IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY

Plan for COLLEGE
A Parent’s Guide

Rutgers
Tips for Parents

It may seem like only yesterday your young adult was a newborn. Now that you are embarking on the transition to college, we know you have many questions. We are here to help you find answers. In this brochure you will find hints to help you plan for college. We also invite you to learn more about Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and how we can be part of your child’s future.

Today’s high schools have so many wonderful options to meet students’ needs: vocational training, advanced placement courses, wide-ranging electives, and extracurricular activities. It can be difficult to determine your child’s best use of time to prepare for the future. Here are some things to consider as you start ramping up for college.

Academic Preparation

Colleges and universities prefer students with strong academic records in challenging and well-balanced programs. While high school requirements vary depending on the institution, a typical preparatory program should include the following:

- **English**: minimum of four years.
- **Mathematics**: minimum of three years. Algebra I and II and geometry are required. Precalculus and/or calculus are often required for business and science programs.
- **Science**: minimum of two years. For science majors, biology, chemistry, and/or physics may be required.
- **World Language**: minimum of two years, most often of one language.
- **Social Studies**: minimum of three years.
- **Electives**: to total a minimum of 16 courses (including those above). Students who have more courses will be more competitive.

“Remember you can make a big school small but you cannot make a small school big. This is a time of growth and you and your student must be willing to take the leap in order to be exposed to new experiences with anticipation and excitement.”

- **Corey Ayala-Fagundez**
- **Rutgers Parent**

Entrance requirements for Rutgers: admissions.rutgers.edu/requirements

Is Your Child on Target?

See how your student’s grades and test scores compare with the most recent Rutgers admitted class by using our online academic adviser, RU On Target?

Visit myrutgersfuture.rutgers.edu and create a Self-Reported Academic Record to get started.
Discuss the advantages of going to college with your child and assess his interest in higher education.

Get to know your student’s school counselor. Discuss whether honors and/or advanced courses are recommended for your student.

Explore when and if your child should take the PSAT.

Familiarize yourself with types of colleges (e.g., public, private, etc.) and frequent terms in admissions, such as “early decision” (binding) or “early action” (not binding).

Discuss college affordability, financial aid, and scholarships. Enlist the assistance of a school counselor as necessary.

Help your child establish a routine of study, work, extracurricular activities, and leisure.

Explore ways to connect your student with colleges through precollege academic and career programs.

Virtual Tours
Exploring universities online is a great way to develop the list of colleges you and your child will want to visit in person. Take a virtual tour of Rutgers at virtualtours.rutgers.edu

Make sure your student registers for the PSAT by the deadline.

Arrange an individual appointment with your child’s school counselor to discuss college readiness and to plan course selection. Know that many courses are sequential.

Explore college options based on your family’s preferences, priorities, and financial situation. Consider in-state or out-of-state, public vs. private, etc.

Gather information about colleges by reviewing websites and attending parent nights and college fairs in your area. You might even begin to visit some colleges.

Research the true cost of attending particular colleges by using the net price calculator that all colleges are required by law to provide on their websites.

Balance your student’s extracurricular activities and academics. Academics matter more to colleges, so help your young adult prioritize. You might encourage your student to compile and update a list by high school year of her awards, jobs, clubs, summer and volunteer experiences. It is more important for your child to stick with one or two activities for several years and to hold positions of leadership or progressive responsibility than to join many organizations.
11th Grade

Register your student to take the SAT or ACT at least once during the junior year, typically in May or June.

Consider test preparation courses—you can find them online for free. Ask the school counselor for advice.

Encourage your child to talk to professionals in the career fields she may be considering.

Visit a variety of colleges with your child to understand the spectrum of choices available. Some schools keep track of who visits to assess interest and may give additional weight in the admissions process to those students who visit. (Rutgers does not do this.)

Have discussions with your student as you narrow down the list of colleges to which your student will apply.

Be aware that due dates are college-specific for admissions, financial aid, scholarship consideration, etc. Early decision application due dates are typically very early in the senior year.

Ensures your child takes the SATs or ACTs again early in the senior year.

Reassure your child if he is uncertain of his major. Many colleges are happy to admit students who are undecided about their majors, allowing students time to explore their options before requiring them to officially declare their majors.

Attend free financial aid workshops sponsored by high school counseling offices or colleges to understand the financial aid process and the difference between loans, grants, academic scholarships, work-study, etc.

Become familiar with the applications for the colleges your student is considering and the tests and other credentials required.

Campus Tours
The junior year is a perfect time to visit colleges in person. You can find out about visiting Rutgers at admissions.rutgers.edu/visiting

12th Grade

Evaluate the complete financial aid and scholarship package. Be sure you understand all aspects of a scholarship offer, including the criteria for renewal. Understand your out-of-pocket costs and the expected payment schedule.

Visit again the colleges that have admitted your child if you need to. As a family, you’ll want to be sure that your child will feel comfortable in the new environment.

Know that if things don’t work out, students may transfer once they discover more about themselves and determine what they really need from college.
Financial Recommendations

- **Save money:** There truly is no replacement for saving money—the earlier the better. Even a few dollars each month will help. Consider encouraging your young adult to contribute a portion of his or her part-time and/or summer job earnings to college savings.

- **Become an educated consumer:** Learn the differences among the following:
  - Public, private, and for-profit institutions
  - Scholarships, grants, and loans
  - Subsidized and unsubsidized loans
  - Government and private loans
  - Simple and compounded interest

- **Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) early:** Complete this as soon as possible after January 1 during your child’s senior year in high school. The FAFSA determines financial aid eligibility, and some grant and scholarship programs have limited funds that are disbursed on a first-come, first-served basis. (The Rutgers priority filing date for the FAFSA is March 15.)

- **Learn the true cost of attendance:** There is a big difference between the tuition price tag and the net cost of higher education. Federal law requires all institutions to have a net price calculator available to all students. Understand that the results are not binding, and individual financial aid offers vary greatly for different types of institutions.

- **Understand your financial aid offer:** Make sure any scholarships offered for the first year of study are renewable and that the criteria are achievable. (You can ask about renewal rates of previous awardees.) Know what kind of loans you are taking and what types of interest rates and repayment schedules apply.

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**By the Numbers**

- **83:** Percentage of Rutgers students receiving financial aid
- **95:** Percentage of Rutgers students who pay off their student loans

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**Estimate Costs at Rutgers**

studentaid.rutgers.edu/npc
Get to Know Rutgers

From our charter in 1766 as Queen’s College “on the banks of the old Raritan,” Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is the eighth-oldest institution of higher education in the United States and has become the state’s preeminent, comprehensive public research university with locations throughout the state.

Rutgers retains 91 percent of first-year students, compared to the national average of 77 percent.

What Students Can Expect From Rutgers

From new student orientation through graduation and beyond, we offer students individual guidance and numerous ways to pursue their passions. In and beyond the traditional classroom, our students engage in hands-on learning experiences that develop their professional skills and prepare them for opportunities and challenges.

- 100+ undergraduate majors
- Combined and accelerated degree programs
- 100+ study abroad options in 40+ countries
- Service learning and community service
- Undergraduate research and honors programs
- Internships and cooperative learning programs

Personalized Higher Education

Our students often have wide-ranging interests and talents and can tailor their education accordingly. A degree in engineering and a seat in the symphony orchestra? Yes, Rutgers students do that. A double major in business and history? Absolutely. These are just some of the ways we help students learn and grow:

- Individual advising, in-person and/or by phone or email
- Small classes (nearly 60 percent of classes have 30 or fewer students)
- Free career counseling, help with résumé-writing and interviewing, and numerous internship/job fairs
- Leadership development programs
- Learning centers that offer free drop-in tutoring and help with study skills
- Health professions, pre-law and graduate school advising
The Value of a Rutgers Education

As a parent, you know that students need support no matter how independent, bright, and ambitious they are. Between professors and advisers, University Career Services, and our extensive alumni network, we help students put their hopes, goals, and dreams within reach.

- 85 percent of graduates who had an internship through the Rutgers University–New Brunswick Internship and Co-op Program received at least two job offers.
- Graduating students have landed positions at Fortune 500 companies such as Amazon.com, Citigroup, Colgate-Palmolive, Verizon, Johnson & Johnson, and Merck.
- 460,000 alumni in 50 states and six continents help connect Rutgers students and graduates with internships and job opportunities.
- Students from recent graduating classes pursued master’s and doctoral programs at Columbia, Dartmouth, Georgetown, New York University, Rutgers, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, Yale, and many other prestigious institutions.

Financial Aid at Rutgers

While Rutgers’ costs are reasonable compared to many other universities, we know a college education anywhere is likely the largest single expense you will incur for your child. To help, we offer eligible students scholarships, grants, loans, and student employment. All students may take advantage of convenient payment plans. After reviewing our financial aid package, you may be surprised that Rutgers is even more affordable than you thought.

Get the basics on tuition and financial aid at Rutgers:
studentaid.rutgers.edu

Have a Scholar at Home?

Rutgers can help your high-achieving student compete for major national and international awards. Recently, 46 Rutgers undergraduates garnered such honors, putting Rutgers on par with other top national universities.

One of the most prestigious award programs is the Fulbright, which selects the top U.S. students each year to study or conduct research overseas. Rutgers is among the top 3 producers of students awarded this grant.

Great and Small

Whether students are looking for a university experience, an urban setting, or the smaller liberal arts school feel, they will find their place at Rutgers. Our university locations offer a range of campus sizes and settings, each with a great student-to-faculty ratio, that allow for accessible professors and mentoring relationships.

Financial Aid TV

Learn more about financial aid through our short videos.
rutgers.financialaidtv.com

Return on Investment

Washington Monthly ranks Rutgers University–Camden as their #7 “best bang for the buck” in the nation among universities offering master’s degrees

Washington Monthly ranks Rutgers University-Newark #14 as their “best bang for the buck” among national universities

Rutgers University–New Brunswick is the only New Jersey research university included in Kiplinger’s 100 top values in public colleges and universities
GROUNDED IN RESEARCH

At a major research university like Rutgers, students learn from professors who are pushing the boundaries of knowledge every day. A breakthrough in the lab one day might be a lesson in the classroom the next day, enriching our academic programs in exciting ways.

Choosing a research university allows students to:

- Partner with faculty in research labs
- Take part in new discoveries
- Sharpen problem-solving and analytic skills
- Address real-world problems in local and global communities
- Get a jump on graduate school

A LEADING RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

Out of more than 3,000 universities in North America, just 62 are members of the Association of American Universities (AAU). These institutions include Rutgers, and are recognized for the quality and scope of their research and educational programs.

NUMBERED AMONG THE BEST

Rutgers is counted among an elite group of the nation’s greatest research-intensive universities.

- 60% of Rutgers undergraduates engage in original research
- $700 million annually in R&D expenditures (top 25 in the nation)
- 300+ research centers and institutes

Learn about the ways Rutgers research is at work in the world: news.rutgers.edu/research/research-news
Where We Are

You can find Rutgers, The State University in New Brunswick, Newark, and Camden, as well as additional locations throughout the state of New Jersey. Each of our universities offers a unique experience, so the best way to get to know Rutgers is to visit. Schedule a tour: admissions.rutgers.edu/visiting

“My daughter quickly came to love all the university has to offer and the choices that were available to her. Despite her close proximity to home, she truly believes she has maintained her independence and the flexibility to visit home freely.”

— STEVE RENNA
Rutgers Parent

**Rutgers University—Newark**

Known for diversity and providing upward social mobility for undergraduates, Rutgers University—Newark has an outstanding track record of educational opportunity and excellence. Against the backdrop of a buzzing local and urban community scene, it boasts its own major cultural, educational, health care, and corporate establishments, and it is just minutes away from New York City.

**Area Highlights:** Center of arts, entertainment, and sports; the New Jersey Performing Arts Center; the Newark Museum; the Prudential “Rock” Center

**Rutgers University—Camden**

Located in the heart of the Delaware Valley at the vibrant Camden Waterfront, Rutgers University—Camden is a national model for civic engagement. It offers a stimulating academic environment within a supportive, close-knit setting, featuring personal attention and urban energy. It is situated right across the Delaware River from historic Philadelphia, providing students with many cultural activities and career-building opportunities.

**Area Highlights:** Susquehanna Bank Center, growing arts and nightlife scene, professional baseball at Campbell’s Field
Rutgers University—New Brunswick

Rutgers’ flagship, as designated by the Association of American Universities, was originally founded in New Brunswick as Queen’s College. Today this leading research university is ranked #33 in the world (and #24 in the U.S.) by The Center for World University Rankings.

AREA HIGHLIGHTS: Downtown New Brunswick theater and music scene, hip restaurants, two-story Rutgers Barnes & Noble bookstore, prominent visiting speakers, mass transit steps from campus provides easy access to New York and Philadelphia.

Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences

This national leader in health care education, research, and clinical practices has multiple sites across New Jersey including major facilities in Newark, New Brunswick, and Piscataway and additional locations in Scotch Plains, Somerset, and Stratford.

“My hatchling is happy at Rutgers, and if she’s happy, her folks are.”
— Rasa Kaye, Rutgers Parent

“The university offers new student orientation programs that help students get their bearings. In due course my daughter became an expert in navigating the systems.”
— Sarah Colker, Rutgers Parent
**Our Growth**

Rutgers has seen significant expansion in recent years. Building on its international reputation as a top-tier research university in many disciplines, the university has become a hub for biomedical and health sciences research and education. In recent years, it added seven schools formerly part of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, including two medical schools and a dental school, the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, and a multitude of clinical practice and research centers.

Facilities expansion includes:

- **New Brunswick**: The Livingston Campus has been transformed with new facilities, including a six-story building for the Rutgers Business School. A residence hall, academic building, and Honors College are new additions to the College Avenue Campus.

- **Newark**: The new health sciences location has expanded the Rutgers footprint, and more new academic buildings are planned including an innovative arts center.

- **Camden**: Students enjoy more study and meeting space than ever thanks to the expansion of the Paul Robeson Library, a new Writers House, and a new Nursing and Science building.

**Honors Colleges**

Each of our universities has smaller communities that allow students to join with like-minded high achievers for special academic opportunities. Honors colleges at Rutgers University–Camden and Rutgers University–Newark and school-based honors programs at Rutgers University–New Brunswick are well established. At Rutgers University–New Brunswick, a new honors college brings 500 of the most promising students to live, learn, and explore together in a state-of-the-art facility.

What’s Next for Rutgers?
We have a bold vision for future growth. Check out our plans for new initiatives at universitystrategy.rutgers.edu
### Rutgers Schools and Colleges by Location

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<th>School/College</th>
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Learn more about our schools and colleges: [rutgers.edu/academics/schools-colleges](http://rutgers.edu/academics/schools-colleges)
Home Away from Home

Whether students live on or off campus, all universities at Rutgers provide services to make the time spent at college engaging and pleasant. Students enjoy our numerous housing and dining options and comfortable spaces for studying and recreation. Commuter lounges and organizations for students who do not live on campus ensure all students feel welcome. While your child is exploring a new college environment, you can know that we pride ourselves on keeping our students safe and in good health.

Housing
Rutgers provides a wide range of accommodations, from traditional residence halls to apartment-style living. Special living options, such as a residential college for women, special-interest housing, learning communities, and more are available. No matter what option your student chooses, Residence Life staff are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Dining
When your young adult is living at school, will he or she still eat as well as at home? If that student is attending Rutgers, the answer is a resounding yes.

- Meal plans to suit differing budgets and eating styles
- Conveniently located eateries, including dining halls, food trucks, cafes, and even a classic diner
- Tasty and nutritious food choices; includes options for those with food allergies or other dietary needs

Health Services
Licensed physicians, nurses, and psychologists provide quality care in our health centers. Pharmacies are also available. Most services are covered under the health care fee included in the tuition and fees payment, and private insurance is accepted.

Physical Fitness
Whether your student prefers to play basketball or take a spin class to stay in shape, Rutgers provides a variety of fitness options:

- Many recreation centers
- Whitewater rafting and other adventure trips
- Hiking trails and running paths
- Fitness classes of all types, from aerobics to yoga
- More than 100 intramural and club sports teams

Campus Life
What is it like to live at Rutgers? Find out here:

- Camden: camden.rutgers.edu/life-campus
- Newark: newark.rutgers.edu/campus-life
- New Brunswick: rutgers.edu/campus-life
SAFETY
The Rutgers University Police Department is one of only 12 law enforcement agencies within the state of New Jersey accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

Even more important, our security and police officers operate under a community policing philosophy that emphasizes establishing relationships with members of the Rutgers and surrounding communities, preventing crimes before they happen, having a visible presence, and demonstrating quick response times.

Rutgers University Police Department
Our fully-staffed police department is on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days per year, to provide a safe and secure environment.

EMERGENCY SERVICES
Any person may dial 9-1-1 from a cell phone or university phone for urgent assistance.

In the event your student is ever without a cell phone, emergency telephone boxes throughout all our university locations connect directly to University Police. No dialing or speaking is needed; the police will detect the location of the call and respond.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND TECHNOLOGY
Rutgers works with neighboring police departments, local governments, the State of New Jersey, and the National Guard in mutual partnerships and regularly conducts drills designed to prepare the university for emergencies.

In the event of an emergency, several different and overlapping technologies provide time-critical information to the Rutgers community, including the following:
- Text messaging to cell phones
- Email
- Website announcements
- TV
- Radio
- Social Media

LATE-NIGHT SECURITY
In addition to the daily work of maintaining campus safety, the Rutgers University Police Department provides special services for added personal safety. These services include:

- Security Escorts: Public safety representatives at each of our universities will walk any student to a destination, whether it be a residence hall, a vehicle, or public transportation.

- Jump Starts & Vehicle Lockouts: Locked out? Need a jumpstart? Police department representatives are always on hand and happy to help students who are locked out of their car or need a jumpstart while on campus or in the surrounding neighborhood.

- Shuttle Services: All three universities offer students comprehensive campus shuttle services, with special shuttle services or safety escort services for late-night hours.

For more information about shuttle services and safety escorts visit rudots.rutgers.edu.

“I didn’t want to put any boundaries on my son. I wanted him to make up his own mind.”
— Alexis Aduba
Rutgers Parent
Learn More about Rutgers
admissions.rutgers.edu

Schedule a Tour
admissions.rutgers.edu/visiting

Read Parent Blogs
rublogs.rutgers.edu/parents

Information Just for Parents
rutgers.edu/information/information-parents

Sign Up for Our Enewsletter for Parents
admissions.rutgers.edu/forms/parentsregister.aspx

Explore Rutgers K–12 Precollege Programs
precollege.rutgers.edu

Create a Personalized Rutgers Portal
myrutgersfuture.rutgers.edu

Research Financial Aid Programs
studentaid.rutgers.edu
rutgers.financialaidtv.com

Estimate Costs
rutgers.studentaidcalculator.com