</td>
<td>On Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$11,408*</td>
<td>$11,408*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees</td>
<td>$2,830\†</td>
<td>$2,830\†</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room and Board</td>
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<td>$11,770\†</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$14,238</td>
<td>$26,008</td>
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</table>

* Part-time tuition: $862/credit hour for the Camden College of Arts and Sciences for New Jersey residents.

† Typical room (academic-year suite/double occupancy); board (deluxe plan); and mandatory fees. Amounts will vary according to school or college and personal choices. For figures specific to your school or college, visit studentabc.rutgers.edu/tuition-and-fees.
Who may apply for financial aid?

You must be one of the following to receive financial aid:

• U.S. citizen
• U.S. national (includes natives of American Samoa or Swains Island)
• U.S. permanent resident (I-151 or I-551)
• U.S. conditional permanent resident (I-551C)

If you’re not in one of these categories, you must have an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) showing one of the following designations:

• Refugee
• Asylum Granted
• Cuban-Haitian Entrant, Status Pending
• Conditional Entrant (valid only if issued before April 1, 1980)
• Victim of Human Trafficking (T-visa: T-2, T-3, T-4, etc. holder or your parent holds a T-1 visa)
• Paroled (You must be paroled in the United States for at least one year, and you must be able to provide evidence from USCIS that you are in the United States for other than a temporary purpose and intend to become a citizen or permanent resident.)
• Battered Immigrant Status (You are a “battered immigrant-qualified alien” who is a victim of abuse by your citizen or permanent resident spouse, or you are the child of a person designated as such under the Violence Against Women Act.)

Who is not eligible?

You are not eligible for federal student aid if you fall under these categories:

• You have only a Notice of Approval to Apply for Permanent Residence (I-171 or I-464)
• You’re in the United States on certain visas, including an F-1 or F-2 student visa, or a J-1 or J-2 exchange visitor visa
• You have a G series visa (pertaining to international organizations)
• You have a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status.

For more information about other types of visas that are not acceptable, check with the Office of Financial Aid.

Definition of need

You and your family are expected to assume the primary responsibility for meeting your educational expenses. The amount that you and your family actually will be expected to contribute is determined from the information you submit on your FAFSA. This expected family contribution is then subtracted from the total cost of attending Rutgers to calculate your demonstrated financial need.

The process of need determination

The U.S. Department of Education’s Central Processing System (CPS) will process your FAFSA and, based on information you provided about family income and resources, will determine the contribution expected from you and your parents. Estimating that amount is a process affected by many variables. In processing your application, the CPS uses a formula prescribed by Congress for all federal financial aid programs. A separate but similar formula approved by the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority is used in offering assistance to New Jersey state residents. Students normally contribute from their own savings and earnings.

Parents’ income, assets (excluding home equity), number of dependents, and number of dependents in college also are taken into account.

Once the CPS has completed the evaluation of your FAFSA, information is forwarded to the Rutgers Office of Financial Aid, and a Student Aid Report is forwarded to you from the CPS.
A study from the Census Bureau, Education and Synthetic Work-Life Earnings Estimates, shows that education levels had more effect on earnings over a 40-year span in the workforce than any other demographic factor such as race or gender. All people regardless of gender, race, and origin with a bachelor’s degree working full time from ages 25 to 65 would have $1 million more in earnings than a similar person with a high school diploma.

Net price calculator

Estimate cost of attendance through this interactive tool: [financialaid.rutgers.edu/tools-and-resources/npc](http://financialaid.rutgers.edu/tools-and-resources/npc)

### Net price calculator

**Cost of Attendance = Expected Family Contribution = Financial Need**

### Notification of financial aid

Financial aid notifications will be available in mid-January for all admitted students whose FAFSA data was received by the university by December 1. Admitted students who did not meet the December 1 FAFSA priority date will receive financial aid notification on a rolling basis (generally within two weeks of the offer of admission) mid-January through May.

### Types of aid

Basic types of financial aid can be divided into three categories: gift aid (grants, scholarships, and fellowships), loans, and employment. Gift awards do not require repayment. Loans must be repaid, usually after you leave college. Employment allows you to earn money for personal and other educational expenses through a part-time job while you are enrolled in college. Most financial aid awards are made in the form of a package that includes some combination of gift, loan, and employment assistance.
Federal aid programs

Rutgers participates in several aid programs administered through the federal government. U.S. citizens or permanent residents who demonstrate financial need may be eligible for financial assistance through any of the federal programs described below.

- **Federal Pell Grant.** Pell Grants provide awards of up to $5,815 per year for students demonstrating the greatest need. These grants are available only to students pursuing their first bachelor's degree.

- **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG).** The FSEOG program provides grants of up to $2,000 per year for students demonstrating need. These grants are available only to students pursuing their first bachelor’s degree.

- **Federal Work-Study Program (FWSP).** Jobs in on-campus departments and off-campus agencies are provided by the FWSP. Funding is provided by the federal government and the university or the employing agency. Students earn at least minimum wage and some earn above minimum wage. Students may earn their funds in community service jobs, such as tutoring programs, or choose from a variety of on-campus opportunities. Visit the website [financialaid.rutgers.edu/student-work](http://financialaid.rutgers.edu/student-work) to learn more.

- **William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (Direct Loan Program).** Under this program, the U.S. Department of Education makes loans through Rutgers directly to students. The Direct Loan Program includes the Federal Direct Stafford Loan and the Federal Direct PLUS Loan.
  - Dependent students can borrow a Federal Direct Stafford Loan of up to $5,500 for the first year of college, $6,500 for the second year in college, and $7,500 beyond the second year. Independent students or students whose parents are denied a PLUS Loan are eligible for slightly higher limits. Applicants are charged an origination fee of up to 1.069% for Stafford Loans. The interest rate for loans first disbursed after July 1, 2016, is fixed at 3.76%.
  - Parents and graduate students can borrow a Federal Direct PLUS Loan for their dependent student or for graduate studies by completing a separate application and promissory note online at [studentloans.gov](http://studentloans.gov). PLUS applicants can borrow up to the cost of education minus other financial aid received by the student. Applicants are charged an origination fee up to 4.272% for PLUS Loans. The interest rate for loans first distributed after July 1, 2016, is fixed for the life of the loan at 6.31%. For additional information about PLUS Loans, visit [financialaid.rutgers.edu/types-of-aid/loans/fedloans](http://financialaid.rutgers.edu/types-of-aid/loans/fedloans).

New Jersey state aid programs

Rutgers also participates in a loan program and a number of grant and scholarship programs supported by the State of New Jersey. To qualify for these programs, a student must be a legal resident of New Jersey. Students from states other than New Jersey should contact their school counselors to determine if aid programs available through their own state may be used at a New Jersey college.

- **Tuition Aid Grant (TAG).** Grants are awarded to students who demonstrate financial need. TAG candidates must file the FAFSA and must enroll full time to be eligible.

- **Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF).** Grants of up to $1,400 per year for on-campus resident students and $1,150 per year for commuting students are awarded to New Jersey residents whose financial need and scholastic background might otherwise prevent them from attending college. EOF candidates must file the FAFSA and must enroll full time to be eligible. An EOF grant can be combined with the Tuition Aid Grant.

- **Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship II (NJ STARS II).** NJ STARS II is a continuation of the NJ STARS program that provides successful NJ STARS county college graduates with an opportunity to pursue a baccalaureate degree at a New Jersey four-year public institution of higher education. Detailed information about the NJ STARS II program can be found at [admissions.rutgers.edu/stars2](http://admissions.rutgers.edu/stars2).
### University programs

Rutgers also offers a number of university-based financial aid programs. Funds are drawn from various sources, including income from endowments, gifts from alumni and friends, and allocations from the operating budget. Students applying for aid from Rutgers also should seek and apply for scholarships from their states and other available sources.

- **Need-Based Scholarships.** Need-based scholarships are made possible through the generosity of alumni, clubs, professional organizations, industries, and private donors. Generally, these awards are made on the basis of high academic achievement and financial need. It is not necessary to submit special applications for need-based scholarships administered by the university, provided the FAFSA has been filed.

- **Student Employment.** There are two federally funded employment programs available through the Office of Financial Aid: the Federal Work-Study Program (FWSP) and the Job Location and Development Program (JLDP). The FWSP is a need-based award offered to students who demonstrate financial need through the Office of Financial Aid. Students are notified of FWSP eligibility on their financial aid Award Letters. The JLDP is a part-time and seasonal jobs database, which is open to all currently enrolled Rutgers students, with no other eligibility requirements. Information about the FWSP and JLDP is available through the Office of Financial Aid at each Rutgers location.

- **Tuition Payment Plans.** By enrolling in a Rutgers Tuition Payment Plan, you are able to pay your term bill charges in convenient monthly payments. By planning early you can add your college term bill payments to your monthly household budget instead of making large lump sum payments at the beginning of each semester. You can choose an installment payment schedule that works best for you, and the installment period is interest free. There is a nominal fee to enroll in the plan, which is administered by a third-party provider. This fee is nonrefundable and due at the time of enrollment. For more information or to enroll, visit studentabc.rutgers.edu/tuition-payment-plans.

### Financial aid timetable for fall semester admission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 1</strong></td>
<td>Students begin to apply for financial aid by submitting the FAFSA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 31</strong></td>
<td>The federal government begins to forward FAFSA information to Rutgers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 1</strong></td>
<td>FAFSA priority filing date: submitting your FAFSA by the priority filing date ensures that you will be considered for all available aid. Aid will continue to be awarded until all funds have been allocated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mid-January</strong></td>
<td>Financial aid notifications will be available in mid-January for all admitted students whose FAFSA data was received by the university by December 1. Students admitted after December 1 who have submitted a FAFSA will receive their financial aid notification within two weeks after they have been admitted.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other sources of aid

Outside scholarships and loans are available from a wide variety of sources, including unions and companies (usually where a parent holds membership or is employed); community, state, and national clubs and organizations; and the National Merit Scholarship Program. Rutgers urges students to seek and apply for any and all financial assistance programs for which they may qualify.

- **GI Bill Education Benefits.** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits may be available to cover tuition and living expenses for veterans, active duty service members, and their families. For more information, visit Rutgers Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services website at veterans.rutgers.edu.

- **Private Scholarships.** Information about funding sources outside of Rutgers can be found at the following sites:
  - [www.hesaa.org/pages/njgrantshome.aspx](http://www.hesaa.org/pages/njgrantshome.aspx) (HESAA: Higher Education Student Assistance Authority)
  - finaid.org (a free comprehensive source of student financial aid information)

Listed below are just a few of the online databases containing a search engine for scholarships:

- fastweb.com
- chegg.com/scholarships
- cappex.com
- mycollegescholarship.org
- salliemae.com

- **Private Loans.** Students seeking to defer the cost of financing their education may choose to pursue student loans. In addition to the federal loan programs, there are a number of alternative loan programs available. These programs are sponsored by private lending organizations. Loan terms and interest rates may vary. Students should research the program that best suits their needs. For additional information, visit the Office of Financial Aid website information on private loans at financialaid.rutgers.edu/types-of-aid/loans/private.

Scholarships

Rutgers awards scholarships of varying amounts to admitted first-year and transfer students. Merit-based awards are competitive and based on available funding. New student scholarships and other merit-based award programs at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, are administered by each regional university within the system. Awards may differ by school and university.

There is no separate application to be considered for a merit-based scholarship. We will automatically offer an admitted student the highest monetary award for which they qualify. Notification is subsequent to the offer of admission, and we only notify those students who qualify for a merit-based scholarship. Scholarships are often renewable based on specific academic performance. All students seeking merit-based scholarships are encouraged to file a FAFSA.

Quick Links

Rutgers Office of Financial Aid
financialaid.rutgers.edu

Free Application for Federal Student Aid
fafsa.gov

Rutgers Financial Aid TV
ruters.financialaidtv.com

Net Price Calculator
financialaid.rutgers.edu/tools-and-resources/npc

Tuition Payment Plans
studentabc.rutgers.edu/tuition-payment-plans
Financial aid speak:
A glossary of terms

**Assets:** You and your family’s financial worth, including real estate (excluding the home in which you live), businesses, stocks, bonds, and cash savings.

**U.S. Department of Education’s Central Processing System (CPS):** The service that analyzes your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and provides information to the federal/state governments and colleges to which you have applied. The CPS will forward a Student Aid Report informing you of your Expected Family Contribution.

**Expected Family Contribution (EFC):** The amount you and/or your parents are expected to contribute toward your educational expenses as determined by a federally mandated formula, which uses the information you provide on your FAFSA.

**FAFSA:** The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (known as FAFSA) is a form that can be prepared annually by college students in the United States to determine their eligibility for student financial aid.

**Final offer:** This offer is based on the most current information reported and includes verification of any documentation you were required to submit.

**Financial need:** The difference between college costs and your EFC.

**Grant:** Financial aid that you do not have to repay. Eligibility is usually based on financial need only and not on your academic record.

**Interest:** The cost of borrowing money.

**Loan:** Borrowed money that must be repaid to the lender with interest.

**Package:** The total financial aid offer made by a college or university, consisting of one or more aid programs such as grants, loans, and work study.

**Planning letter:** This offer is a preliminary estimate based on the unverified information you reported on the FAFSA and may be subject to change.

**Scholarship:** An award granted on the basis of grades or other academic achievement rather than solely on financial need.

**Work study:** Part-time jobs, either on or off campus, that allow students to earn money for college expenses.