

2020-2021 FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

Paying for college may seem like a challenge, however the Office of Financial Aid is here to help guide you and ensure that you take advantage of all education-related financial resources available. Follow this checklist in order to develop a financial aid plan for Rutgers University–New Brunswick.



CONNECT:



GET PREPARED

- Review the Rutgers Financial Aid website at <http://financialaid.rutgers.edu> and the Federal Student Aid website at <http://studentaid.ed.gov> to learn more about the types of aid available, including grants, scholarships, federal work-study, and loans.
- Collect the necessary documents in order to complete the 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). See “What Information Do I Need to Complete the FAFSA®?” for more information.
- If you reside in New Jersey, review information about available state aid at <http://www.njgrants.org>. **Remember to pay close attention to all state aid deadlines.**
- Research and apply for outside scholarship awards that can help pay for your education. Resources are available on our website as well as many online scholarship search engines.

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY FEDERAL (FAFSA®) SCHOOL CODE:

002629

COMPLETE THE FAFSA®

- To apply for federal financial aid for Fall 2020 and/or Spring 2021, students must complete the 2020-2021 FAFSA® at <http://FAFSA.ed.gov> using your Federal Student Aid ID. You may register for an FSA ID at <http://fsaid.ed.gov>.
- After we receive your 2020-2021 FAFSA®, Rutgers may request additional documentation to verify your eligibility and/or financial data.

REVIEW YOUR OFFER LETTER

- After you submit all required documentation, you should expect to receive your offer letter via email 2-3 weeks after completing the FAFSA®.
- Review your offer letter carefully to determine the amounts and types of aid offered, and assess whether additional financial resources will be necessary to pay for school. Visit <http://financialaid.rutgers.edu/funding> for more information.
- Complete additional fund-specific requirements:
 - Federal Work-Study (FWS) – Review the relevant information and program requirements at <https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/student-work/>.
 - Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized loans – Complete Entrance Counseling and the Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Master Promissory Note (MPN) at <http://studentloans.gov>.

WHY COMPLETE A FAFSA®?

To apply for federal financial aid, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). Once you submit your FAFSA®, including the required signatures, the US Department of Education will send your data to Rutgers. Once we have determined your eligibility, we will then send you an offer letter with instructions to secure funding approximately 2-3 weeks after we receive your FAFSA® and all required documents.

If you have already completed a FAFSA® for another school, click on "Make a Correction to a Processed FAFSA®" and add Rutgers' school code (002629).

WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA®?

In order to complete your 2020-2021 FAFSA®, you may need the following information:

- Social Security Card and driver's license (or state ID)
- If you are not a US citizen, documentation of your eligible non-citizen status
- 2018 income and tax information
 - You will need 2018 income and tax information to complete your 2020-2021 FAFSA®. If you are a dependent student, you will need income and tax records for yourself as well as your parent(s)/guardian(s). If you are an independent student, you will need income and tax records for yourself as well as your spouse (if married). If you are not sure whether you are dependent or independent, visit <https://studentaid.gov/dependency> for guidance.

NEW! myStudentAid APP
Eligible students can now complete the 2020-2021 FAFSA® via the myStudentAid mobile application. Other features of the app include the ability to complete loan counseling, Master Promissory Notes (MPN) and other required Federal Student Aid documents. Visit your smartphone's app store or the FAFSA® website for more information.

WHAT IF I AM NOT ELIGIBLE TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA®?

You must be a US citizen, permanent resident, or other eligible status in order to complete the FAFSA® and receive Federal Student Aid. Eligibility requirements for FSA programs are available at <https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/eligibility/citizenship-status/>. If you are not eligible to complete the FAFSA®, you may review your funding options at <http://financialaid.rutgers.edu/funding>.

Students who are New Jersey residents and whose immigration status falls under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy may be eligible to complete the NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application in order to receive NJ state aid. For more information, please visit <https://www.hesaa.org/>.