

2026-2027 Rutgers Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program Overview, Applicant Instructions and Candidate Selection Process (*New Jersey Residents Only*)

OVERVIEW (*For First-Year and Transfer Candidates*)

Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program

The **New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund** was created by law in 1968 to ensure meaningful access to higher education for those who come from backgrounds of economic and educational disadvantage. The Fund assists low-income New Jersey residents who are capable and motivated but lack adequate preparation for college study.

Mission of EOF

The New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund program contributes to the development of a college-educated public that reflects the diversity of New Jersey by working in partnership with Rutgers and the K-12 educational system to provide access to higher education for students from families/communities disadvantaged by low income and the lack of access to the quality educational preparation necessary to attend college. The Fund partners with established pre-college efforts and seeks to initiate additional opportunities to identify and prepare students for college at the collegiate level. At the postsecondary level, the access and opportunity provided by the Fund is not limited to simply meeting first-year (or transfer) student enrollment goals, but to also focus on student success. In this vein, EOF provides support for educational initiatives, support services, and leadership development activities that assist students to improve their chances of success in specific majors and career fields and prepares them for the changing world of work and to assume leadership in their communities and the State of New Jersey.

Critical Elements for Institutional Plans

NJ EOF's statewide goals and expectations for participating institutions are linked to the general mission of the Fund as well as to the different missions of the multiple but distinct schools at Rutgers. Within the bounds of this unique Rutgers mission (which determines its educational program, service area, and student profile), the different Rutgers EOF programs will continue to develop the services and programs that will increase EOF students' opportunities for success. As such, recruitment, improving student success, developing partnerships with pre-college and the K-12 community, connecting education with the world of work, initiating a research agenda, and enhancing the program's image are critical elements established as part of the Rutgers EOF program.

For more information about the statewide New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program, visit the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) website at nj.gov/highereducation/EOF/EOF_Vision.shtml.

If you wish to be considered for participation in the Rutgers EOF program, you must meet all *EOF Eligibility Requirements*, which include:

- ✓ Demonstrate an educationally and economically disadvantaged background
- ✓ Be a New Jersey resident for at least 12 consecutive months prior to first semester of Rutgers enrollment
- ✓ **Apply to Rutgers** and meet academic criteria set by the Rutgers school you plan to attend
- ✓ Graduate from high school or receive the equivalent of a high school diploma by the time you register at Rutgers
- ✓ File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application (NJAFSA)
- ✓ Have your **gross income and assets** (for independent students) or your family's (for dependent students) fall within the criteria shown on the scale below:

EOF Income Eligibility Scale with Asset Cap Calculation for 2026-2027

Family Size (Including Applicant)	Gross Income (Not to Exceed)	Maximum Asset Cap (Not to Exceed)
1	\$31,300	\$6,260
2	\$42,300	\$8,460
3	\$53,300	\$10,660
4	\$64,300	\$12,860
5	\$75,300	\$15,060
6	\$86,300	\$17,260
7	\$97,300	\$19,460
8	\$108,300	\$21,660
For each additional member of the family add:	\$11,000	\$2,200

EOF Eligibility Requirements & Historical Poverty Criteria (HPC)

The New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) provides financial assistance and support services (e.g., counseling, tutoring, and developmental coursework) to students from educationally and economically disadvantaged backgrounds who attend participating institutions of higher education in the State of New Jersey.

The undergraduate EOF program is designed to provide an opportunity for higher education to disadvantaged New Jersey residents who would be unable to attend and/or succeed academically in college without the financial assistance and special services that are part of this program. The program is intended for students who show potential and exhibit evidence of academic and/or creative promise but who have limited educational and financial resources for college because of inadequate high school preparation and have economic backgrounds that reflect a history of poverty.

The New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE)/Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Board of Directors details in the regulations that govern the statewide EOF program under **N.J.A.C. 9A:11** that a student must demonstrate a history of poverty, which generally includes documented, long-term economic hardship of the family, such as the accumulation of assets that do not exceed 20 percent of the EOF income eligibility scale, per household size, and the inability to provide more than the basic needs of family members. Several factors are considered in the **EOF Candidate Selection Process**, which includes Historical Poverty Criteria (HPC) as evidenced by at least one of the following:

1. Having attended or graduated from a school district where 40% or more of the enrolled students meet the eligibility criteria for free/reduced price lunch program
2. Having resided in a municipality that is a high-distress/labor surplus area, or is considered an eligible urban aid municipality
3. Having resided in an area that historically has been populated by low-income families; such an area, commonly called a “pocket of poverty”, has characteristics of a high-distress/labor surplus area, even if the municipality is not formally so identified
4. Being a first-generation college student (your parent(s) are not four-year college/university graduates) who is, or whose family is, eligible for government assistance and/or educational programs targeted toward low-income and disadvantaged populations (TRIO Programs, free and reduced breakfast/lunch programs, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—formerly food stamps)
5. Having successfully completed a NJ GEAR UP State project, NJ College Bound grant program, or TRIO program

EOF Advising, Counseling, and Support Services for Academic Success

EOF Scholars are offered additional student support services, including academic advising and coaching, personal and career counseling, and professional and peer mentoring, in addition to financial literacy and financial aid counseling. Student leadership development, legislative advocacy, and civic engagement opportunities are also available through participation in EOF and other student organizations.

Your EOF Advisers will help you plan an academic program to meet your interests and needs. Your undergraduate school will provide you with tutorial services and a special staff of academic, career, and peer counselors. With this support, you'll be able to identify your academic strengths, overcome limitations, and define career fields that interest you. In addition, all the university's other resources are available to help you succeed at Rutgers.

First-year EOF Scholars can earn college credit, make friends, and get a feel for what college is like before it starts by **attending and successfully completing the residential EOF Summer Institute**, which is a mandatory condition for fall semester enrollment at Rutgers and can run for up to six weeks beginning in late June 2026. EOF Scholars (first-year and transfer) have access to unique course offerings, such as effective study strategies, LSAT/ GRE preparation, and specialized seminars and workshops, as well as free tutoring services and learning needs assessment.

Financial Assistance

Although the EOF program can provide academic support and financial assistance, you and your family are asked to contribute toward the educational expenses as determined by a federally mandated formula and/or state needs analysis, based on information you provide on the FAFSA or NJFAFA. The Office of Financial Aid uses the Student Aid Index (SAI) to determine how much federal aid you would receive if you attended Rutgers. The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) uses the New Jersey Eligibility Index (NJEI) to calculate your financial need for State aid. EOF Scholars receive both Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) and EOF grants from the State of New Jersey. In addition, qualified students are eligible to receive grant assistance from the federal government and Rutgers. Financial assistance will vary depending upon your need and eligibility as determined by the FAFSA or NJFAFA and the availability of funds.

Families who have an accumulation of assets or have ownership of corporations do not generally qualify for financial assistance through the EOF program but may qualify for other types of financial aid.

To establish historical poverty and document long-term economic hardship of the family, Rutgers requires at least **1 year** of verifiable income and assets from taxable and/or nontaxable sources (*prior-prior year*) and **current** assets (*as of today*) consistent with the financial aid application (FAFSA/NJFAFA) to determine eligibility for participation in the Rutgers EOF program. You'll be required to self-report your and your parents' income and assets when applying for EOF program consideration. If **selected for verification** of income and assets or to resolve discrepancies, requested documents may include, but are not limited to, the following: use of the Direct Data Exchange (FA-DDX), which will automatically transfer federal tax information from the IRS to the FAFSA; federal IRS tax return transcripts or signed copies of IRS income tax returns (IRS Form 1040 or 1040-SR) including all schedules and worksheets; W-2 forms; asset statements; unemployment benefits statements (form 1099-G); family size worksheets;

nontaxable income statements (for Social Security benefits, welfare/TANF, child support, etc.), and verification of non-filing Letters (using Form 4506-T), which provide proof from the IRS that you and/or your parents did not file a tax return for the year. The EOF Scholar's full name and 9-digit Rutgers University Identification (RUID) number must be provided when submitting requested documents.

For first-year applicants (first-year, first-time, fall term):

2024 tax year income & assets and current assets as of today are required for:

- Rutgers Admissions Pre-Screen Process - *(Required on 2026-2027 Rutgers Supplemental EOF Application)*
- Rutgers Financial Aid Post-Admit Process through NJFAMS *(Required on 2026-2027 FAFSA or NJFAAA)*

For transfer applicants (with or without prior EOF):

2023 or 2024 tax year income & assets and current assets as of today are required for:

- Rutgers Financial Aid Post-Admit Process through NJFAMS - *(Required on FAFSA or NJFAAA). Tax year is contingent upon semester of application: Spring/January (2023 tax year for 2025-2026 FAFSA/NJFAAA) or Fall/September (2024 tax year for 2026-2027 FAFSA/NJFAAA).*

EOF Grants

Undergraduate EOF grants range in dollar amount statewide. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey is a public research university where EOF grants are awarded as follows:

- **Rutgers Financial Aid Post-Admit Process:** Confirmed eligible EOF Scholars will receive an academic year award for EOF grants as part of their financial aid package. EOF grants are disbursed each semester. The award for Rutgers students is **\$1950 academic year/ \$975 per semester**. Program compliant EOF Scholars can also apply to receive financial assistance for summer session courses as continuing students and other academic opportunities to enhance their experience.

Fee Waivers and No Cost Residential EOF Summer Institute

Rutgers provides a waiver of administrative fees throughout the admissions and enrollment process, along with a no-cost residential EOF Summer Institute, all FREE for EOF Scholars, as outlined below:

- **Rutgers Admissions Pre-Screen Process:** First-year EOF applicants are eligible to have the **\$70** Rutgers Undergraduate Admissions application fee deferred, pending confirmation of financial eligibility, and ultimately waived. Students who participate in the National School Lunch Program or who are **military affiliated** receive an automatic waiver of the application fee on the Rutgers Application and Common App. Admitted EOF Scholars are also eligible to receive a waiver for the **\$150** enrollment fee when they acknowledge their plans to enroll at Rutgers. Transfer EOF applicants who submit an **EOF Transfer Form** are eligible for the **\$70** application fee waiver. Transfer EOF Scholars with confirmation of prior EOF grant payment qualify for the **\$150** enrollment fee waiver.
- **Rutgers Residence Life Post-Admit Process:** If interested in residing on-campus in university housing, admitted Rutgers students who have already accepted their offer of admission and have activated their Network Identification (NetID) can access the Rutgers housing application. In addition to completing the online housing application, students must submit a **\$200** nonrefundable deposit for housing. Full scholarship and full financial aid recipients, as well as EOF students, are not required to submit the deposit. Therefore, enrolling EOF Scholars qualify for the **\$200** housing deposit waiver.
- **Rutgers EOF Summer Institute – Mandatory Residential Pre-First Year EOF Summer Program:** Enrolling first-year EOF Scholars are required to **attend and successfully complete a residential EOF Summer Institute**, which runs for up to 6 weeks beginning in late June 2026. Participation is mandatory as a condition of enrollment and is provided at no cost to the EOF Scholar.

EOF APPLICANT INSTRUCTIONS *(For First-Year and Transfer Candidates)*

Rutgers has several different EOF programs operating at various schools within the Rutgers University system. Because EOF is a campus-based program throughout the State of New Jersey, each individual school is responsible for student recruitment, selection, program services, and **its own specific criteria for EOF admission and program participation**.

EOF is not an entitlement program. Selection for the Rutgers EOF program is **not guaranteed** and depends on a combination of financial, academic, and institutional factors (including limited space availability and EOF program budgets/funding allocations), as EOF enrollment goals and EOF enrollment capacity vary across the multiple but distinct undergraduate schools within the Rutgers University system.

To be considered for participation in the Rutgers EOF program, candidates must **apply for undergraduate admission** to Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**) for U.S. citizens and eligible noncitizens, or a New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application (**NJFAAA**) for NJ DREAMers as appropriate, and meet all **EOF Eligibility Requirements** and **Conditions of Enrollment** as an **EOF Scholar**.

Please note: The **Rutgers Supplemental EOF Application** is designed for **first-year applicants only**, whom upon admission will be enrolling as first-time, fall term students. The **EOF Transfer Form** is designed for **transfer applicants only**, who can document prior EOF grant payment and/or prior EOF program participation at a New Jersey college/university.

How to Apply

- **Submit Your Rutgers Undergraduate Admissions Application and Opt In for EOF Consideration**

For first-year applicants (first-year, first-time, fall term): Rutgers EOF candidates are encouraged to take advantage of Early Action by submitting both their admissions and EOF applications by **November 1, 2025** to receive an online decision notification by **January 31, 2026**. Alternatively, candidates may apply under Regular Decision by **December 1, 2025** for notification by **February 28, 2026**. Candidates may apply after due dates have passed to be considered under Rolling Admission on a space-available basis to any school that is still open at Rutgers. First-year student applications submitted after December 1 will receive a decision after our Early Action and Regular Decision students have been notified.

Interested first-year students should **review the eligibility requirements** and **apply to Rutgers**. Select the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program eligibility option on the Rutgers Application or Common App by responding "**Yes, I qualify and wish to be considered for the EOF program. I will complete the supplemental Rutgers EOF Application.**"

For transfer applicants (with or without prior EOF): Rutgers EOF candidates are encouraged to submit their admissions application for spring semester consideration by **October 1, 2025** for online decision notification by **December 1, 2025**. Alternatively, candidates should apply by **February 1, 2026** for fall semester consideration, with online decision notification by **April 15, 2026**. Candidates may apply after due dates have passed to be considered under Rolling Admission on a space-available basis to any school that is still open at Rutgers. Transfer student applications submitted after the published deadline will receive a decision after students who applied by the deadline have been notified.

Interested transfer students should **review the eligibility requirements** and **apply to Rutgers**. Transfer EOF candidates should **contact the school's EOF Director** to inform them of the intent to transfer and follow the instructions outlined at the respective school's EOF program website for transfer EOF program participation. Students who previously received EOF grant payment and/or participated in an EOF program at a NJ college/university should select the **prior EOF** option on the Rutgers Application.

All transfer applicants seeking participation in the Rutgers EOF program, with or without prior EOF status, will be considered on a space- and funding-available basis using specific criteria established by the distinct school where they plan to enroll.

For detailed information about **important application dates and deadlines** for first-year applicants and transfer applicants, visit **Rutgers Undergraduate Admissions** and mark your calendar.

- **Submit Your Financial Aid Application – FAFSA or NJFAFA**

To receive confirmation of eligibility for participation in the Rutgers EOF program and an official offer of financial assistance from Rutgers that includes the EOF grant, TAG, and other need-based aid programs if qualified, you must do the following:

If you are a U.S. Citizen or eligible noncitizen (U.S. national; U.S. permanent resident with a Form I-151, I-551, or I-551C – Permanent Resident Card, Resident Alien Card, or Alien Registration Receipt Card, also known as a "green card"; **Arrival-Departure Record Form I-94** – with eligible U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) designation; **or other non-U.S. citizen eligible for federal student aid**):

- ✓ Submit your completed **2026-2027** Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the federal processor for federal and State grants, work-study, and loans. To submit your FAFSA online at **fafsa.gov**, you and your parent must each **create an account FSA ID**, which is used to confirm your identity when accessing your financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents. The FSA ID is a username and password combination you use to log in to U.S. Department of Education (ED) online systems.
- ✓ Ensure that Rutgers receives your FAFSA from the federal processor by including the **Rutgers Federal School Code 002629** in the **Colleges** section of the online FAFSA form or FAFSA PDF. For purposes of federal student aid, the order of schools you list does not matter. However, for the State of New Jersey, you must list an eligible in-state college to be considered for State aid. The PDF FAFSA is screen-fillable. You may fill the answer fields electronically and then print the form, or print the form first and complete it by hand.
- ✓ Use your and your parent(s) filed **2024** federal IRS tax returns, asset statements, and nontaxable income and benefits statements as sources of verifiable income to complete the **2026-2027** FAFSA and answer NJ State-specific questions. The Direct Data Exchange (FA-DDX) is an easy and secure way to access and transfer tax information directly from the IRS to the FAFSA, saving time and improving accuracy. Although the Direct Data Exchange (FA-DDX) is an option when completing the FAFSA, you and your parents may be unable or choose not to use it. If you have already submitted a FAFSA and would like to use the FA-DDX, you must login as a returning user at **fafsa.gov**. For help with completing the FAFSA, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243 or visit **studentaid.gov**.

If you are a NJ DREAMer (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors who meets all of the eligibility requirements for NJ State aid):

- ✓ Meet the following criteria: attended a New Jersey high school for at least three (3) years; graduated from a New Jersey high school or the equivalent of a high school diploma in New Jersey; are able to file an affidavit stating that you have filed an application to legalize your immigration status or will file an application as soon as you are eligible to do so, in compliance with the **New Jersey Tuition Policy**. This policy, pursuant to S-2479 and S-699, allows certain students—including undocumented immigrants who meet certain criteria—to qualify for in-state tuition at public institutions of higher education and for State financial aid.
- ✓ Submit your official high school transcript(s), including all courses and grades to date, along with your completed **Application and Affidavit for Non Resident/Out of State Rutgers Tuition Exemption** to University Enrollment Services Admissions Processing, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 65 Davidson Road, Suite 308, Piscataway, NJ 08854-8097 or upload these documents via the **Rutgers Application Portal**.

- ✓ Submit your completed **2026-2027** New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application (NJAFAA) to the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA). To complete and submit your NJAFAA online at www.hesaa.org, you must read and follow full instructions as detailed on the "Apply for State Aid" page and click on "NJ Dreamers." Only you as the student, not your parent, are required to create login credentials to access your NJFAMS account. Select "Apply Online for New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid (NJ Dreamer Students Only)" and select "I am not a citizen or eligible noncitizen" to complete the Academic Year **2026-27** application.
- ✓ Ensure that Rutgers receives your NJAFAA information from HESAA by including **Rutgers Federal School Code 002629** in the **New Jersey College or University** section.
- ✓ Use your and your parent(s) filed **2024** federal IRS tax returns, asset statements, and nontaxable income and benefits statements as sources of verifiable income to complete the **2026-2027** NJAFAA. The New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application (NJAFAA) is a confidential application that is used solely by our State agency—the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA)—to qualify students for State financial aid. It is not used for federal financial aid purposes. Information that is shared with HESAA via this application is **only** used by HESAA and partner colleges/universities like Rutgers and other State agencies to administer grants and scholarships. HESAA will do everything within its authority and jurisdiction to protect the ongoing confidentiality of this information. You and your parent who provided the information listed on the NJAFAA must sign the form. For help with completing the NJAFAA, contact HESAA online at **Customer Care** or call 1-800-792-8670.

• Create Your NJFAMS Student Account

All EOF candidates who are new students must create your New Jersey Financial Aid Management System (NJFAMS) student account and login credentials at njfams.hesaa.org with a user name and password. You'll then be able to access your NJFAMS account. Both new (first-year) and returning (transfer) EOF candidates should login to your NJFAMS account to view your "Award Status" and monitor your customized "To Do List" to complete your State Grant Record once HESAA receives your financial aid application information.

If HESAA requests additional information from you or if you are selected for State verification through NJFAMS, make sure to submit all requested information by their published deadline. You must also submit all requested documents directly to HESAA to ensure eligibility for both TAG (Tuition Aid Grant) and EOF (Educational Opportunity Fund) grants. If you do not upload requested documents by their published deadline, your State financial aid award is subject to cancellation. If you are asked to submit additional information to HESAA for your State aid grants, you will receive an email from NJFAMS@hesaa.org.

All students should continue to monitor your NJFAMS account throughout the academic year and make sure your NJFAMS account has the most up-to-date email address saved to your profile. EOF candidates are strongly encouraged to regularly check the "To Do List" in your NJFAMS account for status updates and document requests from New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) for State aid eligibility.

For more information about State aid eligibility, you may contact HESAA at 1-800-792-8670 or visit www.hesaa.org or send them an email at customercare@hesaa.org.

EOF CANDIDATE SELECTION PROCESS *(For First-Year and Transfer Candidates)*

First-Year, First-Time, Fall Term Candidates

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions makes preliminary determinations of eligibility for the Rutgers EOF program and offers conditional admission to EOF Scholars based on the information the candidates provided with their application for admission and supplemental EOF application. Rutgers EOF Directors at the different EOF programs within the Rutgers University system at the time of the student's initial application may choose to assess a student's motivation and talent based upon interviews in addition to other requisite application materials within the context of the specific EOF program's selectivity.

Since the process to recruit and review EOF applicants can vary by institution throughout the State of New Jersey, the following explains who will make the final determination on which EOF eligible students are admitted to the program and awarded an EOF Article III grant:

Per the statewide EOF Regulations (EOF Administrative Procedures and Policies) as published in **New Jersey Administrative Code N.J.A.C. 9A:11-4.4(h)(i)**: "(h) Each participating institution shall provide for the campus EOF administrator/director to participate actively in all institutional policy making that affects the EOF program and its students, including academic standards, recruitment and retention. (i) At each participating institution the campus EOF administrator/director shall make the final determination on admitting students to the EOF program and awarding EOF Article III grants."

• Submit Your Rutgers Supplemental EOF Application

Selected "Yes" for EOF consideration (Opt In)

Students responding "Yes, I qualify and wish to be considered for the EOF program. I will complete the supplemental Rutgers EOF Application." to the EOF option and submitting their Rutgers Application or Common App will then continue to the online supplemental EOF Application located in the "EOF App - Go Apply" widget on their **Rutgers Application Portal** home page. Login using your CommunityID (email and password) to continue your application or view your admission status.

EOF awards are based on historical family information. Therefore, parental information is required when completing the EOF Application. This confidential online form allows Rutgers to make a preliminary determination of your eligibility for participation in the Rutgers EOF program. Willful omission of information or misrepresentation in any part of this application will be grounds for removal from the Rutgers EOF program and denial or revocation of admission and/or cancellation of enrollment.

When applying for Rutgers EOF program consideration, you'll be required to **self-report** your and your parents' **2024** income and assets from filed federal IRS tax returns, asset statements, and nontaxable income and benefits statements as sources of verifiable income along with current assets as of today to complete the **2026-2027** Rutgers Supplemental EOF Application.

Review the EOF Application instructions and eligibility requirements carefully. **Do not leave any item blank, as this will constitute an incomplete EOF Application and prevent an EOF eligibility decision.** Rutgers reserves the right to request documents for verification of income and assets or to resolve discrepancies as detailed in the "Financial Assistance" section above.

Selected "No" for EOF (Opt Out) but are now interested

Students who initially selected "**No, I do not qualify and do not wish to be considered**" in response to the EOF prompt on the Rutgers Application or Common App, but now wish to be considered for EOF eligibility, must **contact** Rutgers Undergraduate Admissions. Once your written request for EOF consideration is received and processed, your admissions application will be updated accordingly. You'll then be able to access the online supplemental EOF Application by following the same instructions as listed above for those who originally selected "Yes" for EOF consideration.

If **selected for verification** of income and assets or to resolve discrepancies in the **Rutgers Admissions Pre-Screen Process**, documents may be requested. Please refer to the "**Items required for Application Review**" checklist on your **Rutgers Application Portal** to verify if additional documentation is needed at this time. If your application checklist is not currently showing any missing documents, we recommend you periodically check back as we continue to review you for EOF eligibility, as we may need to request additional documentation.

EOF Candidates with required items listed on their Application Checklist should:

- ✓ Upload supporting credentials and required documents electronically via the **Rutgers Application Portal**. Log in using your CommunityID (email and password) to continue your application or view your admissions status. - **OR** -
- ✓ Mail supporting credentials and required documents to:
University Enrollment Services Admissions Processing
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
65 Davidson Road, Suite 308
Piscataway, NJ 08854-8097

All applicants must log in to the **Rutgers Application Portal** to access the Application Checklist located on your portal. Required items already received and missing items still required for application review will be displayed on your portal's home page.

Transfer Candidates

Transfer students with no prior EOF grant payment or no prior EOF program participation should not submit an EOF Transfer Form. You may be required to complete a school-specific transfer and no history application, schedule an in-take interview with a school-specific EOF transfer team counselor, and/or attend an EOF transfer student workshop, which can vary based on your Rutgers school of admission.

All interested students should **contact the school's EOF Director** to inform them of their intent to transfer and follow the instructions outlined at the respective school's EOF program website for transfer EOF program participation.

• Submit Your EOF Transfer Form (For prior EOF grant funded or non-funded prior EOF program participants)

Students selecting the **prior EOF** option and submitting an Undergraduate Admissions application should then provide an **EOF Transfer Form** from the sending institution. The **EOF Transfer Form** is screen-fillable. You may fill in the answer fields electronically or print the form and complete it by hand. You may upload the completed and signed document to your **Rutgers Application Portal** or submit the document by email to eof@admissions.rutgers.edu.

Conditional Admission for Preliminarily Eligible EOF Scholars

(For First-Year, First-Time, Fall Term Candidates ONLY)

During the **Rutgers Admissions Pre-Screen Process**, your Rutgers Application or Common App, Supplemental EOF Application, supporting academic credentials, and **2024** taxable and nontaxable income documents—along with current asset statements as of today (if requested)—are reviewed to determine whether you will be **Conditionally Admitted** as a **Preliminarily Eligible EOF Scholar**. If you are offered conditional admission to one of Rutgers' undergraduate schools as a first-year EOF Scholar, you will need to understand all the **Conditions of Enrollment** that must be satisfied for you to maintain EOF Scholar status for fall term enrollment.

If you are determined to be ineligible through the post-admit FAFSA or NJFAA verification process and/or you do not attend and successfully complete the mandatory residential EOF summer program, you will be disqualified for EOF, and your Undergraduate Admissions application will be reevaluated without EOF eligibility.

• EOF Post-Admit Financial Aid Application Verification Process

Preliminarily eligible, first-year EOF Scholars offered conditional admission to Rutgers **must file** the **2026-2027** Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or **2026-2027** New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application (NJAFSA), as appropriate, and must be **confirmed financially eligible** for EOF program participation through NJFAMS prior to the start of the EOF Summer Institute. Students admitted through the EOF program and students who have already accepted their admission offer as enrolling EOF Scholars should not send any documents to verify their and their family's **2024** income and assets unless the Rutgers Office of Financial Aid and/or New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) has specifically requested them, as unsolicited documentation may cause a delay in the processing of financial aid. Rutgers reserves the right to request documents for verification of income and assets or to resolve discrepancies as detailed in the "**Financial Assistance**" section above.

Final acceptance into the New Jersey EOF program as a Rutgers EOF Scholar will be contingent upon the results of the required financial aid application and NJ State grant questions. Visit the Rutgers Office of Financial Aid online at scarlethub.rutgers.edu for more information.

• EOF Summer Institute

If you are **Admitted through the EOF Program** and plan to enroll at Rutgers as an EOF Scholar, our EOF program staff will communicate with you directly via text, email, and by phone to assist you in preparing for your EOF Summer Institute experience. Preliminarily eligible, first-year EOF Scholars offered conditional admission to Rutgers **must attend and successfully complete** an EOF Summer Institute that can run for up to six weeks, beginning toward the end of **June 2026**. The Pre-First Year EOF Summer Program is designed to smooth your transition from high school to college and sharpen your English, math, and/or science skills. The EOF Summer Institute includes everything from workshops on career planning and stress management to a variety of social and recreational activities. You'll earn college credit and meet new friends, and your EOF Summer Institute tuition and other educational expenses will be paid for.

You may **not** opt out of attendance, as successful completion of the EOF Summer Institute is a **mandatory requirement** for fall semester EOF enrollment at Rutgers. If you choose not to attend the EOF Summer Institute and want to decline your offer of EOF admission, you must first **contact the EOF Director at your school of admission**, then **contact** Rutgers University Undergraduate Admissions to submit your written request to be reconsidered for regular admission. Please note that regular admission is **not** guaranteed when being reevaluated without EOF consideration.

The EOF Summer Institute is also available to first-year admitted New Jersey students who have successfully completed a NJ GEAR UP State project, a New Jersey College Bound grant program, and/or a New Jersey Federally supported TRIO program (Upward Bound), but are unable to demonstrate financial eligibility for an EOF grant in compliance with the statewide NJ EOF regulations and the **EOF Income Eligibility Scale with Asset Cap Calculation for 2026-2027**. If you are a **New Jersey Pre-College Program participant** who is not financially eligible for the EOF grant, you are welcome to be a part of our Rutgers EOF program as a Support-Services-Only (SSO) EOF Scholar. Rutgers will review your eligibility based on the information you provide with your application for admission.

If you are determined to be an SSO EOF Scholar (Non-Funded EOF Scholar) in our **Rutgers Admissions Pre-screen Process**, you'll be invited to participate in the EOF Summer Institute at no cost to you. Additionally, the Pre-College Program will provide academic support services for you during your enrollment in college. For SSO EOF Scholars, summer program participation is **not** mandatory.

• Final Official High School/Secondary School Records

When preparing for your EOF Summer Institute experience, please note that as part of the standard Conditions of Enrollment for all admitted first-year Rutgers students, **final official high school/secondary school records are required by July 1, 2026**. Please have your school counselor—or college registrar, if you completed college courses before high school graduation—submit final official transcripts of all completed coursework once your current semester grades are posted. Official transcripts from any college attended are required. All **2026** high school graduates must also submit a final official high school transcript showing all courses and grades. Your final official records must include certification of any diplomas or degrees earned.

Your enrollment at Rutgers is contingent upon satisfactory completion, with no significant decline in grades, of all academic work still in progress when your application was reviewed and that all information provided on your application was complete and true. When you accept our offer of admission, we will check your file to verify that all your high school and college transcripts have been received and are official. If your final official records are not received and/or are not consistent with the records with which you were admitted, your admission may be revoked.

About Rutgers – Our Structure

Rutgers has several different EOF programs operating at various schools within the university system. Rutgers also has locations in New Brunswick, Newark, and Camden, and has a major academic and clinical health sciences presence that spans across the State of New Jersey. They're all different, but they're also all Rutgers—respected, forward-looking, and packed with options.

As one of the leading comprehensive public research universities in the nation, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, fulfills a threefold **mission**:

- Providing for the educational needs of New Jersey through our undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs
- Conducting cutting-edge research that contributes to the health, environmental, social, and cultural well-being of the state, nation, and world, as well as strengthening the economy and supporting businesses and industries
- Performing public service in support of the needs of the people of the State and their local, county, and State governments

As such, all EOF Candidates and Conditionally Admitted/Enrolling EOF Scholars should visit the Rutgers EOF program appropriate to your area of interest, school of application, school of admission, and school of enrollment for more information.

- [Rutgers–Camden](#)
- [Rutgers–Newark](#)
- [Rutgers–New Brunswick](#)
 - [School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers Business School–New Brunswick, Mason Gross School of the Arts](#)
 - [School of Environmental and Biological Sciences](#)
 - [Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy](#)
 - [School of Engineering](#)
 - [School of Nursing–Newark](#)

EOF Application Form Certification Statement

When completing the Rutgers Supplemental EOF Application, all first-year EOF candidates will be required to check a declaration box affirming that the submission of their EOF Application serves as their certified signature. By doing so, they certify that all **self-reported information** provided in the form is true, accurate, and complete at the time of submission. The certification language addresses the following:

By submitting this form, I certify that:

- I have read and I meet all the EOF eligibility requirements, and I understand that the information on the EOF Application is used to make a preliminary determination of my eligibility for the New Jersey EOF program.
- This application, including supporting credentials and documents, is complete, factually correct, and honestly prepared.

I understand that:

- I must check the **Rutgers Application Portal** regularly and respond to requests for additional information to complete the Rutgers Undergraduate Admissions Application and EOF Application pre-screen process by visiting [**go.rutgers.edu/portal**](https://go.rutgers.edu/portal).
- I must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**) for US citizens and eligible noncitizens or a New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application (**NJAFAA**) for NJ DREAMers, as soon as possible when it becomes available October 1, 2025 to meet the Rutgers priority filing date of January 15, 2026. Rutgers' Federal School Code is 002629. Once my financial aid application is submitted, I must login to NJFAMS at [**njfams.hesaa.org**](https://njfams.hesaa.org) to view my "To Do List" to complete my State Grant Record.
- Rutgers University is required to verify the data I supplied on my FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) only if my application is selected for verification, typically through random selection by the federal government. I also understand that I should not send any documents to verify my family's and my 2024 income and assets unless the Rutgers Office of Financial Aid has specifically requested them, as unsolicited documentation may cause a delay in the processing of my financial aid.
- If my FAFSA is selected for verification by the U.S. Department of Education, I will receive an email from the Rutgers University Office of Financial Aid notifying me that I am required to submit additional documentation in the Financial Aid Student Portal.
- If my FAFSA or NJAFAA is selected for New Jersey State verification by HESAA (Higher Education Student Assistance Authority), the Rutgers Office of Financial Aid and HESAA will contact me by email to explain what additional information is needed. I will also check my Rutgers Financial Aid Student Portal and NJFAMS account to see the required documentation that is currently requested.
- I will submit all required documentation when specifically requested by the Rutgers University Undergraduate Admissions Office, Rutgers Office of Financial Aid, Rutgers EOF Office, and/or New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority prior to the start of the EOF Summer Institute.
- My conditional admission to the Rutgers EOF program is contingent upon the results of the financial aid application (FAFSA or NJAFAA) verification process through NJFAMS confirming my final financial eligibility and is contingent upon my participation and successful completion of the required residential EOF Summer Institute, which can run for up to six weeks beginning in late June 2026.
- If I am notified of being selected for verification, requested documents may include, but are not limited to, the following: use of the Direct Data Exchange (FA-DDX), which will automatically transfer federal tax information from the IRS to the FAFSA; 2024 IRS tax return transcripts or signed copies of 2024 IRS 1040 tax returns (including all schedules and worksheets); W-2 forms; asset statements; unemployment benefits statements (form 1099-G); nontaxable income statements (for Social security benefits, welfare/TANF, child support, etc.); verification of non-filing letters and nontaxable income and benefits statements; and family size worksheets.
- **If I am conditionally admitted to Rutgers as a preliminarily eligible, first-year EOF Scholar, but I am determined to be ineligible through the FAFSA or NJAFAA verification process and/or I do not attend and successfully complete the EOF summer program, I will be disqualified for EOF, and my Undergraduate Admissions application will be reevaluated without EOF eligibility.**
- Willful omission of information or misrepresentation in any part of this application or failure to comply with all conditional admissions requirements will be grounds for removal from the EOF program and denial or revocation of admission and/or cancellation of enrollment.

Rutgers University policy prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, genetic information, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, marital status, civil union status, domestic partnership status, military service, veteran status, and any other category protected by law. Discrimination and harassment compromise the integrity of the university and unfairly interfere with the opportunity for all persons to fully participate in the academic, work, and living environment of the university. The Rutgers University Policy Prohibiting Discrimination and Harassment can be viewed at [**https://policies.rutgers.edu/8.aspx?BookId=12087&PageId=45944**](https://policies.rutgers.edu/8.aspx?BookId=12087&PageId=45944)

