

UNDERGRADUATE FINANCIAL AID HANDBOOK

THE COLLEGE • ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026



UNIVERSITY *of* ROCHESTER

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An Introduction to Financial Aid

PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY OF FINANCIAL AID

The University of Rochester has one of the most generous financial aid programs in the country, thanks in part to generous gifts from alumni, parents, and friends. It allows us to award more than \$160 million a year in a combination of both [merit](#)- and need-based financial assistance to approximately 68% of undergraduate students at The College. This means that merit scholarships are awarded to recognize academic achievement and need-based [grants](#) are awarded based on your family's household and financial information. We are committed to meeting 100% of [demonstrated financial need](#) of all incoming students through a combination of scholarships, grants, [subsidized](#) loans, and student employment opportunities. We look forward to working with you and your family to make a Rochester education affordable.

RECEIPT OF FINANCIAL AID

Receipt of Rochester grant and scholarship aid requires full-time enrollment. Funds will not be advanced to you or applied to your student billing account until registration is complete. Full-time enrollment means registering for at least twelve credit hours per semester. During summer enrollment, federal aid may be available to students attending full- or part- time.

Calculation of Financial Need

ESTIMATED COST OF ATTENDANCE

The estimated cost of attendance used to calculate your financial need is in the table below:

Cost of Attendance Academic Year 2025–26	Residential Students	Off-Campus Students	Students Living with Parents
Tuition	\$69,030	\$69,030	\$69,030
Mandatory Fees (activity, health)	\$1,452	\$1,452	\$1,452
Housing	\$12,328	\$5,716	\$1,500
Food	\$8,138	\$6,584	\$5,084
Transportation*	\$300	\$300	\$300
Personal Expenses	\$1,022	\$1,022	\$1,022
Total	\$92,270	\$84,104	\$78,388

**Standard travel listed. Higher travel allowances exist for international students and most out-of-state residents.*

Health Insurance: The University of Rochester requires that all students either participate in the College's health insurance plan or have comparable medical coverage. If you are covered by an existing policy that meets University standards, you may waive University-sponsored insurance. All full-time students must indicate their preference by completing the online Health Insurance Enrollment/Waiver process every year. The waiver process can be accessed under the Quick Links section of the University Health Service home page. Undergraduate students should complete this process by July 1 to avoid being charged for health insurance on the July billing statement. The mandatory health fee and health insurance are not the same thing; all full-time undergraduates must pay the mandatory health fee.

Student Loan Fees: If a [Federal Direct Stafford Loan](#) is part of your aid [package](#), an allowance for the required loan origination fees will be included in the expenses listed above. If your parents borrow a [Federal PLUS](#) Loan, an additional allowance will be made in your student expense budget for required loan origination fees.

Books: The cost of books is included in your tuition and no additional expenses for books will be charged to you. Read more about Rochester's book program, UR Essentials, [here](#).

Other Adjustments to the Student Expense Budget: The Financial Aid Office has considerable discretion in developing a realistic budget for an independent student's particular situation. If you are an independent student, the budget in your financial aid award may reflect adjustments to the standard budget to accommodate your circumstances.

ESTIMATED RESOURCES

Your financial aid award shows our estimate of resources available to you from federal, state, institutional, and private resources. This estimate is based on the need analysis methodology of the College Board’s College Scholarship Service and adjusted in individual cases by University policy through review of the [CSS Profile](#) application as well as any documents submitted to support that application. Your eligibility for federal financial aid has been determined according to the procedures outlined in the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and review of the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#).

DEPENDENT STUDENTS

Parent Contribution: This figure is based on information your parents supplied in your financial aid application, on the FAFSA, the CSS Profile form, and other documents. In addition to your parents’ income and assets, there is also consideration for individual circumstances such as the size of your family, age of your parents, and siblings attending college full-time as an undergraduate. In the case of divorced or separated parents, separate analyses of each parent’s resources are combined in the determination of your overall parental contribution.

It’s important to note that in situations where our analysis determines that a parent does not have the resources to contribute a significant amount toward a student’s educational expenses, the University does expect a minimum parent contribution of up to \$1,500. We do not waive or reduce this contribution in any circumstances.

You are responsible for notifying the Financial Aid Office of any substantial change in your family’s situation, such as an increase or decrease in income or assets of more than \$10,000, a change in the number of siblings in college, the institution that a sibling attends, etc. Any of these factors may cause a change in the calculation of the parent contribution.

Sibling Enrollment Verification: If you indicated in your application that a dependent sibling will be enrolled full time in college during 2025-26, your sibling’s institution must confirm this at the start of the fall semester. Financial aid will not be applied to your student account until we receive this confirmation.

If a change in the number of dependent siblings enrolled in postsecondary education requires an adjustment in your financial aid, it may affect financial aid for both the fall and spring semesters.

Student Income Contribution: The University expects financial aid recipients to save a significant portion of their earnings from employment so that they may share in the costs of their education.

The figure shown below is the minimum amount you are expected to save from your income and use toward your college expenses. Your contribution is typically based on the prior calendar year’s income and is equal to the greater of either a standard minimum amount or 50% of your income after allowances for taxes and other expenses.

Freshman	\$2,200
Sophomore	\$2,625

Junior	\$2,625
Senior	\$2,625

Your earnings from employment may be less than the expected level because of summer school attendance, participation in voluntary community projects, or lack of employment opportunities. If this occurs, the shortfall may be shifted either to student employment during the academic year or to a non-need-based loan in your financial aid package. If you have not achieved your expected income contribution and you want to request an additional loan, you must complete the [Unsubsidized](#) Loan Application in FAOnline so we can make an adjustment in your financial aid.

Student Asset Contribution: A contribution from your assets is determined by assuming that as much as 25% of your current savings and other assets, as reported on the FAFSA and CSS Profile, will be available for educational purposes each academic year.

Student's Other Resources and Benefits: If you indicated that you will receive assistance from other sources or benefits from a governmental agency, such as the Veterans Administration or vocational rehabilitation, these have been included in your estimated resources. If your benefit level changes during the academic year, you must inform the Financial Aid Office immediately.

FINANCIAL NEED

Most financial aid at the University of Rochester is administered based on demonstrated financial need. Need is shown if your estimated family resources are less than your student expense budget for the academic year. If a year's educational costs are \$90,000 and your family's expected contribution is \$15,000, you would be eligible for \$75,000 in need-based aid. Note - merit scholarships are used to meet need if need exists.

The University meets 100% of determined institutional need for all incoming students through a combination of grants, scholarships, loans, and work eligibility. The University attempts to meet as much need as resources will allow for upper class students in the College, with aid reducing when the strength of the family's financial resources demonstrates reduced need or when a sibling ceases enrollment in an undergraduate program.

If you are eligible for financial aid, you can expect your family contribution to remain fairly consistent from year to year as long as your family circumstances remain stable. We ask every student to reapply for financial aid each year because family circumstances do sometimes change: parents change jobs, siblings leave or enter college, or your own borrowing eligibility goes up. We consider such changes when we review your financial aid award eligibility each year.

Many factors are considered in calculating the family contribution. Below are a few that may play a significant role in determining the financial need of dependent students:

Parents' income: If parents' income increases, the expected contribution is likely to increase; if it decreases, the contribution is likely to decrease. The need formulas are adjusted each year for inflation. If parents' income increases at the rate of inflation, the parents' contribution—adjusted for inflation—should be about the same if other factors are the same.

Allowances against parents' income: The need formulae consider various allowances against income. Some are basic like federal, state, and local income taxes, social security taxes, and basic family living costs. Others are related to circumstances like medical and dental expenses, tax liens, support of extended family, etc. Some of these recur from year to year; some are not recurring. If we made extra allowances in one year, they may not be relevant to a subsequent year.

When reviewing financial aid applications for business owners, additional information such as the IRS Schedule C, Schedule E, Forms 1120, 1120S, 1065, and/or K-1 are required. All business losses, including those related to depreciation of business assets and/or property, are not permitted to offset other forms of income and are, essentially, added back to income as part of the analysis.

Family assets: Certain family assets—home equity, other real estate equity, bank accounts, investments, businesses, and farms—are considered in calculating a parents' contribution. The value or indebtedness of assets may change from year to year, especially if assets are used to pay part of the parents' contribution. The values may also change because of economic conditions.

Family size: As children grow and move out, the number of people in the family may decrease. A change in family size will have some effect on the parents' contribution.

Number of children in college: A major factor in the need formula is the number of children enrolled full time in an undergraduate program. In general, a calculated parent contribution is distributed among the children enrolled in college, *regardless of what you will actually pay for the sibling's education*. Graduate students and siblings older than 23 are not included when determining eligibility for need-based financial aid. Sometimes the distribution is not equal if the cost of the colleges is significantly different. If the number in college changes, the parent contribution will usually change. For example, if the number in college changes from two to one, the parent contribution will usually double because it is no longer divided between two children. However, if the number in college increases from one to two, the parent contribution for each child will be reduced if the University of Rochester and the other college are similar in cost.

Divorced or separated parents: If parents are divorced or separated, the custodial parent must complete the FAFSA and CSS Profile Form. If the custodial parent has remarried, federal guidelines require that the family contribution be based on the income and assets of the custodial parent and their spouse. University policy requires information from the non-custodial parent and their spouse, if married, as well. When you complete the CSS Profile Form registration, the College Board will email you indicating that the University of Rochester requires your non-custodial parent to complete the CSS Profile as well as your custodial parent. You will be directed to forward the email, containing a link to the CSS Profile web site and login instructions, to your non-custodial parent.

It is important to note that exceptions to University policy requiring non-custodial parental information are never made solely on the basis of a parent's unwillingness to assist.

International Students: Country currency rates are calculated from GDP per Capita data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and are updated annually based on the data available using the same year that income is reported on the financial aid application (i.e. 2023 income and IMF data to apply for the 2025-26 academic year). The University will not consider appeals for changes in currency exchange rates beyond the annual application renewal and award determination.

Financial Aid Awards

Your financial need can be met with the financial aid resources outlined in your award. Financial aid awards usually include [self-help](#) (employment and need-based loans) and [gift aid](#) (scholarships and grants). Self-help aid requires you to work or borrow for a part of your educational expenses. Gift aid does not require work or repayment. You do not have to accept aid offered in the form of self-help to receive gift aid from the University. The University, however, will not replace the self-help expectation with scholarship or grant assistance.

No one is obligated to accept any portion of the package we offer. You may reduce or decline your loans and/or your job assistance and still keep your scholarships and grants.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

The University believes in recognizing and rewarding outstanding high school senior and transfer students for their efforts and academic accomplishments by awarding merit-based scholarships at the time of admission. These awards are not based on financial need and are renewable for up to three additional years if the minimum criteria are met. Award amounts remain constant and do not increase with tuition and fee increases. Merit aid is reserved for students with exceptional and distinguished academic qualities.

Please note that merit scholarships are used to meet financial need if need exists.

SELF-HELP

The first portion of financial need, after merit-based aid, is usually met with aid in the form of “self-help”. This is the way the student invests in themselves through the federal subsidized student loan and/or work study. In some cases, self-help is reduced because of [outside](#) scholarships or a student income contribution greater than the usual expected level.

ACADEMIC YEAR EMPLOYMENT

The usual expectation is that you will be able to earn about \$4,000 from employment during the academic year. This represents about ten to twelve hours a week of work on campus. Student earnings from academic year employment are used for out-of-pocket personal expenses and are not applied to the student billing statement. Because of your academic schedule or extracurricular activities, you may want to replace part or all your academic year employment expectation with non-need-based borrowing. You may do so within the limits of the loan programs. In addition, although about one-third of Rochester undergraduate students are employed on campus during the academic year, the Financial Aid Office cannot guarantee that you will be able to arrange a specific type or amount of work.

If you want to alter the amount of academic year employment in your financial aid package, please contact your financial aid counselor directly.

There are two categories of academic year employment:

Federal Work Study: A federal program under which students with financial need may be employed either on-campus by the College or off-campus by a governmental agency or non-profit organization in nonsectarian and nonpartisan activities in the public interest. Wages are paid through a combination of funds from the federal government and the University.

The amount you may earn through academic year need-based employment is shown in your award. You may not earn more than the need-based employment limit. If you reach your limit before the end of the academic year, you must stop working and apply for a campus employment position.

Campus Employment: Work on campus that may be assigned without regard to your financial need and for which the University bears the full cost of compensation.

Limits on Work Hours: In general, you should not work more than 20 hours a week during any week in which classes are held, and no more than 40 hours a week at other times, including summer. Domestic students who exceed these limits may jeopardize their status as a "full-time student" under Internal Revenue Service rules, which may affect the ability of their parents to claim federal education tax credits for them and may subject them to FICA taxes during the school year. International students who exceed these limits may jeopardize their student visa status.

Work Opportunities: On-campus employment opportunities include work in the University's food service, athletics, physical plant department, libraries, laboratories, art gallery and studios, and academic and administrative offices. The current range of hourly wages for on-campus student employment is from \$15.50 to \$16.50. Paychecks are issued directly to student employees on a biweekly basis. It is your responsibility to see that your hours of employment are properly recorded on timesheets and that the timesheets are submitted to your supervisor for timely approval. The University does not replace declined or unearned work eligibility with grant funding. Students can utilize outside scholarships or student/parent loan options to help cover any work eligibility not used.

Resident Assistant (RA) Positions: RA positions are available through a highly competitive application and training process with appointments made for one academic year. RA positions are paid through an annual stipend equivalent to the cost of your room. Per federal regulations this amount is included as part of the financial aid award. The RA stipend replaces items in the financial aid package in the following order: unmet federal need, Federal Work Study, Federal Unsubsidized Loans, Federal Subsidized Loans, Rochester National Grant. Since every financial aid application is different, if you have questions contact your financial aid counselor.

STUDENT LOANS

Subsidized student loans are included in initial financial awards of students with financial need from the Federal Direct Loan program. In some circumstances, however, you may subsequently choose to borrow a non-need-based or unsubsidized loan. Information about available federal and institutional loan programs is in the appendix.

The University believes that the self-help expectations cited in your award are reasonable and realistic. If you fall short of the expected level of student income contribution and/or want to reduce the expected level of academic year earnings, you should weigh very carefully a decision to undertake an additional student loan.

If you have exhausted all your federal loan options and are in need of additional borrowing assistance you may want to pursue an Alternative Loan. Alternative educational loans are [private \(non-federal\) loans](#) offered through banks, lenders, or credit unions to supplement financial aid awards and replace family contributions. The University of Rochester is required to certify these loans to ensure that the loan amount does not exceed the cost of attendance after all other financial aid. Most alternative loans are disbursed equally into student accounts according to enrollment plans. We encourage students and families to use alternative loans as a last option after first pursuing all federal loan options. If you decide that an alternative loan is right for you, you may borrow from any lender you choose. When choosing a lender for an alternative loan, you may wish to consider the following factors: Loan costs (interest rates and fees), borrower benefits and discounts, and customer service.

For assistance in reviewing private loan options, go to [http:// www.elmselect.com](http://www.elmselect.com).

NEED-BASED GRANTS

Need-based grants—gift aid—may be included in your financial aid award if you have need remaining after self-help and Rochester merit scholarships are subtracted from your need. Scholarships and grants include:

- **Federal [Pell](#) Grant**
- **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant ([FSEOG](#))**
- **State Scholarship or Grant**
- **Outside Scholarships and Employer's Benefits**
- **Rochester National Grant**

Federal Pell Grant: If your financial aid notice shows an amount for a Federal Pell Grant, we estimate that you are eligible for this program. Grants are based on need.

If you have not applied for a Federal Pell Grant (or other federal student financial aid), you should do so at once. To apply, submit the FAFSA. You may complete the form at fafsa.gov. The University's federal code is 002894.

Within two days of submitting the FAFSA, you should receive a [FAFSA Submission Summary \(FSS\)](#) from the federal government. If you have not received your FSS within two days, you should call (800) 433-3243. If you have listed the University of Rochester on your FAFSA, we can obtain your FAFSA data electronically from the US Department of Education (ED).

The information in your FSS must agree with your (and, if you are dependent, your parents') federal income tax returns and with any other information you have provided us. If the information on the FSS is incorrect or does not agree with other information in your application, we must revise the information and submit the revision to the federal government for reprocessing. If you have any questions about your FSS, please contact your aid counselor.

Federal regulations require that we consider Pell eligibility before we assign other federal financial aid. Because of this, if you fail to submit a timely Free Application for Federal Student Aid, your Federal Pell Grant will be lost. We cannot substitute any other financial aid for a lost Federal Pell Grant.

Your Federal Pell Grant will be credited to your student account in semester installments.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG): A federal program that provides grants of approximately \$500–\$750 a year to students with great financial need. Federal SEOG assistance will be credited to your account in semester installments.

State Scholarship or Grant: Residents of New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont are potentially eligible to receive a state scholarship or grant for use at the University of Rochester. Although there may be restrictions because of state reciprocity agreements, it is expected that you will apply for assistance through your state scholarship or grant program. In most instances, you may apply for a state scholarship or grant by completing the FAFSA.

If your financial aid package shows an amount for a state scholarship or grant, we anticipate that you are eligible for assistance from your state's program. If you are not eligible for a state award, the amount shown will be replaced by need-based grant from the College. If you are eligible for a state scholarship but the aid is lost because you failed to submit a timely application or are not meeting minimum satisfactory academic progress requirements, the University will not substitute its own funds. You can make this up through additional borrowing or employment.

A state scholarship or grant will be credited to your account as soon as funds are received from the state agency.

New York State residents should review the section below for additional information on the New York State funding program, including the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).

Outside Scholarships and Employer's Benefits: If you have informed us of any assistance that you are to receive from organizations outside the University, this has been included in your financial aid notice. You must notify the Financial Aid Office if you receive any outside assistance, regardless of the amount. The University allows the amounts you receive in outside scholarships to replace self-help in the financial aid award. If self-help is completely replaced by outside aid, any excess amount will reduce grant or scholarship aid that would otherwise be provided by the University of Rochester.

If you are receiving benefits from an employer, these funds do replace need-based grants from the University first, with any excess replacing self-help aid. An outside scholarship, including employer benefits, cannot be used to replace a part of your family resources; it must be taken into account in the financial aid award, in accordance with federal regulations and University policy.

Outside scholarship funds will be credited to your account as soon as they are received from the donor organization.

Rochester National Grant: If you have financial need remaining after the subtraction of self-help, federal grants, state scholarships and grants, “outside” scholarships, employers’ benefits, and other sources of assistance, it will be met with grant aid from the University. This aid is drawn from the University’s endowment income, annual gifts for financial aid purposes, or current operating funds.

Rochester National Grants will be credited to your student account in semester installments and are not available for part-time and/or summer enrollment.

529 Plans: Proceeds from College Savings or Prepaid Tuition Plans (established under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code) will not be reflected in your financial aid package. The full cash value of these funds is usually included in the calculation of your family contribution. Any proceeds to be used in the academic year must be accessible prior to the bill due date of each semester.

NEW YORK STATE GRANTS

New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP): New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) administers the TAP grant program. The TAP grant is available to New York State residents who are enrolled full time at post-secondary institutions in New York State. The TAP grant is based on prior-prior year’s state “Net Taxable Income” as verified by HESC. The minimum award, if a student was eligible during the 2024-2025 academic year, was \$500 with a maximum of \$5,665.

Students must be enrolled at a minimum of full time (12 credits) and courses must be applicable to the student’s degree requirements to be eligible for the TAP grant. In addition, students need to have declared their major before they can receive a TAP award in their third year and beyond.

The 2025-2026 TAP application is available [online](#) once the FAFSA has been submitted. Upon completion of the TAP application and once the New York State budget is passed, HESC will notify you of your TAP Award.

NYS Scholarship for Academic Excellence (NY Excel): The NY Excellence merit-based scholarship is awarded to NY State high school graduates who achieved academic excellence as a high school student and enroll in a public or private New York State College immediately after high school. Awards are based on student grades on certain Regents exams. Awards are either \$500/year or \$1,500/year. Students are entitled to payment for up to four years of undergraduate full-time study.

The State Education Department will notify students who have been nominated by their high schools to receive the scholarship. To receive the scholarship, the student must submit an application for payment to HESC by June 30th of the year for which the assistance is sought.

NYS Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Incentive Program: The NYS STEM Incentive Program will provide a tuition scholarship to the top 10% of students in each New York State high school graduating class if they pursue a STEM program in an [approved](#) associate or bachelor degree program leading to a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics at a public or private college located in NYS, and agree to live in NYS and work in a STEM field for 5 years after graduation.

The STEM Incentive Program award along with and other tuition specific awards, cannot exceed the cost of tuition.

The number of STEM awards at private schools such as University of Rochester is subject to available funding. Recipients are selected using a lottery system. Awards cannot be received for more than four academic years of full-time undergraduate study while matriculated in an approved program. It is required that the student maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5.

Failure to complete all terms of the STEM award will result in the student having to repay the amount of scholarship received up to that point. The scholarship monies received will convert to a 10 year student loan plus interest.

To apply, students must complete the FAFSA and TAP applications as well as the STEM Incentive Program Application available on the HESC [website](#).

ENDOWED/NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

The University benefits from the income of many endowed/named scholarships. These funds help subsidize overall institutional student aid and allow for the University to plan, in advance, for a generous financial aid budget consisting of both merit- and need-based scholarships and grants. Many scholarships and grants offered by the University are funded in part by generous donations from individuals and organizations. These endowed/named scholarships fund a portion of your Rochester National Grant and do not result in an increase in your overall financial assistance. If you receive a scholarship funded by an individual, you may be asked to write a thank-you letter to the donor.

Receiving a named scholarship is an extraordinary honor. Made possible through the generous support of alumni, parents, friends, foundations, and corporations, these awards recognize academic achievement and other criteria designated by the donor, as well as financial need.

SUMMER FINANCIAL AID*

A student's eligibility for summer financial aid is driven by their enrollment during the summer. To be eligible to receive federal aid, you must:

- Be enrolled for at least six credit hours during the summer. Keep in mind that all summer courses **MUST** be applicable to your current degree program.
- Be enrolled in a degree-seeking program; newly admitted students who are scheduled to begin classes in the fall are not eligible to apply for summer aid.
- Apply for aid for the summer session by submitting a Summer Aid Application through FAOnline. This application becomes available on February 15 of each academic year.

For more information about summer financial aid, please visit our [website](#).

**Be aware that University of Rochester merit scholarships and need-based grants awarded during the academic year are not available to assist with summer coursework. University aid given for summer coursework is made available to select students through the Dean's Office or by individual departments.*

Verification Required

If your financial aid messages in FAOnline include the notation "Verification Required," your financial aid application was selected by the Department of Education for verification of the data you supplied in the FAFSA. The Financial Aid Office is required to collect supporting documentation from you. No federal grants may be credited to your account, no federal loans may be approved for you, and no employment under the Federal Work-Study Program may be authorized for you until we have concluded the verification process in accordance with federal regulations. If verification is required in your instance, please promptly return the required documents to the Financial Aid Office. Required documents will be listed and may be accessed through the financial aid portal, FAOnline (faonline.rochester.edu).

ESTIMATED YEAR VERIFICATION

If your financial aid documents include the form "Estimated Year Verification," your financial aid has been confirmed only for the fall semester. Before your financial aid for the spring semester can be confirmed, the Financial Aid Office must again review your family's financial situation. We will write to you in November to have you submit information about your family's income for 2025. This information may be contained in an income tax return or other documents that record earnings, interest and dividend income, other income, and payments made from unemployment compensation, disability, social security, or pension programs. After we have reviewed your family's updated financial situation, we will confirm your financial aid for the spring semester. Your financial aid award will be revised if the estimates originally provided are lower than expected and any resulting bill to the University will be your responsibility. Estimated Year Verification will be conducted by January 10, 2026. If information is not available by that time, the reduced income will be reflected in your award for the spring semester, resulting in a balance that you will be responsible to pay.

Renewal of Financial Aid

You are eligible to receive financial aid at the University of Rochester for up to a total of eight semesters or until your first bachelor's degree requirements are met, whichever is first (for dual degree programs, you have up to 10 semesters or until your dual degree requirements are met, whichever is first). Please work closely with your academic advisor to develop an academic plan that supports an on-time degree completion.

If you are approved for a ninth semester of enrollment at the College, you may also receive financial aid. However, a separate appeal is required, and approval is not guaranteed.

You may continue to receive financial aid at the University of Rochester, provided the following requirements are met:

- A financial aid renewal application must be filed by March 15 of the prior academic year. Additional information, including the FAFSA, CSS Profile Form, income tax returns, and other documentation may also be required. The Financial Aid Office will distribute information about renewal application procedures near the end of the fall semester.
- Continued demonstration of financial need, as evidenced by information submitted in the renewal application.
- Satisfactory academic progress, as evidenced by your ability to continue enrollment at the University of Rochester and successfully maintain the minimum expectations for federal, state, and institutional Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Students' academic records are reviewed each semester at the Academic Action Meeting in accordance with the academic standards defined in the Undergraduate Student Handbook.

LATE APPLICATION POLICY

Financial aid renewal applications that are incomplete after **June 1** will incur a Rochester National Grant reduction of \$2,000; after **August 1**, they will incur a Rochester National Grant reduction of \$4,000.

Special or Unusual Circumstances

We realize that students and their families experience unforeseen situations during an academic year. We are happy to review these situations that could affect your family's ability to pay for college. [Special circumstances](#) are defined as changes in a student and/or parent's financial circumstances. [Unusual circumstances](#) are defined as changes in a student's dependency status.

Examples of special circumstances include the following (but are not limited to):

- Significant/unexpected changes in family income due to a nonvoluntary loss of job
- Unreimbursed medical expenses

Examples of unusual circumstances include the following:

- Parental abuse or abandonment where the parent cannot be located or shouldn't be contacted.

Examples that are NOT considered unusual circumstances:

- The student is self-supporting and/or resides separately from the parents.
- The student and parents are not on speaking terms.
- The parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.
- Parent's refusal to contribute to the student's educational expenses.

If you believe you have special or unusual circumstances, please reach out to your counselor to discuss your situation.

APPEALS

After discussion with your financial aid counselor, you may submit an appeal for reconsideration of an award to the Financial Aid Office. Documentation will be collected to support your request, including an Appeal Request Form.

Information on the Appeal Request Form will address changes in circumstances, unusual expenses, special situations, or additional information not already presented in the financial aid application. Submitting a financial aid appeal does not guarantee that additional need-based aid will be offered. Your counselor will be happy to discuss other financing options with you, including additional non-need-based loans. Because appeals are not guaranteed to be approved, you are still responsible for any bill to the University owed at the time an appeal is submitted.

International students: The University of Rochester is [need-aware](#) when reviewing admissions applications from non-US citizens. If you are admitted, however, we will meet 100% of your demonstrated eligibility for need-based aid, through a combination of grants, loans, and job opportunities. In addition, your application for admission will be considered for merit-based scholarships.

International applicants for need-based financial aid must submit a complete application for admission and the CSS Profile Form. Due to limited resources, only a small number of international applicants will qualify for need-based financial aid from the University. Applicants unable to secure the needed funding to cover the cost of attendance either through private funds or sponsorship cannot be admitted to the University.

Taxable Scholarships/Grants

Payments of taxable scholarships and fellowships to students who are nonresident aliens for tax purposes are reportable to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and are generally subject to withholding of US federal income tax. Taxable scholarships include any amount paid to an individual as a scholarship or fellowship grant that exceeds required tuition and fees.

Taxable scholarships are subject to withholding and are reported to each student on IRS Form 1042-S. Form 1042-S indicates the amount of the taxable scholarship and the amount of tax withheld. The withholding rate is 14% on taxable scholarships and fellowships paid to nonresident aliens temporarily present in the United States in “F,” “J,” “M,” or “Q” nonimmigrant status. Payments made to nonresident alien individuals in any other immigration status are subject to 30% withholding.

There may be no withholding if the payment of the scholarship/fellowship is exempt under a tax treaty between the US and the recipient’s home country. To determine the application of any tax treaties and the appropriate tax withholding, nonresident alien students must complete their tax record in Glacier (software administered by the University’s Payroll office). Form 1042-S will still be issued to report a student’s taxable scholarship or fellowship amount, even if the student is not subject to tax withholding because of the application of a tax treaty.

All nonresident alien students and scholars are required by federal government rules to file US income tax Form 1040NR or 1040NR-EZ with the IRS, *even if they have no tax liability*, and Form 8843, *even if they have no income*.

Take 5 Scholars Program

The Take Five Scholars Program, unique to University of Rochester, provides free tuition for an extra year or semester of study designed to enrich a student's curriculum. Take Five affords students the opportunity to indulge in studying a topic of interest; to learn for the sake of learning, without the concern that it will make them a better job or graduate school applicant. Students complete an application that includes a proposal for a sustained and coherent interdisciplinary program of study.

Take Five courses may be used for academic enrichment only. They cannot be used in any way to satisfy graduation, major, minor or cluster requirements. Furthermore, Take Five is not an opportunity to earn additional credentials, such as fulfilling pre-med requirements, or completing certificate programs, or the requirements of another major. Students must demonstrate on their application that they could complete all graduation requirements on time and without T5 courses. All integrated T5/UG semesters prior to the fifth year must include at least 12 credits of coursework required for the degree program (e.g., major, minor and/or clusters).

Take Five students receive a grant in the amount of free tuition and are responsible for any fees and living costs. Participants are not eligible for additional institutional or state assistance. Students may pursue private loan options to finance the costs of living (housing, food, etc.) and additional costs beyond tuition and may be eligible for federal financial aid based on enrollment. Upon acceptance into T5, students are encouraged to meet with Renee Wann, financial aid counselor for the T5 programs, prior to their fifth year of study to review their academic plan and any financial implications.

e5 Program

e5 is a tuition-free fifth year program offered by the Ain Center for Entrepreneurship. This additional year allows a student to launch a project and engage in an experiential or entrepreneurial pursuit, whether economic or social in nature.

e5 courses may be used for academic enrichment only. They cannot be used in any way to satisfy graduation, major, minor or cluster requirements. Furthermore, e5 is not an opportunity to earn additional credentials, such as fulfilling pre-med requirements, or completing certificate programs, or the requirements of another major. Students must demonstrate on their application that they could complete all graduation requirements on time and without e5 courses. All integrated e5/UG semesters prior to the fifth year must include at least 12 credits of coursework required for the degree program (e.g., major, minor and/or clusters).

e5 students receive a grant in the amount of free tuition and are responsible for any fees and living costs. Participants are not eligible for additional institutional or state assistance. Students may pursue private loan options to finance the costs of living (housing, food, etc.) and additional costs beyond tuition and may be eligible for federal financial aid based on enrollment. Upon acceptance into e5, students are encouraged to meet with Renee Wann, financial aid counselor for the e5 programs, prior to their fifth year of study to review their academic plan and any financial implications.

Military Benefits

The University of Rochester thanks you for your service to our country and values your contributions to our campus community. We are committed to serving as a resource to veteran students and their families. The Financial Aid Office determines award eligibility and makes sure that it is disbursed to the student's account when applicable.

If you served on active duty, you might be eligible for education benefits offered by the Department of Veteran Affairs. If you are the spouse or child of a service member, you may be eligible for transfer of the service member's Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits.

If you are currently serving in the military, you may be eligible for funding offered through the Department of Defense Tuition Assistance program. Check your eligibility status and the amount for which you qualify with your service prior to enrolling.

The University of Rochester is a Yellow Ribbon school. Veterans with Post-9/11 100% coverage will have tuition and mandatory fees covered in full. Your VA benefits will cover up to the maximum amount allowed and the University matches dollar for dollar the remaining expenses.

Further information regarding veteran education benefits may be found at the US Department of Veteran Affairs [website](#).

Outside Military Tuition Programs:

Veterans and their dependents may be eligible for a number of military tuition assistance programs. If you are receiving a military related benefit, these funds do replace need-based grants from the University first, with any excess replacing self-help aid. Such benefits cannot be used to replace a part of your family resources; they must be taken into account in the financial aid award, in accordance with federal regulations and University policy.

Military tuition assistance sources include, but are not limited to, New York State Veterans Tuition Awards (VTA), Recruitment Incentive and Retention Program (RIRP), ArmyIgnitED Tuition Assistance, and federal veteran's benefits through Chapters 33, 35 and 1606.

Consortium/Contractual Agreements

A consortium/contractual agreement is a contract between a matriculated, University of Rochester undergraduate student, the University of Rochester, and a host college or university. This contract grants a student permission to enroll directly through a host institution during the summer or academic year and then transfer completed credits back toward their University of Rochester degree while utilizing federal financial aid.

Students with a consortium/contractual agreement are entitled to their Federal Direct Loan and Federal Pell Grant for the corresponding academic term if they have eligibility. University-based aid is NOT transferable. These non-transferable sources include, but are not limited to University merit scholarships, Rochester National Grant, Federal SEOG, Federal Work Study, or University loans.

Students interested in pursuing a consortium/contractual agreement during the academic year or summer, must contact their financial aid counselor to discuss the process and to request the consortium/contractual agreement form. You will be required to complete this form, have it signed by the Dean of the College (or the Education Abroad Office if appropriate), include a copy of your course approval form, and return the form to the Financial Aid Office. Upon completion of the form by the Host institution and the University, the Financial Aid Office will award federal financial aid as noted previously and defined in the agreement. In addition, enrollment in each of the courses listed must be confirmed before any federal financial aid disbursements will occur. This verification cannot take place until the class or program is in session. Students should be prepared to pay the Host institution's bill up front, if required.

Students pursuing a consortium/contractual agreement for any term, including summer, must enroll in and successfully complete a minimum of six credits to be eligible for Federal Direct Loans.

APPENDIX

STUDENT LOANS

Although the University does not package students' maximum annual federal loan eligibility in financial aid awards, there may be circumstances in which a student may request additional loan funds—for example, to replace a shortfall in savings from summer employment, to reduce or replace academic year employment, or to purchase a personal computer. Loan proceeds will be credited to the student account after the student has signed a promissory note and completed Entrance Counseling (studentaid.gov) and will first be applied to any current or outstanding balance due.

Federal Direct Stafford Loan: There are both subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loans for students. According to federal regulations, the amount of subsidized loan that you may borrow is limited to the difference between your student expense budget and the sum of your family contribution, benefits, and any other financial aid you receive. Unsubsidized loans only take into consideration benefits and other aid, including subsidized loans.

Under the Federal Direct Student Loan program, you may borrow a Stafford Loan (either subsidized, unsubsidized, or a combination) of as much as \$3,500 as a first-year student, \$4,500 as a sophomore, and \$5,500 a year as a junior or senior.

Dependent students may borrow an additional unsubsidized loan of as much as \$2,000 a year. The cumulative loan maximum for dependent students is \$31,000, of which no more than \$23,000 can be subsidized.

Independent students (and dependent students whose parents cannot borrow a federal PLUS Loan) may borrow additional unsubsidized loans of as much as \$6,000 as a first-year student or sophomore, and as much as \$7,000 as a junior or senior. The cumulative maximum for independent students (and dependent students whose parents cannot borrow a federal PLUS Loan) is \$57,500, of which no more than \$23,000 can be subsidized.

The interest rate on subsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loans is fixed for the life of the loan. Payment of principal and interest begins after a six-month grace period. Interest rates will be determined each June for new loans for the upcoming award year, which runs from July 1 to June 30 (6.533% for 2024 – 2025). The interest rate on unsubsidized loans is also fixed. However, the borrower bears interest charges from the date the loan is disbursed. Interest on unsubsidized loans may either be paid as it accrues or be deferred and capitalized (i.e., added to the loan principal) while you are in school and for a grace period of six months after graduation or termination of studies. Payment of principal (and interest if it has been deferred) begins after the grace period.

The usual repayment period is ten years, although a monthly minimum payment of \$50 is required.

There are also provisions for other repayment terms, including extended repayment (lower fixed monthly payments over an extended period), graduated repayment (lower initial payments with increases at specific times during repayment), and income-based, contingent, sensitive, and pay-as-you-earn repayment (repayment amounts set annually according to income with repayment extending as much as 20–25 years).

Repayment may be deferred for graduate school or study in an approved graduate fellowship program. Deferments may also be approved in the event of temporary disability, unemployment, or economic hardship. Deferments apply to both principal and interest for subsidized loans, but to principal only for unsubsidized loans (although accrued interest may be capitalized). The loan will be canceled in the event of death or total and permanent disability.

The unsubsidized loan program is not need-based, but to borrow an unsubsidized loan, it must be determined that you are ineligible for the subsidized program. The maximum amount of unsubsidized loan that may be borrowed is the difference between the annual limits cited above and the amount of any subsidized loan. In addition, an unsubsidized loan is regarded as replacing a part (or all) of your family contribution and, therefore, cannot exceed that amount (reduced by any parent loan).

For the 2024-25 academic year, there was a 1.057% federal origination fee charged by the federal government on Federal Direct Stafford Loans. This amount was deducted from the loan before the remainder of the loan is credited to the student account. New loan terms will be determined for the 2025-26 academic year by July 1, 2025, and posted on our website.

You must complete and electronically sign a “master promissory note” and complete Entrance Counseling online with the US Department of Education before a loan may be disbursed as a credit to your student account. Loans in subsequent years do not require a new promissory note. The loan will be disbursed in two installments.

University of Rochester Student Loan: The University provides subsidized loans from its own funds in certain situations. The interest rate is 7% during repayment. The grace period, deferment, and cancellation provisions of the Federal Direct Stafford Loan program also apply to the University of Rochester Student Loans.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Financial Aid Office
University of Rochester

Wallis Hall
PO Box 270261
Rochester, NY 14627-0261

Website: rochester.edu/financialaid

Consumer Information: rochester.edu/financial-aid/consumer-information/

Phone: (585) 275-3226

Fax: (585) 756-7664

Email: finaid@rochester.edu

Twitter: [@URFinAid](https://twitter.com/URFinAid)

FAFSA Simplification

The *FAFSA Simplification Act* represented a significant overhaul of the processes and systems used to award federal student aid starting with the 2024–2025 academic year. This included the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form, need analysis, and many policies and procedures for schools that participate in federal student aid programs. The law also affected every state that uses FAFSA data to award state grant aid and every school that participates in the federal student aid programs.

WHAT'S CHANGED WITH THE FAFSA?

There were several benefits of the FAFSA Simplification Act, including a more streamlined application process and a better user experience for the FAFSA, expanded eligibility for federal student aid, and reduction of barriers for certain student populations (e.g., homeless and unaccompanied youth, incarcerated students, English language learners, and students from low-income backgrounds).

Some fundamental changes included, but were not limited to:

The FAFSA is shorter and more user-friendly:

- The FAFSA reduced the maximum number of questions from 108 to 46. And because the FAFSA on the Web is dynamic, some students won't even be presented with all 46 questions. This streamlined format simplifies the application process and makes it less daunting for students and their families.

Students may list up to 20 colleges:

- Previously, the FAFSA only allowed students to list up to 10 colleges and universities.

The FAFSA is available in more languages:

- The FAFSA is only available in the 11 most common languages spoken by English learner students and their parents.

Applicants are required to use the FUTURE Act IRS Direct Data Exchange (FADDX):

- Previously, users had the option to enter their tax information manually or use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. Beginning with 2024-2025, all persons on the FAFSA must provide consent for the Department of Education to receive tax information or confirmation of non-filing status directly from the IRS. In a very small number of cases, students and families will have to enter their tax data manually, but for most, that data will be automatically transferred into the application. This change made it easier to complete the FAFSA and reduced the number of questions to be answered.

All “[contributors](#)” must provide financial information:

- A contributor refers to anyone who is required to provide information on a student's form (such as a parent/stepparent or spouse). A student's or parent's answers on the FAFSA will determine which contributors (if any) will be required to provide information.

Contributors will receive an email informing them that they've been identified as such and will need to log in using their own FSA ID (if they don't already have one) to provide the required information on the student's FAFSA.

Being a contributor does not mean they are financially responsible for the student's education costs, but it *does* mean the contributor must provide information on the FAFSA or the application will be incomplete, and the student will not be eligible for federal student aid.

The [Student Aid Index \(SAI\)](#) replaces the federal Expected Family Contribution (EFC):

- A notable terminology update within the new FAFSA is the replacement of the term Expected Family Contribution (EFC) with the Student Aid Index (SAI). This name more accurately describes the number used to determine Federal Pell Grant eligibility and, unlike the EFC, the SAI may be a negative number down to -1500.

The number in college will not be used to calculate SAI:

- The application will ask how many household members are in college, but your answer will not be calculated into the SAI. Rochester will continue to use the number in college for undergraduate students when determining eligibility for need-based institutional financial aid.

Some students will automatically be awarded a Pell Grant:

- Families making less than 175% and single parents making less than 225% of the [federal poverty level](#) will see their students receive a maximum Federal Pell Grant award. Minimum Pell Grants will be guaranteed to students from households below 275%, 325%, 350%, or 400% of the poverty level, depending on household structure. Pell awards between the maximum and minimum amounts will be determined by SAI.

The parent responsible for submitting the FAFSA in cases of divorce or separation:

- Financial information will be required from the parent(s) who provided the most financial support to the student.

Family farms and small businesses must be reported as assets:

- When required, families must report the value of their small business or family farm. If the family farm includes the principal place of residence, applicants should determine the total net value of all farm assets and subtract the net value of their principal residence to determine the final value of their farm assets.

WHAT DIDN'T CHANGE

While the FAFSA received an update and the federal aid eligibility calculation was revised, there were several aid-related matters that did not change.

- For Rochester undergraduate students, institutional need-based aid (including the Rochester National Grant) continues to be determined by the CSS Profile, not the FAFSA.
- The general types of aid available to Rochester students and [federal student loan limits](#) will not change.
- The FAFSA will still be required for consideration of federal and state financial aid every year.
- [Dependency status questions](#) that determine if your parent(s) must complete the FAFSA remained the same.
- The FAFSA still requests tax information from the prior-prior year, which means you'll report 2023 income and assets on your 2025-2026 application.
- The questions regarding an applicant's gender, race, and ethnicity will have no effect on federal student aid eligibility and are included for statistical purposes and data collection only. In fact, Rochester won't even receive this data from the FAFSA.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

To review the changes that occurred during the 2024-2025 academic year, here are some historical links:

- [FAFSA Simplification Fact Sheet](#)
- [FAFSA Simplification for First-Year Applicants](#)
- [Rochester's Parent Newsletter](#)
- [Financial Aid Office's website on FAFSA Simplification](#)
- [Federal Student Aid](#)

Glossary of Terms

Cost of Attendance – An estimate of total educational costs for the nine-month school year, including tuition, mandatory fees, housing, food, personal expenses, and transportation.

Demonstrated Financial Need – Difference between your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), as determined by the University, and the total cost of attendance.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC) – The amount you are expected to contribute toward the cost of your education. Based on family earnings, savings, net assets, family size, and number of undergraduate children in college.

FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) – A federal government report, sent to the student that contains the federal [Student Aid Index \(SAI\)](#) and provides a summary of the information submitted on the FAFSA.

Federal Direct Loans – Low-interest loans provided by the federal government. Borrowing limits vary depending on a student's year in college.

Federal Direct Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) – A federal credit-based, fixed-interest loan, not based on need, available to parents of undergraduate students. Borrowers must be the biological or adoptive parent (or, in some cases, the stepparent) of a dependent undergraduate student, and must pass a credit check with the U.S. Department of Education. The Department will check to see if the borrower has an adverse credit history, however, debt-to-income ratio, credit score, employment status, and lack of credit is not taken into account during this credit check. Interest rates are determined annually by Congress and are fixed throughout the life of the loan. There is an origination, or processing, fee applied to each disbursement of the loan.

Federal Direct Subsidized Loans – Loans, based on financial need, for which the government pays interest while the student is in college.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans – Loans available without regard to financial need and for which students accrue interest expenses while still in college.

Federal Work Study (FWS) – A federal program that offers students the opportunity to meet some of their indirect costs by working part-time on campus or off campus at an approved nonprofit agency. As with any employment, neither a job nor a specific number of hours is guaranteed. A student must earn work-study funds and is paid in the form of a paycheck, according to the number of hours worked.

Financial Aid Package – A combination of scholarships, grants, loans and work study.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – The form (available at fafsa.gov) that you must complete and send to the federal processor to determine your eligibility for federal financial aid. The University of Rochester school code is 002894.

Gift Aid – Financial aid, such as a grant or scholarship, which does not need to be repaid.

Grants – Aid given to students by the federal government, state agencies, and colleges/universities with no expectation of repayment. Much, but not all, of grant aid is based on financial need.

Merit Scholarships – Tuition specific awards based on academic achievement, independent of financial need.

Need-Aware Admission – An admission decision policy in which a college does consider the financial need of applicants in admissions decisions.

Outside Scholarships – Scholarships available through sources such as religious and civic organizations, your employer, and local businesses.

Pell Grants – Federal Grants awarded to students with the highest level of demonstrated need. For the 2024-25 academic year, grant awards ranged from \$767- \$7,395 per year.

Private Loans – Credit-based educational loans that can help meet your family’s expected contribution. You should consider the Federal Direct Loan programs before considering a private loan.

CSS Profile – A form required by some colleges in the financial aid application process. The University of Rochester does require the CSS Profile, available at profileonline.collegeboard.com. Our school code is 2928. This form is used to determine eligibility for University-funded grants. There is a nominal fee for this form.

Self-help Aid - Financial aid that the student earns through work (student employment) or is required to be paid back (loan).

Special Circumstances – Changes in a student and/or parent’s financial circumstances.

Student Aid Index (SAI) – A formal evaluation of a student’s approximate financial resources to contribute toward their postsecondary education for a specific award year.

Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) – A federal grant awarded to low-income Pell Grant recipients.

Unusual Circumstances – Changes in a student’s dependence status.

UR Essentials - University of Rochester undergraduate students can now rent their course textbooks and other select materials, physical or electronic, free of charge, through UR Essentials. UR Essentials is a course material delivery model that simplifies the student experience and ensures students have access to all required course materials on or before the first day of class. Through this program, physical books are packaged and provided to students on a rental basis, in addition to providing access to digital material, if required. At the end of the term, students will receive email reminders to return rented physical course materials to the bookstore.

There is no cost to full time undergraduate students to participate in UR Essentials. Since there is no cost,

books and supplies are not included in the cost of attendance for those students who participate.

For more information about this exciting program, including FAQs and who to contact with questions, visit the University of Rochester's [website](#).

This handbook does not constitute a contract between the institution and the student