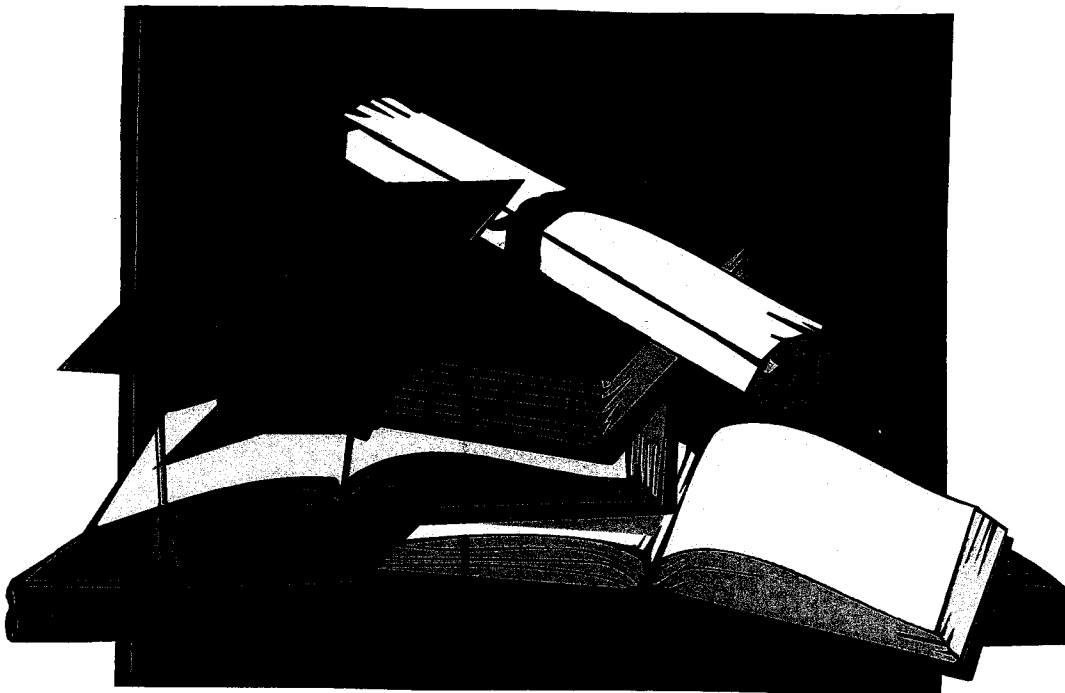


Rutgers Upward Bound Senior Checklist

Do You want to Go to College



This guide is designed to help you plan your plan for the next step after high school. We hope you will save and use it for your college planning. As you plan your education after high school you hope that this guide will assist in staying on track with college admissions and the application process.

My Steps For College

<p>July</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Review and update 4-Year plan; submit a copy to seminar instructor. <input type="checkbox"/> Development of personal statements/essays for college applications. <input type="checkbox"/> Review and update formal Resume, Activity List, and E-Profile. <input type="checkbox"/> Finalize list of colleges and universities you plan to apply to. <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for scholarships. 	<p><u>The College Selection Process:</u></p> <p>So you've applied, visited and have been waiting for these days to arrive. Colleges have sent out letters of acceptance and letters of rejection. You receive a letter from your top choice and it says you have been accepted. Congratulations! Now, if we pretend that you receive a letter of rejection from your top choice instead it is important to keep in mind that it isn't the end of the world. Think of it as a new pathway emerging. You now have other colleges to decide upon and may find that your top choice wasn't the best fit for you. Do not set your heart entirely on one school; it limits your appreciation for other schools. It's like auditioning for a musical. The more roles you audition for, the greater chance you have of being in the musical. After you've assembled a list of colleges you would like to attend, weigh your options.</p>
<p>August</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> List names and information of individuals you will ask for a recommendation from; think about what was discussed in seminar. <input type="checkbox"/> Visit as many college campuses as possible. <input type="checkbox"/> Decide if you are applying for Early Decision or Early Action to schools; begin corresponding applications now! <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for scholarships. 	
<p>September</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your H.S. counselor to go over your 4-Year plan; make sure classes are on the right track for possible colleges and that you're meeting graduation requirements. <input type="checkbox"/> Use this as your master calendar of deadlines; college & scholarship applications, test registration & dates, housing, and financial aid. <input type="checkbox"/> Look for scholarships one last time. <input type="checkbox"/> Last chance to take SAT and ACT—register early! <input type="checkbox"/> Request college, housing and financial aid applications. <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for scholarships. 	<p><u>Understanding Special Circumstances:</u></p> <p>For many low-income, first-generation prospective college students, college can be expensive and appear out of reach. It is, however, within reach. Many college application fees can be waived if students request waivers from their counselors. Some schools may be willing to pay for SATs/ACTs and AP or IB exams. It is imperative that you talk to your counselor about these opportunities. Also, many schools are willing to read letters from students who are in dire need of financial assistance. Contact colleges about doing so to explain your situation. Many colleges offer programs such as the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) here at Rutgers which is tailored for low-income students to find success in college.</p>
<p>October</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Make sure your H.S. transcripts and records are up-to-date. <input type="checkbox"/> Review your college plans and financial aid preparations with H.S. and RUB counselors, as well as parent/guardian. <input type="checkbox"/> Attend college fairs and financial aid workshops. <input type="checkbox"/> Make the last of your college visits and request interviews with admissions officers. <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for scholarships. 	
<p>November</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ask for letters of recommendation from teachers, employers, coaches, etc... <input type="checkbox"/> Finish personal statements/essays for college applications and scholarships. <input type="checkbox"/> Review and update formal Resume, Activity List, and E-Profile. <input type="checkbox"/> Apply Early Decision or Early Action to as many colleges and universities as possible. <input type="checkbox"/> Send in applications to your other college choices. <input type="checkbox"/> Review college application checks <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for scholarships. 	<p><u>Scholarships</u></p> <p>There are so many scholarships available. Students often wait till they are told of scholarships to apply. Don't wait for anyone, it is your chance to receive money for college and the money won't wait for you. Many schools offer scholarships on first-come, first-serve basis. So when you apply to schools, apply for their scholarships as well. The earlier you do so, the better chance you have of receiving their money. Many students are unaware of this and apply too late, when the schools have run out of money to give. Ask your counselor for potential scholarship opportunities.</p>
<p>December</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Gather tax information for financial aid applications. <input type="checkbox"/> Register for a PIN to use to electronically sign the FAFSA. <input type="checkbox"/> Remember that a college or university can decline your acceptance if your 	

January

- Fill out financial aid forms and the FAFSA.
- Apply for scholarships.
- Have your mid-year grades sent to colleges.
- Apply for scholarships.

February

- Follow-up to make sure mid-year grades were sent to colleges.
- Thinking about a college major and minor
- Interpreting award letters and housing contracts if applicable
- Apply for scholarships.

March

- Give back with Rutgers Upward Bound through volunteer and community service initiatives.
- Review expectations of college
- Apply for scholarships.

April

- Decide on a college and notify the admissions office by May 1st of your acceptance.
- Notify other colleges that accepted you that you will not be attending.
- Create a budget to determine your needs.
- Complete your housing and meal applications.
- Begin to think about your first year in college and prepare yourself
- Apply for scholarships.

May

- Take Advanced Placement Exams.
- Determine if you need a student loan and file your application
- Have your final transcript sent to your college; follow-up to make sure it is received.
- See your doctor for a physical and any necessary vaccinations.
- Seminar follow-up
- Apply for scholarships.

June

- Notify your college of any scholarships you received.
- Apply for a summer job. If your financial aid package includes work study, you may be responsible for finding a job at your institution.
- Start your reading assignments for freshman year.
- Take a deep breath—pack for college!
- Apply for scholarships.
- Fill out and hand in Upward Bound Senior Exit Interview

Ten Financial Aid Facts You Should Know

All U.S. citizens and eligible noncitizens may apply for financial aid

1. You can obtain the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) from your guidance counselor and by calling 1800-4FEDAID; or you can apply online at fafsa.ed.gov once you obtain your Federal Personal Identification number at pin.ed.gov.
2. You should submit your FAFSA online as soon as possible after January 1 during your senior year of high school to meet Rutgers financial aid priority application date of March 15.
3. A loan is borrowed money that must be repaid to the lender.
4. A scholarship is an award granted on the basis of academic achievement.
5. A grant is a financial aid award that does not have to be repaid
6. Work-study allows you to earn money for your college expenses through a part-time job while you are enrolled in college.
7. A financial aid package is the total financial aid offer letter made by a college or university.
8. The Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) provides financial assistance and academic support to highly motivated New Jersey students who exhibit the potential for success, but who came from economically and educationally disadvantaged families/communities.
9. More than 89% of Rutgers students receive financial aid.

Writing Your College Essay:

Your college essay is pivotal in separating you from the crowd of other applicants. Let the admission officers know why you want to attend their college/university and why they should let you. Admission officers review hundreds, if not thousands, of applicants every day who are statistically equivalent. In your essay you want to demonstrate that you are able to balance academics, extra-curricular activities, community service and other time-consuming priorities. It is best to speak of what you've learned through high school. Don't sell yourself as being perfect and inhuman. Let the reader know that while maintaining a 3.5GPA, playing basketball, being in the marching band and taking care of your younger siblings at home was difficult, you learned better time management, discipline, and prioritization. Colleges prefer the balanced individual who can form interpersonal relationships with others, not studious individuals who only have a perfect GPA to boast.

Parent Check List

- Continue to monitor your students' academic progress.
- Set up a calendar with your student to record test dates, application deadlines, college visits and appointments.
- Assist in the completion of your students' college applications.
- Have a conversation with your students about the financial situation for college.
- Help your child investigate the availability of financial aid from federal, state, local, and private sources. Call the Student Aid Hotline at the U.S. Department of Education (1-800-4FED-AID) for a student guide to federal financial aid. Have your child talk to his or her guidance counselor for more information.
- Assist your son or daughter in looking for directories on scholarships for women, minorities, and disabled students.
- Make sure your child completes all necessary financial aid forms, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) from the U.S. Department of Education. Call 1-800-4FED-AID; TDD 1-800-730-8913 or visit the FAFSA web site at: www.fafsa.ed.gov.