R·I·T

New Student Manual

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(1) Scope

Who is this manual for?

This manual is for students new to the Rochester Institute of Technology, both Freshman and transfer students.

What does this manual cover?

This manual aims to explain the basics of what it takes to get a degree at RIT, including the official and intangible concerns.

Why should I read this manual?

Every year, RIT gets almost 18,000 undergraduate applications from men and women all across the country. Of that, around 4,500 will end up enrolling. Of these, only 63% will graduate. In order to help you become one of the students that completes their degree this manual aims to explain the requirements you have to complete and the resources you have available to help you complete them. By reading this manual hopefully you can avoid frustration and maximize your experience as a student at RIT.

(2) Introduction

Welcome to RIT! As you enter your time as a student at our institution, it is important to keep in mind what requirements you need to fulfil to graduate with a degree in your program. This includes some official requirements, but also includes many other aspects. This guide will provide you with some information about requirements for graduation, resources you have available to you, and some general information every student should have as they enter this great institution.

(3) Definitions

Throughout your time as a student here, you will probably come across some terms you are not familiar with. The following table is a compilation of common terms used around campus.

Term	Meaning
RIT	Rochester Institute of Technology
RITchie	The RIT Mascot
Gracies	Grace Watson Dining Hall
NTID	The National Technical Institute for the Deaf
TigerBucks	RIT-specific dollars that can be spent with using a student ID
TA	Teaching Assistant, student who has taken a class getting paid to assist in teaching that class

(4) New Student Information

(a) College and Majors (Undergraduate)

RIT is composed of 9 colleges with various offerings for majors. Choosing a major is the first step a student needs to take to earn a degree. The following are the RIT colleges and their undergraduate programs. For specifics about these programs, please check with the appropriate department.

College of Applied Science and Technology
- Applied Technical Leadership
- Civil Engineering Technology
- Computer Engineering Technology
- Electrical Engineering Technology
- Electrical Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Environmental Sustainability, Health and Safety
- International Hospitality and Service Management
- Manufacturing Engineering Technology
- Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Packaging Science

Saunders College of Business
- Accounting
- Finance
- International Business
- Management
- Management Information Systems
- Marketing
- New Media Marketing

B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences
- Computer Science
- Computing and Information Technologies (formerly Networking and Systems Administration)
- Computing Security
- Game Design and Development
- Human-Centered Computing
- New Media Interactive Development
- Software Engineering
- Web and Mobile Computing (formerly Information Technology)

Kate Gleason College of Engineering
- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Industrial Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Microelectronic Engineering

College of Health Sciences and Technology
- Biomedical Sciences
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography (Ultrasound)
- Exercise Science
- Nutrition Management
- Physician Assistant

College of Imaging Arts and Sciences
- 3D Digital Design
- Ceramics
- Film and Animation
- Fine Arts Studio
- Furniture Design
- Glass
- Graphic Design
- Illustration
- Industrial Design
- Interior Design
- Media Arts and Technology
- Medical Illustration
- Metals and Jewelry Design
- Motion Picture Science
- New Media Design
- Photographic and Imaging Arts (options in Advertising Photography, Fine Art Photography, Photojournalism, Visual Media)
- Photographic Sciences (options in Biomedical Photographic Communications, Imaging and Photographic Technology)

College of Liberal Arts
- Advertising and Public Relations
- Communication
- Criminal Justice
- Economics
- International and Global Studies

- Journalism
- Museum Studies
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Public Policy
- Sociology and Anthropology

National Technical Institute for the Deaf
- Accounting Technology
- Administrative Support Technology
- Applied Computer Technology
- Applied Computer Technology
- Applied Computer Technology
- Applied Liberal Arts
- Applied Mechanical Technology
- ASL-English Interpretation
- Business
- Business Technology
- Civil Technology
- Computer Aided Drafting Technology
- Computer Aided Drafting Technology
- Computer Integrated Machining Technology
- Design and Imaging Technology
- Design and Imaging Technology
- Hospitality and Service Management
- Laboratory Science Technology
- Laboratory Science Technology

College of Science
- Applied Mathematics
- Applied Statistics and Actuarial Science
- Biochemistry
- Bioinformatics
- Biology
- Biotechnology and Molecular Bioscience
- Chemistry
- Computational Mathematics
- Environmental Science
- Imaging Science
- Physics

(b) General Graduation Requirements

While each major and program has different curricula, there are a couple important requirements that almost all students must meet to graduate from RIT. These include:

- ❏ Completion of Academic Curricula
- ❏ Grade-point Average of a 2.0 or higher
- ❏ Residency: At least 30 credit hours from completion of RIT courses
- ❏ Completion of 3 writing intensive courses, including a first year writing course UWRT-150, ENGL-150, or ISTE-110 as well as a program-specific writing intensive course and a general education writing course
- ❏ Financial Obligations, must not have an outstanding debt to RIT to graduate
- ❏ At least two wellness activity courses
- ❏ 3 courses in an immersion, which is a chosen general education topic to learn more about
- ❏ First year courses - specific to program
- ❏ 8 perspective courses, including one ethical, artistic, global, social, natural science, scientific principles, and two mathematical

(c) Co-op

What is Co-op?

Many programs require one or more semesters on Co-op. Co-op at RIT started in 1912, and is a great opportunity for students to gain practical experience partnering with companies for limited periods of time. Typically co-ops last between 3 and 6 months, and depending on the program requirements for what courses need to be taken before a student is allowed to go on co-op.

The co-ops are seeked out by the student who is going on them by doing a co-op job search just like looking for a full-time jobs. Typically this process involves stages of seeking out companies, handing out resumes, and completing interviews. To help put employers and students together, every fall and spring RIT hosts a career fair.

Career Fair Information

RIT students use the 'JobZone' app or website to manage their co-op program status and search for jobs. As either the spring or fall career fair approaches, JobZone with provide you with information on what companies are going to be visiting, as well as what those companies are looking for in candidates and what positions they have available. The Career fair is not only for students looking for co-op, but also students looking for full-time working after graduating, and recent graduates who are seeking full-time employment.

It is important to note that the career fair is a formal affair, and requires serious consideration in terms of dress and preparation. While at the career fair, you should make sure that you dress in a professional manor. Also, be sure to have researched the companies you will be talking to before hand, and have at least a resume to give them during your interaction with them.

(d) Financial Aid

      The office of financial aid is an important resource for students, with the intended purpose of assisting students in finding resources to help pay for school. Information on what your estimated costs, scholarships, loans, student empoyment, and more can be found at www.rit.edu/emcs/financialaid/index.php

(e) Campus Life

One of the best parts of being a student at RIT, or at college in general, is the ability to participate events, join clubs, and learn outside of the classroom.

Events

Every day at RIT has a large number of events going on. While there are too many to list here, some of the more notable events every year include:

- Homecoming
- Freezefest
- Springfest
- Imagine RIT
- Hockey Games

On-campus Living

At RIT, many students live on-campus. This can range from dorms to apartments, and while most housing is on the so-called 'residential side' of campus, the greek mansions and the apartment complexes University Commons and Riverknoll are on 'academic side'. All on-campus living is owned by RIT.

Off-campus Living

Some students choose to live off-campus after their first year of studies. Being in a suburban area, there are a lot of options ranging from apartments downtown to housing options more rural setting. One of the more popular higher-end options is just off campus is The Province, which is almost entirely RIT students. Also, many groups of RIT students rent homes in the surrounding Henrietta.

Clubs

There are over 300 clubs at RIT. No matter what your interest, you are sure to find a club that can help you learn and participate with others. The clubs on campus range from acapella groups, anime club, electronic gaming society, car club, tech crew, and many many more. You can find a full list on thelink.rit.edu

(f) Academic Resources

One of the more common reasons students do not succeed at RIT is that they do not seek out help when they are struggling. RIT works hard to provide students with a lot of resources to succeed at their classes. Some of these resources include:

Advising

From your first day at RIT, you've been assigned at least one advisor. Most programs assign you both a faculty and a staff advisor. These two work together to help you figure out what classes you should take, answer questions about school, and can assist you in being pointed toward the resources you need to be successful. Meeting with you advisor is recommended any time you are unsure about what you should be doing.

Tutoring

Depending on the department and class, many colleges and classes have tutoring available. During regular hours, student and staff tutors are available to assist in studying for tests and quizzes, as well as completing homework. Also, many departments hold large study events for the end of the semester and finals, like the 'Math Crash' where students who attend are provided free food and attend study sessions for their math classes before finals. Many lab classes also have TAs who will hold time outside of the normally scheduled lab time to ensure that students can complete their exercises.

Office Hours

The professors for your classes will almost always have time outside of class where they make themselves available to answer questions and help you with your coursework. These times will vary from professor to professor, and they will typically be help in the professor's office. Taking advantage of office hours is highly recommended and is a great way to get more personal attention for particularly difficult topics

(g) Student Resources

While at RIT, you have a lot of resources available to you. Some of these include:

Academic Support	Academic Support Center CSTEP Student Learning, Support and Planning Higher Education Opportunity Program Honors Program Multicultural Center for Academic Success RIT Libraries
Campus Life	Center for Residence Life Dining Services Housing Operations
Career Guidance and Major Choice	Career Counseling Occupational Outlook Handbook Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education University Studies
College Advising Offices	B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences College of Applied Science and Technology College of Health Sciences and Technology College of Imaging Arts and Sciences College of Liberal Arts College of Science Kate Gleason College of Engineering National Technical Institute for the Deaf Saunders College of Business
Conflict Resolution Resources	Ombuds Office Student Conduct & Conflict Mediation Services
Co-op (Cooperative Education)	Office of Career Services & Cooperative Education
Disability Support Services	Disability Services Office
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services	ACCESS Services NTID Student Life Team

Financial Aid/Billing Questions	Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships Student Financial Services eServices
Global Students & Study	International Student Services Study Abroad English Language Center RIT Global Campuses and Partners
Graduate Study	Office of Graduate Admissions Office of Graduate Studies
Leave of Absence (LOA) Planning	LOA-Student Guide for Considering an LOA (pdf) Student Leave of Absence Policy D02.1
LGBTQIA+ Support	Center for Women and Gender Q Center
Mental/Physical Wellness	Student Health Center Counseling Center Center for Recreation and Intramurals and Wellness Instructional Program RIT Athletics
Parents & Families Resources	Parent and Family Programs
Personal Development	Center for Campus Life Center for Religious Life Center for Women and Gender Clubs and Organizations Counseling Center Multicultural Center for Academic Success Q Center RIT Leadership Institute and Community Service Center
Programs of Study	Majors Minors Online Learning
Public Safety	Public Safety Office

Registrar	GeneSIS Registrar
RIT Policies	Student Policy Library

(4) Conclusion

Hopefully in reading this guide you have learned about what requirements you need to complete your degree here at RIT, as well as some resources that you have available to you. As you work towards your degree keep in mind the help you have available, and work hard so that you can join the ranks of the RIT alumni.

Go Tigers!