



A Reference Guide to Financing Your Education 2009-2010

Introduction

Welcome to the Rider University community. This brochure is designed to give you and your family general information about financial aid, as well as details on some of our specific programs and policies at Rider. It also includes helpful information, from calculating your cost of attendance to identifying the best finance options for your family's circumstances.

Our goal is to help you meet your educational expenses by linking you to the many federal, state, University-funded and private sources of financial assistance that are available.

Should you have any questions or need additional assistance, we invite you to contact us at any time. We are here to serve you in any way possible.

Office of Financial Aid
Rider University
Bart Luedeke Student Center
2083 Lawrenceville Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-3099

Phone: **609-896-5360** or
800-257-9026
Fax: **609-219-4487**
E-mail: **finaid@rider.edu**
Web Site: **www.rider.edu/finaid**

Rider University's School Code: **002628**

NOTE: Please retain this guide for future reference throughout your academic career at Rider University.

Calculating Your Educational Costs

To help you and your family with budgeting your educational expenses, we are providing estimated tuition, fees, and room and board charges to attend Rider University in 2009-2010.*

We also have projected the full cost of attendance that incorporates average additional expenses a Rider University student might incur during the nine-month academic year. These include out-of-pocket expenditures such as books, transportation, clothing, and other miscellaneous expenses.

Financial aid packages are developed based on the full cost of attendance.

<i>Rider University Expenses</i>	RESIDENT	COMMUTER
Tuition and Fees	\$29,060	\$29,060
Room and Board	\$10,720	-----
Total Direct Charges*	\$39,780	\$29,060
<i>Projected Additional Expenses</i>		
Books, Supplies and Loan Fees	\$ 1,635	\$ 1,635
Personal Miscellaneous**	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,600
Full Cost of Attendance*	\$43,415	\$35,295

* Costs listed in this booklet were estimated as of the time of printing and may not reflect actual charges.

** Miscellaneous includes transportation, clothing and other incidental expenses.

Student Rights and Responsibilities Regarding Financial Aid

Student Rights

As a student, you have the right to:

1. Have complete information regarding fees, payment and refund policies available to you.
2. Have all personal and family financial information treated with sensitivity and confidentiality.
3. Know how financial aid is distributed and the basis for eligibility decisions.
4. Know what portion of your financial aid package must be repaid and what portion does not require repayment.
5. Choose any lender for your student loan(s), and expect that Rider will process the loan(s) with your requested lender.
6. Request an explanation of the funds in your financial aid package and decline any portion of your award.
7. Submit an appeal or request a re-evaluation if circumstances change.

Student Responsibilities

When accepting any financial aid, you are expected to:

1. Monitor your account using MyInfo (Rider's student information Web site) and meet your financial obligations to the University.
2. Know and comply with the rules governing all financial aid you receive.
3. Read and understand all materials sent to you from the Office of Financial Aid.
4. Accept responsibility for all agreements you sign. We recommend you keep copies for your reference.
5. Respond promptly to any information requests from external organizations.
6. Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Renewal FAFSA each year prior to the University's March 1 priority date.
7. Advise the Office of Financial Aid if you change your housing status from the original application and/or change your enrollment status from full-time to less than full-time.
8. Provide address changes. All changes are to be submitted in writing to the Dean of Students Office.
9. Advise Rider's Office of Financial Aid of any additional aid (outside source) received that is not indicated on your Financial Aid Award Notice.
10. Inform Dean of Students Office and the Office of Financial Aid if you expect to withdraw or take a leave of absence from the University.
11. If requested, submit all verification documents.
12. Give permission to relay pertinent financial, academic and other information to donors of aid as requested.
13. Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress for financial aid.
14. Comply with federal IRS taxation and income reporting requirements for grants and scholarships in excess of tuition, books and fees.



2083 Lawrenceville Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-3099
U.S.A.

800-257-9026 • 609-896-5360

www.rider.edu



Educational Financing at Rider University

2009-2010

Office of Financial Aid

Financial Aid Programs Administered by Rider University

During these challenging economic times, Rider University is committed to making its educational opportunities as affordable and accessible as possible. An important way we do so is by offering a wide range of generous, merit-based and need-based awards for qualified students. Below is an outline of some of the many sources of aid that can help reduce your educational expenses.

Rider University-Funded Aid

Scholarships

Merit-based scholarships are awarded to students upon admission to Rider. These scholarships are annually renewable for four years, provided that the academic requirements specified in your acceptance letter are maintained. If you receive a financial aid award letter prior to the receipt of a scholarship or any other financial assistance, these resources will be incorporated into the pre-existing award letter. Scholarships will not be added to an existing financial aid award letter without a complete re-evaluation.

In order to continue receiving a merit-based scholarship each year, you must maintain a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA). If you do not meet the CGPA requirement at the end of the academic year, you will not continue to receive the scholarship until the CGPA requirement is satisfied. If you achieve the required CGPA at the conclusion of the fall semester, one-half of the scholarship will be awarded for the spring semester. If lost, a scholarship can be reinstated only once.

Rider Recognition Award

Rider University is proud to offer the Rider Recognition Award to acknowledge students who, upon acceptance, demonstrate the propensity to do well at the University. These awards are renewable up to four years provided the academic requirements specified in the admissions letter are maintained. However, if a student fails to meet the academic requirements upon completion of an academic year, the award is lost and cannot be received again.

Rider Grant

Rider Grant is awarded to students who demonstrate financial need. A student should not expect the same Rider Grant amount each year because demonstrated need is reassessed yearly. In addition, the amount of funding varies from year to year. Eligibility for this award is estimated using the information reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

Although the Rider Grant is a need-based financial award, students should be aware that more Rider Grant funds may be awarded to students with higher GPAs. The annual University budgets are a key factor in determining grant allotments; therefore, it is imperative that you file the FAFSA by the priority deadline date of March 1 to ensure full consideration.

Athletic Aid

As an NCAA Division I school, student athletes at Rider may be awarded scholarships based on athletic ability. Awarded athletic scholarships must comply with NCAA regulations. Students are required to complete the FAFSA annually.

Transfer and International Scholarships

Transfer undergraduate students may be offered scholarships based on their previous academic performance. First-year international students are also eligible to be considered for renewable scholarships. Need-based aid is not available to international students.

Federal and State Aid

Your eligibility for the following programs is determined based on the information that you and your family report on the FAFSA. You must comply with all program requirements to receive these funds. Please be certain to follow up on all requests for information from government agencies. Grants do not require repayment, but loans must be repaid.

Federal Pell Grant

Funded by the federal government, eligibility for the Pell Grant is determined by filing the FAFSA. An estimate of eligibility is provided in your award letter.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

The federal government funds this grant for undergraduates with exceptional financial need. The award amount is based on Rider's allotment as determined by the federal government.

Federal Stafford Loan

This loan is obtained from a lending institution and is insured by the federal government. You are required to begin repayment on this loan within six months after you leave school or if you enroll less than half-time (typically six credits). The loan carries a fixed interest rate.

The **Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan** is for students who demonstrate financial need. The federal government pays the interest while you are in school, during authorized periods of deferment and during the grace period.

The **Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan** is for students who are not eligible to borrow some or all of the Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan as determined by their financial need. The difference is that you, rather than the federal government, are responsible for the interest payments while you are in school. You have the option to capitalize the interest (add it to your loan balance) and defer payments until after graduation.

Federal Perkins Loan

Funds from this loan program come primarily from repayments by previous Rider University borrowers, and from contributions by Rider and the federal government. This loan has a fixed interest rate of 5.00%. Interest does not accrue while you are in school. Repayment begins nine months after you complete your education or you become enrolled less than half-time. Your student account will be credited after you sign the promissory note.

Federal Work-Study and Campus Employment Programs

At Rider, all interested students are encouraged to seek student employment. Employment on campus is a great opportunity to be part of the Rider community while earning income to meet your day-to-day expenses. Wages are paid directly to you for the hours actually worked. Unlike other forms of financial aid, these funds are not credited to your student account. Students with demonstrated financial need are paid through federal work study funds, as reflected on your award letter. If you have been offered work-study and plan to accept the offer, be sure to attend Rider's Job Fair in September.

New Jersey Grants and Scholarships

New Jersey's Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) is a need-based grant to assist state residents in meeting college costs at New Jersey institutions. It cannot be used to attend out-of-state institutions. By completing the FAFSA, the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) will automatically receive and process your financial information to determine your eligibility for TAG. Moreover, HESAA offers a variety of other grant and scholarship opportunities to qualified New Jersey students. Once you finalize your college choice, it is your responsibility to notify HESAA of your decision. Similarly, you must satisfy all requests from HESAA for additional information.

Other State Grants

Some states may allow students to carry state aid with them to colleges outside of their home state. If applicable, check with your guidance counselor on how to file for assistance.

Financing Options

There's no greater investment you can make in your future than the investment you make in your education. To help with your planning, Rider University offers a variety of options to supplement available financial aid, including payment plans and alternative loan programs. These programs are summarized below. Detailed information and applications are available in the University's Office of Financial Aid, which is located in the Bart Luedeke Student Center, and online at www.rider.edu/finaid. We hope you will find these materials helpful.

Tuition Pay Monthly Payment Plan

Rider University offers this simple, inexpensive and convenient means of dividing the annual cost of college into 10 interest-free monthly installments. There is a five-month plan available for students enrolling for spring only.

Alternative Loans (Parents and/or Students)

Educational loans for parents of undergraduate students are available through the federal PLUS program. Additionally, many lenders offer private student loan programs to supplement federal loans. Families may borrow these credit-based loans in varying amounts up to the maximum of the full cost of attendance, less financial aid. Interest rates, repayment options and borrower eligibility differ according to the loan product and provider. These loans can be combined with other financing options to help meet the cost of attendance.

Your financial aid counselor can help you understand the various borrowing options available to meet your needs. Rider maintains information on loan products and participating lenders. If you would like assistance in selecting a lender, please visit Rider's Web site at www.rider.edu/finaid or call our help desk at 609-896-5360.

Checklist For Completing Financial Aid Requirements

What is Verification?

Educational institutions are required to verify information reported on financial aid applications and adjust aid accordingly. At Rider, all first-time aid recipients and selected renewal applicants will be asked to provide signed copies of applicable federal tax returns (including all supporting documents) and a completed Quality Assurance questionnaire. No aid may be paid into your account until verification is completed.

How to Accept Your Financial Aid Award

Once your application for financial aid has been reviewed, an aid package is developed based on your family's need as demonstrated by the results of the FAFSA. If you qualify to receive financial aid, a letter will be sent to you indicating the amounts offered.

1. If you accept the award amounts listed on your financial aid notification letter and agree to their terms and conditions, it is not necessary to return the letter. Financial aid funds will pay into your account on the first day of classes if your verification is complete and all other necessary documents (including loan promissory notes) have been received.
2. You must notify Rider's Office of Financial Aid of outside grants or scholarships that you receive, such as from a community group, company scholarship fund, etc. These must be considered as part of your total financial aid award.
3. If you are declining or reducing any part of your estimated award letter, you must notify Rider in writing.

Renewing Your Financial Aid: Applying Annually

Because the awarding of financial aid is an annual process, you must reapply each year to be considered for need-based aid. You will also be required to meet the minimum standards for satisfactory academic progress. Detailed information appears in *The Source* (Rider's student handbook) and in the University Catalog.

Rewarding Academic Performance and Student Leadership

How you perform this year can help make next year even more affordable. The Rider Advantage is an incentive grant to help bridge the tuition gap between your first and second year of college. Eligible students who demonstrate leadership qualities and maintain a 3.0 CGPA during the freshman year will receive a renewable grant that matches the actual difference in tuition between their first and second year in college. Rider also rewards student achievement with endowed scholarships provided through the generosity of University donors.

- Once you have made your decision to attend Rider, be sure to pay all required deposits to guarantee your place as a member of your class and to secure housing by the **May 1** deadline.
- File the FAFSA:** If you have not applied for financial aid and wish to do so, you may complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online using the link at www.rider.edu/finaid. Be sure to list Rider University's **Federal School Code 002628**.
- Student Aid Report (SAR):** Read all the messages on your SAR and make any necessary corrections. Please follow the instructions in the text of Part I of your SAR.
- Tuition Aid Grant (TAG):** If you are a New Jersey resident and receive a Student Eligibility Notice (SEN) from the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA), make certain all data are correct and the accurate code is listed for the campus you are attending. If the information is incorrect, follow the instructions on the form. It is your responsibility to communicate directly with the HESAA to submit corrections.
- Federal Stafford Loan:** If you will be a first-time borrower at Rider University, you must complete an entrance counseling session before you receive any disbursements. The entrance counseling may be completed online at www.mapping-your-future.org or follow the link located at www.rider.edu/finaid.
- Rider will send you a **Master Promissory Note (MPN)** for the Stafford Loan. Follow the instructions provided with the MPN.
- Federal Perkins Loan:** If your financial aid package includes a Federal Perkins Loan, you must complete the Promissory Note for the loan. This form will be mailed to you or you may complete it at Rider's Office of Financial Aid. This promissory note must be completed and returned in order for the loan to be credited to your account. If you do not return your signed promissory note within 30 days, the loan will be cancelled.

The following additional steps must be taken if requested by Rider's Office of Financial Aid:

- Dependent Students:** Submit a Quality Assurance Verification Document, your parents(s)' federal tax returns (including all pages and supporting schedules), and your (the student's) tax returns.
- Independent Students (including graduate students):** Submit a Quality Assurance Verification Document, your (and your spouse's, if married) federal tax returns, including all pages and supporting schedules.
- Other documents may be requested to complete the verification process. It is imperative that these documents be submitted promptly to avoid suspension of your financial assistance.