

RU-N to the TOP

Fall 2016 - Spring 2022

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UNIVERSITY | NEWARK



Program Overview:

In 2016, the university established the **Rutgers University–Newark Talent and Opportunity Pathways financial aid program, (RU-N to the TOP)**, for newly enrolled undergraduate students.

. This program solidifies our strategic plan and commitments to boundary-crossing scholarship, diverse talent cultivation, and engagement as an anchor institution. The RU-N to the TOP program enables us to build upon these commitments and recruit the most outstanding first-year students from the City of Newark and or transfer students from New Jersey’s County Colleges (NJCC).

The RU-N to the TOP program provides a “last-dollar” financial aid award that covers the cost of in-state tuition and mandatory fees. The award is offered after all federal, state, institutional, internal/external scholarships and grants have been applied. Students must meet the program’s eligibility and income requirements.

Student Eligibility and Income Requirements:

All qualified undergraduate students must be an admitted, enrolled, and matriculated student at Rutgers University–Newark seeking the completion of their first bachelor’s degree. Eligible students must qualify for in-state tuition and meet the following student, citizenship, and household income requirements:

Student Requirement

- Be a resident of the City of Newark, NJ; *or*
- Be a graduate with an associate degree from a New Jersey Community College (NJCC)

Citizenship Requirement

- Be a U.S. Citizen or U.S. National; *or*
- Be a U.S. permanent resident who has an I-151, I-551, *or* I-551c (Alien Registration Receipt Card); *or*
- Be a recipient of New Jersey S2479 (the Tuition Equality Act/NJ Dream Act)

Household Income Requirements

- Students must have a household adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$60,000 or less
- Household income is determined by the student’s responses reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or on the HESAA NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application (for NJ Dreamers).
- Students selected for federal and/or state verification will need to submit additional documentation to validate their reported income.
- The online FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov or the HESAA NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application will guide you through the application process.

To learn more about RU-N to the TOP, visit admissions.newark.rutgers.edu/ru-n-top



Applying For Financial Aid — U.S. Citizen Or U.S. Permanent Resident

Consideration for the RU-N to the TOP financial aid program requires the submission of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

- FAFSA: www.fafsa.ed.gov
- The Rutgers University Federal school code is 002629.



Rutgers-Newark
awarded over
\$194M
in financial aid to students.¹

¹Source: Rutgers University 2019-2020 Financial Aid Report

Required Deadlines For RU-N to the TOP

All students must adhere to the following deadlines:

Fall Enrollment:

- **June 1** — Complete and submit the Admissions Application and the FAFSA or NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application.
- **August 1** — Complete all financial aid requirements and requests for documentation.

Spring Enrollment:

- **December 1** – Complete and submit the Admissions Application and the FAFSA or NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application.
- **February 1** – Complete all financial aid requirements/requests for documentation.

Applying For Financial Aid – New Jersey Dreamers

The New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application allows NJ Dreamers enrolled in eligible New Jersey colleges and universities to apply for state financial aid. Consideration for the RU-N to the TOP award requires the submission of the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application.

Who should complete this application?

The New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application is ONLY for undocumented/DACA students. US Citizens and U.S. permanent residents must complete the FAFSA. Application Website: hesaa.org/Pages/NJAlternativeApplication.aspx

A student must meet ALL of these requirements for New Jersey state aid consideration:

- Attended a New Jersey high school for at least three (3) years *and*
- Graduated from a New Jersey high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in New Jersey *and*
- Registered for Selective Service (male students only) *and*
- Demonstrate financial need *and*
- Be a resident of New Jersey for at least 12 consecutive months immediately prior to enrollment *and*
- Be a full-time undergraduate student enrolled in an approved degree or certificate program
- Complete The Rutgers University Tuition Equality Act Application and Affidavit (Rutgers requirement only)

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81%+

of our RU-N undergraduate students receive financial aid²

²Source: The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Data Feedback Report, 2019-2020

New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application

- **PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** – the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application is a confidential application that is used solely by 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 used only by HESAA and partner colleges, universities, and other state agencies in order to administer grants and scholarships. HESAA will do everything within its authority and jurisdiction to protect the ongoing confidentiality of this information.
- The NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application must be received by NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (NJ HESAA) by the established deadlines to be considered for state grants and scholarship.
- Proof of income may be required to validate your award
- After application submission, NJ HESAA will contact you via your NJ FAMS account with any updates or requests for additional documentation.
- Create a NJFAMS account online at njfams.hesaa.org.

How To Register For Selective Service — Male Students

- Registering without a Social Security Number: you can register at any U.S. Post Office; *or*
- Registering with a Social Security Number: sss.gov/Registration/Register-Now/Registration-Form

NJ HESAA Contacts

- HESAA Customer Care: 1-609-584-4480 or 1-800-792-8670 (English and Español)
- Hours: Monday–Thursday 8am to 8pm and Friday 8am to 5pm

Checklist For Renewing Award Eligibility

- File the FAFSA or the NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application.
- Meet all established deadlines and financial aid requirements. See deadline for details.
- Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).
- NJCC - final and official transcript must be received by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions prior to the first day of the first semester in which the award is being offered.
- Be registered at least halftime (6 credits or more).

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