

2018-2019 Rutgers Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program Application For First-Year Students, New Jersey Residents Only

EOF Application Instructions

Transfer applicants should not complete this form. If you are a transfer student who has previously participated in the New Jersey EOF program at another New Jersey college, please do not complete this EOF Application. Transfer students should submit the FAFSA to the federal processor; submit an EOF Transfer Form from your previous NJ college where you were a recipient of the EOF grant or provide a statement from your previous EOF Counselor/Director on your former NJ college's letterhead certifying prior participation in their EOF program to the Rutgers Office of University Undergraduate Admissions; and contact the EOF Director at the Rutgers undergraduate school you plan to attend.

The Rutgers EOF Application is designed for first-year applicants only. The information on the EOF Application is used to make a *preliminary* determination of your eligibility for the New Jersey EOF program. Please do not leave any items blank on this application. If you and/or your parent(s) reported taxable income on a federal tax return in **2015**, you will need to refer to copies of this tax return in order to complete this application. If you and/or your parent(s) received nontaxable income during **2015**, you will need to refer to copies of those benefits statements to complete this application. Rutgers reserves the right to request copies of these documents with all schedules and worksheets at any time during the preliminary eligibility process. Mail the completed EOF Application and requested documents to: Office of University Undergraduate Admissions *Operations Center*, 65 Davidson Road, Room 202, Piscataway, NJ 08854-8097.

All students in consideration for the EOF grant must eventually submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) which provides more detailed financial information and finalize their state aid application by answering New Jersey state grant questions on the confirmation page of the FAFSA. During the FAFSA verification process, the Rutgers Office of Financial Aid will request that admitted EOF Scholars submit their family's **2016** IRS federal tax return transcript and/or nontaxable income statements to confirm eligibility for enrollment through the Rutgers EOF Program. The EOF Scholar's full name and 9-digit Rutgers University Identification (RUID) number must be written on the income tax documents and nontaxable income statements. Final acceptance into the New Jersey EOF program will be contingent upon the results of the required FAFSA & NJ state grant application. Students may be disqualified based upon the results of the FAFSA & NJ state grant verification process and may be removed from the EOF program and denied admission and/or have their enrollment cancelled.

Mission of EOF

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.

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 will partner with established pre-college efforts and seek to initiate additional opportunities to identify and prepare students for college at the pre-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 careers fields and prepares them for the changing world of work and to assume leadership in their communities and the state.

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 linked goals related to the EOF mission and are critical elements established as part of the Rutgers EOF program that will increase students' opportunities for success.

Eligibility Requirements

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

To participate in the Rutgers EOF program, students must apply for undergraduate admission to Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) including the NJ state aid grant questions, and meet all **"Requirements for Preliminary Eligibility"** as listed below including New Jersey residency and citizenship status. Rutgers has multiple but distinct EOF programs operating at various schools within the Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey 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 grants are generally available to students from families with a background of poverty, whose annual income falls within the **EOF Income Eligibility Scale** as established by the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education/EOF Board of Directors. Students must also meet academic criteria set by the Rutgers school the applicant selected for undergraduate admission consideration. Families who have accumulated assets or have ownership of corporations do not qualify for financial assistance through the EOF program, but may qualify for other types of financial aid. To be considered for EOF grants, you and your family must have a documented history of educational and economic disadvantage and meet the income guidelines listed.

EOF Income Eligibility Scale 2018-2019

Household Size (include self)	Gross Income Does Not Exceed:
1	\$24,120
2	\$32,480
3	\$40,840
4	\$49,200
5	\$57,560
6	\$65,920
7	\$74,280
8	\$82,640
For each additional family member, add \$8,360	

If your and your family's income fall within the criteria as shown on the EOF Income Eligibility Scale above and you wish to be considered for participation in the Rutgers EOF program, you must also meet the following "Requirements for Preliminary Eligibility":

- ✓ You must demonstrate an educationally and economically disadvantaged background.
- ✓ You must be a New Jersey resident for at least 12 consecutive months prior to fall semester enrollment.
- ✓ You must be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or eligible noncitizen with a valid Permanent Resident Card, I-94, T-visa, or other qualified status under Title IV federal financial aid regulations detailed at financialaid.rutgers.edu, indicating that you have been a U.S. permanent resident for at least one year prior to fall semester enrollment.
- ✓ You must have received a high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma by the time you register at Rutgers.
- ✓ You must be a first-generation college student. (Your parent(s) are not four-year college/university graduates.)

Financial Assistance

Eligible EOF Scholars will receive an EOF grant each semester as part of their financial aid package. EOF Scholars who are program compliant can also apply to receive financial assistance for summer session courses as continuing students and other academic opportunities to enhance their experience. Although the EOF program can provide financial help, you and your family are asked to contribute toward the educational expenses as determined by a federally mandated formula, which uses information you provide on the FAFSA to calculate the amount of your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). EOF Scholars receive both 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 as determined by the FAFSA and the availability of funds. 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:

- ✓ You must submit your **2018–2019** Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the federal processor as soon as possible after October 1, 2017, to meet the Rutgers priority application date of December 1, 2017. To submit your FAFSA online at fafsa.ed.gov, you and your parent must each create an FSA ID, which is used to confirm your identity when accessing your financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents at fsaid.ed.gov. Ensure that Rutgers receives your FAFSA from the federal processor by including the Rutgers federal school code 002629 in Step 5 (online) or Step 6 (PDF). The PDF FAFSA is available for you to print and fill out manually or is screen-fillable if you select "FAFSA Filing Options" at fafsa.ed.gov.
- ✓ You and your parents must use your filed **2016** federal IRS tax return to complete the **2018-2019** FAFSA. The IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) is an easy and secure way to access and transfer tax return information directly onto the FAFSA form, saving time and improving accuracy. Although the IRS Data Retrieval Tool 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 IRS DRT, you must Login as a Returning User at fafsa.ed.gov. Selected EOF Scholars **will be required** to submit a copy of the 2016 IRS federal tax return transcript to Rutgers. Visit the Rutgers Office of Financial Aid online at financialaid.rutgers.edu for information about IRS DRT and IRS federal tax return transcript.
- ✓ You must submit all requested documents to the Rutgers Office of Financial Aid prior to the start of the EOF Summer Institute to complete the FAFSA verification process. In addition, if you are selected for State Verification by the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA), you must also submit all requested documents directly to HESAA to ensure eligibility for both TAG (Tuition Aid Grant) and EOF grants. For additional information about state aid eligibility, you may contact HESAA at 1-800-792-8670 or visit www.hesaa.org.

Last name: _____ First name: _____ RUID number: _____

EOF Summer Institute

If you are admitted to one of Rutgers' undergraduate schools as a first-year EOF Scholar, you must attend and successfully complete a free five- to six-week Summer Institute that is designed to smooth your transition from high school to college and sharpen your English, math, and/or science skills. You'll meet new friends, and your EOF Summer Institute tuition and other educational expenses will be paid for. Attendance and successful completion of the EOF Summer Institute, which begins toward the end of June 2018, is a requirement for fall semester enrollment at Rutgers.

Advising/Counseling

Before the fall semester begins, 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 of the university's other resources are available to help you succeed at Rutgers.

EOF Application Form

The EOF program is for students whose families have a documented history of educational and economic disadvantage. EOF awards are based on historical family information. Therefore, parental information is required on this form. This confidential form allows Rutgers to make a preliminary determination of your eligibility for participation in the Educational Opportunity Fund program. Willful omission of information or misrepresentation in any part of this application will be grounds for removal from the EOF program and denial or revocation of admission and cancellation of enrollment.

1. I have read the New Jersey EOF program eligibility requirements and instructions listed on pages 1–2.

- Yes, I qualify for the EOF program and wish to be considered for this program.
 No, I do not qualify and do not wish to be considered.

The following determines who is considered a parent for the purposes of this form. Answer all questions.

Grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, aunts, and uncles are not considered parents on this form unless they have legally adopted you.

- ✓ If your parent was never married and does not live with your other legal parent, or if your parent is widowed or not remarried, answer the questions about that parent.
- ✓ If your legal parents (biological and/or adoptive) are not married to each other and live together, select "Unmarried and both parents living together" and provide information about both of them regardless of their gender. Do not include any person who is not married to your parent and who is not a legal or biological parent.
- ✓ If your parents are married, select "Married or remarried." If your legal parents are divorced but living together, select "Unmarried and both parents living together." If your legal parents are separated but living together, select "Married or remarried," not "Divorced or separated."
- ✓ If your parents are divorced or separated, answer the questions about the parent you lived with more during the past 12 months. (If you did not live with one parent more than the other, give answers about the parent who provided more financial support during the past 12 months or during the most recent year that you actually received support from a parent.) If this parent is remarried as of today, answer the questions about that parent and your stepparent.
- ✓ If your widowed parent is remarried as of today, answer the questions about that parent and your stepparent.

2. Parents' current marital status

- Never Married (*Single Parent*)
 Unmarried and Both Parents Living Together
 Married or Remarried
 Divorced or Separated (*Parents Do Not Live Together*). If so, please provide date of divorce or separation: _____(mm/yyyy)
 Widowed. If so, please provide date widowed: _____(mm/yyyy)

3. Do you have any children? Yes No

4. At any time since you turned 13, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?

- Yes No. If yes, the Rutgers Office of Financial Aid will require that you provide proof of your orphan, foster care, or dependent or ward of the court status.

Last name: _____ First name: _____ RUID number: _____

5. How many people are in your parents' household and receive more than half of their support from your parents' income?
(Number = _____)

- ✓ If dependent, "household" includes yourself, your parents, and your parents' other children if they are not independent, and other people who live with your parents from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019 who will receive more than half of their support from your parents.
- ✓ If independent, "household" includes yourself (and spouse, if married) your children, and other people who will live with you for which you provide more than half of their support and will continue to provide more than half of their support through June 30, 2019.

Please provide full name, age, and relationship to you for each household member below:

First Name	Last Name	Age	Relationship to Applicant

6. If you have a brother or sister who is the current/prior recipient of an EOF grant at a NJ college, please provide the information below.

Last name First name

College Birthdate: mm/dd/yyyy

Family Income From All Sources (2015)

Please have your, your parents' and stepparents' federal IRS income tax returns, all schedules and worksheets, and nontaxable income statements (for social security benefits, welfare, child support, etc.) accessible to accurately complete the following questions. Indicate annual (2015) amount as listed on the income documents. If the financial information does not apply to you or your parents, enter zero (0) in the boxes below. Review the EOF Application Instructions and Eligibility Requirements on pages 1–2 carefully. **Do not leave any item blank, as this will constitute an incomplete EOF Application and prevent an EOF eligibility decision.**

7. Did you file a federal income tax return for 2015 (IRS 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ)? Yes No

If yes, list the total number of exemptions reported on the 1040 (line 6D) _____

If yes, was your income tax return filing status "married filing jointly"? Yes No

If you did not file and were not required to file a federal tax return, please sign below to certify.

Signature of Applicant

8. Did your parents file a federal income tax return for 2015 (IRS 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ)? Yes No

If yes, list the total number of exemptions reported on the 1040 (line 6D) _____

If yes, was your parents' income tax return filing status "married filing jointly"? Yes No

If your parents did not file and were not required to file a federal tax return, please have one of them sign below to certify.

Signature of Parent

9. What was your family's Adjusted Gross Income, as reported on 2015 federal income tax return IRS Form 1040 – line 37; 1040A – line 21; or 1040EZ – line 4? Use W-2 forms if you/your family earned wages but did not file a federal tax return.

Married/Joint Filers	Parent 1 (if not joint filer) Father/Mother/Stepparent	Parent 2 (if not joint filer) Father/Mother/Stepparent	Student & Spouse
\$	\$	\$	\$

Last name: _____ First name: _____ RUID number: _____

10. What was your family's Interest and Dividend Income, as reported on 2015 federal income tax return IRS Form 1040 – line 8A, 9, and 10 or 1040A – 8A and 9A?

Married/Joint Filers	Parent 1 (if not joint filer) Father/Mother/Stepparent	Parent 2 (if not joint filer) Father/Mother/Stepparent	Student & Spouse
\$	\$	\$	\$

11. Did you or your parents complete a schedule C or C-EZ for business owners (required if any amount was reported as positive, negative, or calculated zero on **line 12** of the IRS form 1040)? Yes No

If yes, what was the gross income listed on **line 7** of Schedule C “**Profit or Loss From Business (Sole Proprietorship)**” or Net Profit listed on **line 3** of Schedule C-EZ “**Net Profit From Business (Sole Proprietorship)**”? _____

12. Did you or your parents complete a Schedule D for capital gains or losses (required if any amount was reported as positive, negative, or calculated zero on **line 13** of the IRS form 1040)? Yes No

If yes, what was the net long-term capital gain or (loss) as listed on **line 15** of Schedule D “**Capital Gains and Losses**”? _____

13. Did you or your parents complete a schedule E for rental real estate or any schedules 1120, 1120A, 1120S, or 1065 for corporation owners (required if any amount was reported as positive, negative, or calculated zero on **line 17** of the IRS form 1040)? Yes No

If yes, was the type of property in **Part I** listed on Schedule E “**Supplemental Income and Loss**” a multi-family residence?
 Yes No

If yes, how many units are there? _____

Is your primary residence one of these units? _____

Was there any income reported on Schedule E, **Part II – Part IV**? Yes No

14. If you and your family did not qualify to file federal tax returns in 2015, what was the source of your family's income? Please provide the amount received below or enter “0.”

Parent 1 Father/Mother/Stepparent	Parent 2 Father/Mother/Stepparent	Student & Spouse
Unemployment: \$	Unemployment: \$	Unemployment: \$
Social Security Benefits: \$	Social Security Benefits: \$	Social Security Benefits: \$
Welfare/TANF: \$	Welfare/TANF: \$	Welfare/TANF: \$
Veteran Benefits: \$	Veteran Benefits: \$	Veteran Benefits: \$
Child Support: \$	Child Support: \$	Child Support: \$
Pensions & Annuities: \$	Pensions & Annuities: \$	Pensions & Annuities: \$
IRA Distributions: \$	IRA Distributions: \$	IRA Distributions: \$
Other Source: Amount: \$	Other Source: Amount: \$	Other Source: Amount: \$

15. Do you receive free or reduced price meals at school, or afterschool programs, or camps (National School Lunch or Breakfast Programs)?
 Yes No

16. Please provide the name, email address, and phone number of your high school counselor:

School Counselor Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number w/Area Code: _____

Last name: _____ First name: _____ RUID number: _____

Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Office of University
Undergraduate Admissions Operations Center
65 Davidson Road, Room 202
Piscataway, NJ 08854-8097
848-445-INFO (4636)
admissions.rutgers.edu

Rutgers University-Newark
Office of Graduate and
Undergraduate Admissions
190 University Avenue, Room 101
Newark, NJ 07102-1896
973-353-5205
admissions.newark.rutgers.edu

Rutgers University-Camden
Office of Graduate and
Undergraduate Admissions
406 Penn Street
Camden, NJ 08102-1499
856-225-6104
camden.rutgers.edu/admissions

EOF Application Form Certification

Your and your parent's signatures are required below to certify all information contained in this document. Without both signatures (yours and that of the parent whose income information is provided on this form), your application is not complete and cannot be processed.

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 [status screen](#)** regularly and respond to requests for additional information to complete the Rutgers Undergraduate Admissions Application and EOF Application process by visiting **admissions.rutgers.edu**.
- I must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon after October 1, 2017 as possible to meet the Rutgers priority filing date of December 1, 2017. Rutgers' federal school code is 002629.
- I must submit my and my family's **2016** IRS federal tax return transcript with all schedules and worksheets and/or nontaxable income statements to the Rutgers Office of Financial Aid for the FAFSA verification process upon request.
- I must submit any and all required documents to the Rutgers University Undergraduate Admissions Office, Rutgers Office of Financial Aid, Rutgers EOF Office, and New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority as requested prior to the start of EOF Summer Institute.
- **My admission to the Rutgers EOF program is contingent upon the results of the FAFSA verification process confirming my financial eligibility and contingent upon my participation and successful completion of the required five- to six-week EOF Summer Institute. If I am admitted to Rutgers as preliminarily eligible for EOF but determined to be ineligible through the FAFSA verification process and/or I do not attend and successfully complete the EOF summer program, my undergraduate admissions application will be reevaluated without EOF eligibility.**
- Willful omission of information or misrepresentation in any part of this application will be grounds for removal from the EOF program and denial or revocation of admission and cancellation of enrollment.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Parent

Date

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 <http://policies.rutgers.edu/PDF/Section60/60.1.12-current.pdf>.

