



Attending College
A guide for students and parents
interested in Rutgers

Office of University Undergraduate Admissions
Rutgers University Human Resources

2012

What this presentation covers

- Do you want to go to college?
 - General information for students entering high school
- Choosing a college
 - general information for choosing the college/university that suits the student best
- Applying to colleges
 - specific things to consider when applying to the colleges/university of choice
- Important things to know about Rutgers
 - Links to information about costs, deadlines, applications
- Paying for college
 - Ten financial aid facts you should know
 - Using the tuition remission benefit

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Do you want to go to college?

Do you want to go to college?

- Students - **You** need to make sure your high school program prepares you for college
- Keys to success
 - Discuss your goals with your parents and guidance counselor
 - Review course selections with your guidance counselor
 - *Parents – become familiar with your child’s courses, get to know your child’s guidance counselor*
 - Establish a routine of study, work, leisure - stick to it
 - *Parents – explore whether your child should take the PSAT*
 - Get the best grades you can
 - *Parents – insist that homework be completed, submitted on time*
- *Resource: **Do You Want to Go to College?** planning brochure for students entering high school available from Office of University Undergraduate Admissions (admissions.rutgers.edu)*

Choosing a college

With over 3,800 colleges and universities in the US, this stage can be overwhelming.

It's never too early to begin.

Choosing a college

- How **not** to choose a college
 - ALL my friends are going there
 - that's where my BEST friend is going
 - it's FAR away from home
 - my WHOLE family went there
 - my parents said NO
 - I hear they have great parties
 - pictures in the book look nice
 - it has a great name
 - my guidance counselor told me to go there

Choosing a college – know yourself

- Set aside time to take a long, hard look at yourself and do a self-evaluation
- List your reasons for going to college
 - preparation for a career
 - chance to live in another part of the country
 - develop a talent
 - pursue an academic interest
 - something to do for the next 4 years
 - meet new people
 - Other . . .
- Examine your personal qualities so you can begin to narrow the field of choices

Choosing a college – your skills, interests

- ***Academics***

- Are you a good student, average, below average?
- What kind of courses did you like best in high school?
- Do you excel in any area?
- Which activities do you like best?
- Do you learn best in a relaxed or competitive atmosphere?

- ***Extra curricular***

- To what clubs, sports, cultural groups do you belong?
- What are your interests, hobbies?
- Have you taken on any leadership roles?

- ***Personal attitudes and values***

- Do you prefer familiar environments or are you ready for change?
- Do you want to go out on your own or stay near family and friends?

Consider college characteristics

- To reduce the alternatives to a reasonable number, list **your** personal requirements in each of the following areas
- **Type of school and degrees offered** - 2-year, 4-year, technical program, BA/BS, major research university
- **Programs and majors**
 - Does the school offer a strong program in the field you want - engineering, computer science, fine arts, etc.
 - Liberal Arts is good preparation for many careers
 - Flexibility - can you readily change from one major to another?
 - Are there unique learning opportunities - internships, honors programs, co-op, research opportunities?
 - Is the academic environment competitive or relaxed?
 - What resources - library, lab equipment – are available?
 - Do you wish to attend full-time or part-time?

Consider campus activities/student life

- Especially if you plan to spend 4 years at a school, you should so be happy with the physical, social, and cultural environment. Education also happens outside the classroom. Decide on the following:
 - Do you want to live at home or on campus?
 - How available is housing on campus?
 - What sports are available?
 - What activities are available?
 - How diverse is the school? People from different backgrounds expose you to different interests and talents, help you begin thinking about the world from other viewpoints
 - Are you interested in fraternities or sororities?
 - What cultural events are on campus? in the community? in the state?
 - Are you interested in opportunities for community service?
 - So you have special needs - dietary, physical, other?
 - What services might you be likely to use - health, counseling, tutors, career services, advising?

Consider college location

- Do you wish to go away or live at home?
 - **Myth:** “The farther away, the better”
 - **Truth:** can be as far away as you want to be in NJ
- Do you want or need to be near family and friends and support systems
- Would you like to stay in NJ or experience a new geography (consider the time and costs of coming home)
- Would you prefer an urban, suburban, or rural lifestyle/
Will the change be refreshing, boring, or overwhelming?
- What climate makes you most comfortable?

Consider size and other factors

- **Size**
 - Small - familiar faces, but limited offerings
 - Large - diversity of courses, students, social life
 - Note: think about your last two years, not just the comfort of the first two
- **Coed vs. single gender**
 - Do you have a preference?
- **Religious affiliation**
 - Is this important to your field of study or your personal preference?

Consider school reputation, competition

- **Academic reputation**

- Just because a college is well known, doesn't mean it's right for you
- Some colleges are enjoying prestige that was earned 20 years ago

- **Admissions policy (competitiveness)**

- Honestly evaluate your academic record – how good are your grades, test scores, extracurricular activities, etc.?
- Do you have the courses required? If not, adjust your senior program
- What are your attitudes toward study? Select the level of academic competition that is best for you
- Realize there are some factors over which you have no control; e.g., talent needed to build a college community -does the school need a soccer goalie, half-back, trumpet player, champion debater?
- Choose *at least* one school you know you can get into and can afford

Consider costs and financial aid

- A 4-year education at the most expensive schools is now over \$120,000
 - Remember that costs include much more than just tuition – also consider housing, dining, parking, student activity fees, books, a computer, other materials, and more
 - Public institutions are often cheaper than private
 - Be realistic about costs, but don't rule out a school
 - Determine if financial aid available, what kind
 - Ask about the % of students getting assistance
 - Identify any merit scholarships that are available
 - Inquire about jobs on campus
 - Consider starting with a transfer program from a less expensive 2-year college

Choose the schools best for you

- Narrow your list to 10-20 schools and go shopping
- Check the resources in your high school guidance office
 - computers (CIS) and the internet
 - handbooks
 - index to majors
- Gather information to narrow your choice to about 5
 - sit and wait for direct mail marketing from schools
 - call or write to colleges for information
 - talk to people - counselors, parents, friends, teachers, etc.
 - talk to college representatives
 - **visit and tour colleges** - only way to really learn about a college
 - find out about the things that are important to you
 - consider facilities - libraries, labs, computers, residence halls, etc.
 - have an interview if possible - ask questions, sell yourself!!

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Applying to college

What colleges want

- What do colleges look for in a student?
 - Most colleges want the brightest, best-qualified, well-rounded, and talented leaders who will contribute to the campus community and enhance the mission and reputation of the institution!
- What do most colleges do?
 - Admit as many applicants as needed to meet enrollment goals!
- **Improve your chances!**
 - Read ALL the information you get from colleges that really interest you
 - Take responsibility for knowing requirements, deadlines, regulations, forms, etc. This is ***your*** job

Applying for college – when to do it

- Apply in early fall
- Be sure to pay strict attention to all deadlines
- Get application forms from the high school guidance office, the school, or apply electronically on website
 - The online form for Rutgers can be found at admissions.rutgers.edu

The application form

- **Application forms for Rutgers at admissions.rutgers.edu**
- Forms vary from 1 page (least competitive) to several pages including references, resume, interview, and a copy of your latest published article (more competitive)
 - neatness counts
 - take the time to be careful - mistakes detract
 - don't misspell the name of the college
 - don't photocopy the same essay for all schools
 - don't reverse your names
 - don't list your birthday as 2012
 - county - USA
 - don't misspell or use wrong words – *epidemic/academics, atomic vs. nuclear* family
 - do sell yourself
 - make your application stand out
 - show energy

Include your high school records

- Send your high school records and transcripts as required
 - Self-reported Academic Record for Rutgers
- Colleges look closely at several things
 - the courses you've taken
 - a strong senior program
 - your grades, trends in your grades
 - honors, advanced placement in classes
 - your class rank, your GPA (grade point average)
- Include test scores, if you've done well – ACT or SAT

Essays and letters of recommendation

- **Essay**
 - Why – an essay is a writing sample, shows creativity
 - How - give some thought to developing your ideas
 - Authenticity counts
 - Have someone look over (not do) your work
 - You can include an essay, even if one is not required
- **Letters of recommendation (not required by Rutgers)**
 - how many
 - who should send

Other credentials

- **Activities**

- Show persistence in an activity
- Demonstrate leadership
- Explain how you will/have developed talents in depth

- **Auditions/portfolio**

- e.g., at Rutgers for application to Mason Gross School of the Arts

Hints for students

- Make sure you have a strong program in senior year
- Continue to do your best work - senior courses and grades can make a difference
- Good study habits are necessary for success in college - this is no time to get lazy
- Colleges request mid-year and FINAL grades and may cancel their acceptance
- Visit colleges
- Take October SAT
- File NJ FAFSA (financial aid form) in January
- Once you are admitted, notify other colleges and high school advisor of your decision
- Follow instructions re: orientation, forms, housing, etc.

Hints for parents

- Keep the lines of communication open
- Share the search process
- Help sort the truths and 1/2 truths
- Be honest about what you can afford/finances
- Try not to force your ideas or ambitions on your child – he/she must live out their own college plans
- Help with the application process
- Help proofread applications, essays, etc.
- Let your child handle phone calls, letters, interviews
- Guide, support, love and encourage, but realize that ultimately, the decision is your child's

Closing thoughts on applying for college

- Personal growth and career preparation can take place in many settings
- Find a place that feels right (preconceptions may be wrong)
- The final decision is not irreversible - you can change your mind - thousands of students transfer every year
- Chances are you won't find one college that is perfect, many colleges will meet some of your most important needs
- Most students end up loving their 2nd/3rd choices
- You will survive!

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Paying for college

Financing your education at Rutgers

- The cost of a higher education represents a significant financial investment
- There is a wide range of need and merit-based programs to assist in covering costs
- More than 89% of Rutgers students receive some type of financial aid
- Rutgers average financial aid offer the 2010-2011 academic year was \$13,778
- Rutgers University offers a tuition remission benefit for children enrolled in the first bachelor's degree program

Expenses at Rutgers NJ resident

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition • Fees • Room & board • Total | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commuter/On Campus • \$10,104/\$10,104 • \$2,651/\$2,651 • \$0/\$11,262 • \$12,755/\$24,017 |
|--|---|

Fees and room & board are *not* covered by Tuition Remission

These figures will vary according to campus, college, and personal choices

Expenses at Rutgers Non-NJ resident

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition • Fees • Room & board • Total | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commuter/On Campus • \$22,766/\$22,766 • \$2,651/\$2,651 • \$0/\$11,262 • \$25,417/\$36,679 |
|--|---|

Fees and room & board are *not* covered by Tuition Remission

These figures will vary according to campus, college, and personal choices

Ten Financial Aid facts you should know

1. All US citizens and eligible noncitizens may apply for financial aid
2. You can obtain the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) from your guidance counselor and calling 1-800-4FEDAID. You can apply online at fafsa.gov once you obtain your Federal Personal Identification Number online at pin.ed.gov.
3. You should submit your FAFSA online as soon as possible after January during your senior year in high school to meet Rutgers' financial aid priority application date of March 15
4. A loan is borrowed money that must be repaid to the lender with interest
5. A scholarship is an award granted on the basis of academic achievement

Ten Financial Aid facts you should know

6. A grant is a financial aid award that does not have to be repaid
7. Work-study allows you to earn money for college expenses through a part-time job while you are enrolled in college
8. A financial aid package is the total financial aid offer made by a college or university
9. The Educational Opportunity Fund Program (EOF) provides financial assistance and academic support to highly motivated New Jersey students who exhibit the potential for success, but who come from economically and educationally disadvantaged families/communities
10. More than 89% of Rutgers students receive financial aid

*Resource: **Financing Your Education** brochure available from Office of University Undergraduate Admissions (admissions.rutgers.edu)*

Tuition remission at Rutgers

- A fabulous benefit for Rutgers employees
- Regularly appointed full-time faculty and staff may qualify
- Dependent children enrolled full time or part time in an undergraduate program are eligible
- A [Dependent Child Tuition Remission Application](#) and a certified copy of your child's birth certificate must be submitted to University Human Resources to establish eligibility. In cases of legal guardianship or when the child is a stepchild, additional documentation such as a court order or marriage certificate is also required. This procedure is done only once. A [RT102](#) form must be completed and submitted with the term bill each semester. All forms are available from Human Resources, online, or the local Cashier's Office

Resources: Tuition Remission FAQs

<http://uhr.rutgers.edu/faqs/FAQTuition.htm>

Eligibility for dependent children

- The parent of the child must be regularly appointed on a full-time basis as of the first day of class for the course
- Your child must be your biological child, adopted child, stepchild, or ward and must be your dependent child; documentaion is required
- Your child must meet all administrative and academic requirements and be admitted to and enrolled in one of the undergraduate divisions of the university as a full-time or part-time student, studying for his or her first baccalaureate degree
- Remission cannot exceed 10 terms for a 4-year undergraduate degree or 12 terms for a 5-year undergraduate degree
- Your child is eligible for tuition remission during one summer session if attendance will reduce the number of terms that he or she will be enrolled.
- If the eligible parent dies after the child is admitted or enrolled, the child will be eligible until completion of the degree
- If an employee with at least 10 years of full-time service dies, children age 25 or younger are eligible for tuition remission

Resources

- Office of University Undergraduate Admissions
 - Internet: admissions.rutgers.edu
 - 732-445-INFO (4636)
- Do You Want to go to College?
 - Paper guide that covers all four years of high school
- Financing Your Education
 - Paper guides that explains the types of financial aid available and how to apply
- Think GREAT... it's like thinking big only better!
 - Brochure that offers a look at the world of possibilities Rutgers offers.

Rutgers University Human Resources

- Benefits (tuition remission):
 - 848-932-3990
 - benefits@hr.rutgers.edu
- University Human Resources (UHR) website:
<http://uhr.rutgers.edu>