Financial aid is money that is available to help students finance the cost of an education. Financial aid comes in the form of grants (money that the student does not have to pay back), loans (money that the student must pay back), and college work-study (money the student earns through employment). Eligibility is determined from the results of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The student and his or her family have the primary responsibility to pay for the student’s education. Financial aid is intended to supplement the difference between the cost of education and the expected family contribution. Several programs are available to help students meet their educational expenses. The Financial Aid Office will calculate financial aid eligibility after receiving FAFSA results and all required documents.

The 2016-2017 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now available! For maximum eligibility, students should file the FAFSA as soon after January 1, 2016 as possible and submit verification documents as soon as requested by RCBC’s Financial Aid Office. Students should have their WebAdvisor account activated and be checking their RCBC email address regularly for important notices from the RCBC Financial Aid Office.

New and continuing students can access the 2016-2017 FAFSA online at fafsa.gov.

The Federal School Code for Rowan College at Burlington County is 007730.

Although students may not have all the updated FAFSA income information and records, estimates can be used based on the previous year’s tax records. Once the accurate financial figures for 2015 are available, the student can go back online at fafsa.gov and do a correction to the 2016-2017 FAFSA.

Please check out the online video “7 Easy Steps to the FAFSA” available on the RCBC Financial Aid homepage rcbc.edu/financialaid for additional assistance in completing the FAFSA.

FAFSA REMINDERS & UPDATES

- A FSA ID gives you access to Federal Students Aid’s online system and can serve as your legal signature. The FSA USER ID has replaced the Federal PIN number. To learn more about the FSA ID please visit fsaid.ed.gov.

- Please make sure that you list RCBC’s School Code (007730) on your FASFA. It will not be pre-filled on your FAFSA application.

- Don’t forget to respond to the additional questions required by the State of New Jersey on the 2016-2107 FAFSA Confirmation Page. This information is required to determine eligibility for the Tuition Aid Grant (TAG), NJ Stars, and EOF.

- If you save a partially completed FAFSA, you have 45 days to return to the website and complete it. If you do not return to the FAFSA website within a week of saving the application, the Department of Education will send you an email or paper reminder that your FAFSA has not been submitted. In order to gain access to your partially saved application, you will need to input the password you created when you initially began the application. If you forget the password you created, you can now reset it online.

RCBC’S FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE IS 007730

*note RCBC could still be listed as BCC on FASFA materials
The IRS Data Retrieval tool is a process that helps streamline the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by allowing online FAFSA filers to pull specific tax return data directly from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). For the 2016-2017 academic year, the IRS data retrieval process is now available and RCB recommends that students take advantage of this. Please keep in mind that using this tool is optional. Since you can complete the FAFSA beginning January 1st (of the year for which you need aid) and because financial aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, you still have the option of estimating taxes for the FAFSA and manually entering your data. However, please note that the retrieval tool will save you time and increase the accuracy of your FAFSA information. Find out if you meet eligibility requirements for the IRS Data Retrieval tool:

For 2016-2017, applicants filing an initial or renewal application or making a correction are eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval tool if he or she meets all of the following criteria:
- Must have valid SSN
- Must have filed a 2015 federal tax return
- Must have unchanged marital status since December 31, 2015

You are not eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool if you and your spouse are currently married but filed separate tax returns or if parents (if student is dependent) file as married filing separately.

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool can be utilized 3 weeks after filing taxes electronically and 8 weeks after filing taxes by paper.

Please check out the online video “IRS Data Retrieval Tutorial” available on the RCB Financial Aid homepage at rcbc.edu/financialaid for additional assistance in completing the FAFSA.

**LOOKING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS?**

The Financial Aid Office compiles information for all local scholarship opportunities and posts this information online. Please view the RCB Financial Aid website and click on the “Scholarships” tab for information on outside scholarships and the Rowan College at Burlington County Foundation Scholarship. The Foundation Scholarships are funded by generous contributions from area corporations, organizations, and individuals. Specific criteria are common to all scholarship categories but good academic standing is required. Scholarships are determined on a semester by semester basis.

New and current Rowan College at Burlington County students in good academic standing may apply for a Foundation Scholarship. Scholarship descriptions and application guidelines are listed online at rcbc.edu/foundation/scholarships. Should you need assistance please call the Foundation office at (856) 222-9311, ext. 2513.

Deadline information and application submission is all able to be reviewed at rcbc.edu/foundation.

**SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS... WHAT IS IT?**

All students receiving student financial aid from federal, state, or institutional sources must make satisfactory academic progress (SAP) at Rowan College at Burlington County (RCBC). SAP is monitored at the end of each semester for students that are aid recipients. SAP measures a student’s performance for all terms of enrollment, including terms in which the student does not receive financial aid. The three requirements measure cumulative grade point average, percent of credits earned relative to those attempted, and percent of attempted credits, including transfer credits, relative to the credits required for program completion.

A financial aid applicant is responsible for knowing the Financial Aid SAP Policy. The Financial Aid Office sends a notification of aid eligibility (or ineligibility) to a student who has been placed on probation or unsatisfactory status. Whether or not a student receives the notification, responsibility for meeting the minimum SAP requirements to qualify for student aid remains with the student. Students who are ineligible for aid may enroll at RCBC if they are able to pay for tuition and fees. The complete SAP Policy can be reviewed online at rcbc.edu/financialaid.
I COMPLETED MY FAFSA... WHAT DO I DO NOW?

Rowan College at Burlington County may need to request additional documentation after initial review of your FAFSA. Students can check to see their status on WebAdvisor. Once logged into WebAdvisor under Communication, and by clicking on My Documents students can view outstanding and incomplete requirements. Some examples of required documents are:

- Selective Service Registration
- High School Diploma/GED
- Copies of Birth Certificates
- Copies of Social Security Card

IF YOU ARE SELECTED FOR VERIFICATION:

One of the more common requirements for students to complete their FASFA is a process called Verification. Verification confirms that the FAFSA was completed accurately, and ensures that students will receive the correct amount of Financial Aid. Generally, students will be asked to complete the following:

- Verification Worksheet (note WebAdvisor/Missing Information will tell which one is required)
- Student Tax Transcripts
- Student W2
- Parents Tax Transcripts (Dependent Students)
- Parents W2s (Dependent Students)

Some students will have to supply additional information. Please check WebAdvisor, or refer to the missing information letter for specific requirements.

Note: Students/Parents must submit Federal Tax Transcripts (not form 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ), which can be obtained at irs.gov, or by requesting them by mail. Transcripts typically arrive by mail in 5 to 10 business days.

WEBADVISOR ACCOUNT

All currently enrolled RCBC students have access to a WebAdvisor account. WebAdvisor is RCBC’s online one-stop-shop for student services and resources. Using WebAdvisor, students can view outstanding requirements, their financial aid award letter, register for courses, view final grades, and view bills. Usernames are always firstnamelastname. For example, John Smith would be john_smith. The default password to WebAdvisor will your birthdate in MMDDYY format.

If you forget your password, you can visit the WebAdvisor login page and select “Main Menu,” then select “Reset my password.” The password will reset to your birthdate in MMDDYY format, followed by the first initial of your first name, and the first initial of your last name. If you birthday was March 25, 1992, and your name John Smith, the password would be 032592js.
Essentially, dependent students must report their parents’ income and assets on the FAFSA in addition to their own. Independent students report their own income and assets (and those of their spouse, if they’re married). Generally, they do not have to report their parents’ income or assets.

In fact, it’s easier to define independent student status first, because dependent student status depends on whether or not you fit independent student status.

**Definition of “Independent Student”**

For federal financial aid eligibility, you are an independent student IF AT LEAST ONE of these criteria applies to you:

- You are 24 years old or older (Born before Jan. 1, 1993 for the 2016-2017 FAFSA)
- You’re married on the day you apply for financial aid (even if you are separated but not divorced).
- You are or will be enrolled in a master’s or doctoral degree program (beyond a bachelor’s degree) at the beginning of the academic year your FAFSA is for.
- You’re currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training.
- You’re a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces. (A “veteran” includes students who attended a U.S. service academy and were released under a condition other than dishonorable.)
- You have children who will receive more than half their support from you during the FAFSA academic year (Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017).
- You have legal dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half their support from you now and through June 30, 2016 for a 2016-2017 FAFSA.
- When you were age 13 or older, both your parents were deceased and you were in foster care or a dependent or ward of the court.
- As of the day you apply for aid, you are an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence.
- As of the day you apply for aid, you are in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence.
- At any time on or after the July before you file your FAFSA, your high school or school district homeless liaison determined that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless.
- At any time on or after the July before you file your FAFSA, the director of an emergency shelter program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determined that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless.
- At any time on or after the July before you file your FAFSA, the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determined that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.

These are the standard criteria for defining an independent student on the FAFSA. If none of them applies to you, you are considered a dependent student. Students should be aware that you are not automatically independent for financial aid purposes simply because your parents stop claiming you as a tax exemption or refuse to give you support for your college education. The unwillingness, inability, or reluctance by parents to help pay for educational costs does not make a student independent for FAFSA purposes. Students becoming emancipated and/or qualifying for in-state tuition does not mean that you are independent for federal financial aid purposes either. In cases where you do not qualify as an independent student but you receive no parental support, RCBC Financial Aid staff can provide you with information about alternative financing and assistance to help you pay for your college expenses.
FACTS PAYMENT PLAN
FACTS is the largest provider of tuition payment plans in the industry, giving students and families from educational institutions at all levels a better way to manage education costs over time. With a FACTS Tuition Payment Plan, you can choose a convenient payment option to suit your needs. Instead of one lump tuition payment, smaller payments can be made over time.

All plans require $25 enrollment fee per semester, and all plans require a registration of six credits.

• If you enroll in FACTS on the first day of registration, and by payment due date, you’ll make a 40% down payment at the time of registration and pay the balance in four additional monthly payments.

• If you enroll in FACTS after the payment due date, and before the first day of classes, you’ll make a 50% down payment at the time of registration and pay the balance in three additional monthly payments.

• If you enroll in FACTS after the first day of class, and by the last day to add classes, you’ll make a 60% down payment at the time of registration and pay the balance in two additional monthly payments.

For more information, please visit rcbc.edu/businessoffice, then click on Payment Plan Options.

For the calendar of semester dates, please visit rcbc.edu/academic-calendar.
NEED FINANCIAL AID ASSISTANCE?

Financial Aid staff is available to help you in person, by telephone, and online. Current students, prospective students, and parents can reach us in whatever mode is most convenient.

IN PERSON:

Mt. Laurel Campus
Laurel Hall, 500 College Circle
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 am – 5 pm
Tuesday & Thursday 9 am – 8 pm

Pemberton Campus
Lewis Parker Center, 601 Pemberton-Browns Mills Rd.
Pemberton, NJ 08068
Monday & Wednesday 8 am – 8 pm
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8 am – 5 pm

Student Services are located in Mt. Laurel and Pemberton to allow you to get more than just your Financial Aid questions answered. Representatives from the Registration Office, Academic Advising, Military Education & Veterans Services, Educational Opportunity Fund, Enrollment Services, and Student Support are available to assist students. The Business Office is also right around the corner.

BY PHONE:

(856) 222-9311, extension 1575

This dedicated Financial Aid hotline can be used Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am – 6 pm and Friday from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.

VIA EMAIL:

You can reach us by email 24 hours a day at financialaid@bcc.edu. Please allow one business day for responses.

FAX:

You can fax missing information to the Financial Aid office at (609) 894-0139. Please be sure to include your name and RCBC ID number on ALL pages.

FINANCIAL AID ACRONYMS

COA – Cost of Attendance is the estimated educational costs for one academic year. The COA includes tuition, fees, books/supplies, room, board, transportation, and personal expenses.

DRT – IRS Data Retrieval Tool

EFC – Expected Family Contribution is the amount a student and his/her family are expected to contribute toward the student’s cost of attendance as calculated by a Federally mandated formula which is defined by law.

FWS – Federal Work-Study Program provides jobs for students who have financial need to earn money to help pay education expenses.

GPA – Grade Point Average is used to determine eligibility for certain financial aid programs.

IRS – Internal Revenue Service information is sometimes needed for the Verification process.

NJ HESAA – New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority is our state’s financial aid for college office (hesaa.org).

NSLDS – The National Student Loan data System is a national database of information including loans and other financial aid awarded to students.

SAR – Student Aid Report is the document sent by the processor of the FAFSA to the student. The SAR contains all information reported by the student on the FAFSA and provides the student’s EFC, which is printed on the front of the SAR.

FINANCIAL AID CENSUS DATE POLICY

In accordance with federal regulations, the Office of Financial Aid will recalculate student aid awards based on the enrollment status as of the published Census Date. The Census Date is typically the end of the 10th day of class for both Fall and Spring terms. Refer to the Deadlines and Updates page for those dates for current and upcoming terms.

Generally, this policy typically coincides with the end of the drop/add period for each semester for the traditional 15-week courses. If you are enrolled and attending less than full-time as of census date, your aid will likely be less than what was reported to you in your initial award letter. This is because students are initially awarded based on the expectation of full-time enrollment. The aid is adjusted on census date to their actual enrollment.

For financial aid purposes, there are generally 4 enrollment levels:

• Full-time (12 or more credits)
• 3/4-time (9 -11 credits)
• 1/2-time (6 - 8 credits)
• Less than 1/2-time (1-5 credits)

If you increase your enrollment level after the census date, you may not be eligible to receive additional financial award increases.

** If a student initially enrolls for the semester after the Census Date, the date of their initial enrollment will be the student’s Census Date for that semester.