



The purpose of this Guide is to help you understand the financial aid process at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. The Office of Financial Aid supports the commitment Rutgers makes to provide a superior education at an affordable price.

When you receive your Offer Announcement, review your preliminary financial aid awards at studentaid.rutgers.edu/io. Does the total award amount you view online cover the anticipated typical costs and the cost associated with purchasing books, travel and miscellaneous expenses explained to you in the second paragraph of the Offer Announcement? If not, you will need to obtain other sources to supplement any expected financial aid.

We strongly encourage you to consider one or both of the following options for additional financing:

The Rutgers University Tuition Payment Plan (RUTPP) allows you to pay annual term bill charges in convenient monthly payments. Unlike loans, the RUTPP is interest free and can effectively reduce the amount of loan debt owed upon graduation. Tuition Protection Insurance is provided at no additional cost. Multiple plan options are available for the academic year. Please visit <http://www.studentabc.rutgers.edu>, Payment Options, for more information and instructions on how to enroll.

The Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) is part of the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, in which Rutgers participates, where parents borrow directly from the federal government. No bank or other lender is needed to receive Direct PLUS loans. As with Direct Stafford loans where the student is the borrower, Direct PLUS loans are not subject to commercial market conditions. Additional information and instructions on how to request a PLUS loan will appear on your Financial Aid Award Letter.

In addition, other sources to fund educational expenses can be found at studentaid.rutgers.edu/PrivateLoans.

NEXT STEPS:

Review the Student Aid Report (SAR) you received from the U.S. Department of Education. The SAR outlines the information you reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Please make sure the information you reported is accurate. Promptly correct inaccurate information. Keep the SAR for your records. **Please do not mail the SAR to our office.**

Correct your FAFSA, if necessary, data online at www.fafsa.ed.gov using your federal Personal Identification Number (PIN). Parents of dependent students must use their own PIN to correct parental FAFSA data.

Your awards may change. The amount of your financial aid is determined by the information you reported on the 2009-2010 FAFSA. If the information we currently have on file changes or if you receive scholarships or other aid not listed on your Initial Offer, *your awards may change*. Carefully review your SAR to verify the information you reported is correct.

ONCE YOU ENROLL AT RUTGERS:

Verification: In some instances the Office of Financial Aid is required by the federal government to verify information reported on your FAFSA. You may receive a Request For Documentation (RFD), which should be returned promptly to our office with the requested information. **Please do not send documentation to our office unless requested to do so.** Beginning in April, you may check online to see if you have any outstanding requests for documents. Visit Check Required Documents at studentaid.rutgers.edu to keep your account current. You will not be considered for financial aid until all requested documentation is submitted.

Financial Aid Award Letter: In late spring, you will receive an Award Announcement instructing you to view your financial aid package online. Your awards are based on the most current information reported. Your aid may be adjusted or cancelled if current data on file changed. The receipt of scholarships or other aid not currently listed may also impact your awards.

Attendance Confirmation/Payment: In July, you will receive notification from Student Accounting Services. Payment is due in early August. You must respond to this notification even if term bill charges are fully covered by financial aid. **If you were offered Federal Work Study (FWS), you cannot credit the FWS amount to your term bill charges.** Information on FWS job opportunities will be included with the award information you receive in late spring.

Please keep the email address you reported on the FAFSA current. We may communicate with you prior to the start of the academic year using email. You may update your FAFSA data to include an email address if one is not already reported.

Pertinent information can be viewed online: studentaid.rutgers.edu

Please see reverse side

The New Jersey Tuition Aid Grant (TAG)

The New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) may request information from you to determine your eligibility for TAG. You will be contacted directly by HESAA should your information be required. Please follow all HESAA instructions carefully. Submit requested TAG information to HESAA immediately. Failure to do so will render you ineligible for TAG. You do not need to send the information to Rutgers. HESAA will automatically send Rutgers the information on your behalf.

A Glossary of Terms

Cost of Attendance (COA): The total amount it costs to attend school. The COA includes tuition and fees; on-campus room and board (or a housing and food allowance); allowances for books, supplies, transportation, loan fees; and miscellaneous expenses.

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

Federal Work Study (FWS) Program: A federal need-based program that offers part-time jobs that allow students to earn money for college expenses.

Grants: Financial aid that does not require repayment. Grants are usually awarded to students based on financial need, not academic record.

Loan: Borrowed money that must be repaid with interest.

Need: The difference between the Cost Of Attendance and the Expected Family Contribution (COA - EFC = Need).

Need Based Aid: Financial aid programs for which you must demonstrate need in order to qualify.

Package: The total amount of financial aid a student receives from a college or university. Packages may consist of one or more aid programs such as grants, loans and work-study.

Scholarship: An award based on grades or other academic achievement rather than solely on financial need. Often referred to as merit aid. Does not require repayment.

The Federal Personal Identification Number (PIN)

All 2009-2010 FAFSA applicants receive a PIN. The PIN allows you to access personal information in various U.S. Department of Education systems. Using your PIN, you can access your account, review your SAR, and make corrections to your FAFSA online. **You will need a PIN to sign the Master Promissory Note if awarded a Direct Stafford loan for the first time.** Lost or forgotten your PIN? Visit www.pin.ed.gov.

USE YOUR PIN TO:

- Retrieve your SAR
 - Make corrections to your FAFSA data
 - Sign Federal Direct Loan Promissory Note
 - Access Direct Loan account
 - Consolidate loans
 - View your federal aid history
 - Renew financial aid application for 2010-2011
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Parents of Dependent Students:

- Must have own PIN to sign FAFSA online
- Apply for PIN at www.pin.ed.gov
- Need own PIN to correct parental FAFSA data online
- Sign Federal Direct Parent Loan Promissory Note