

ישיבת תומכי תמימים ליובאוויטש
RABBINICAL COLLEGE
of AMERICA



FINANCIAL AID HANDBOOK

2023-2024

Rabbinical College of America utilizes the services of Higher Education Compliance and Management, a financial aid consulting firm with many years of experience in the field. Rabbinical College of America offers a variety of federal and state financial aid programs to its students. Higher Education Compliance and Management oversees administration of the programs.

Any student who has difficulty in meeting his educational costs at Rabbinical College of America should contact Rabbi Israel Goldberg, Financial Aid Administrator, to learn about the options available to him. These may include grants, scholarships, work-study programs and deferred payment plans.

The financial aid office, which is open during regular business hours, will make a determination as to the expected amount to be paid by the student and his family, and will evaluate what federal and state aid, if any, may be available to the student.

Financial aid packages that may be offered to students include grants and work-study jobs. The school may also offer financial assistance in the form of institutional scholarships to needy students as long as scholarship funds are available. Eligibility for federal programs is determined by an evaluation of the student's financial need, based strictly on the formulas developed by the Department of Education.

A student's financial need is determined by subtracting the contributions expected from the student and his parents from the total cost of education. The total financial aid awarded to a student, usually cannot exceed the student's need. This process is explained in greater detail below.

In order to qualify for federal financial aid programs, a student must:

- be enrolled in an eligible program;
- be a U.S. citizen, or eligible non-citizen;
- utilize all assistance funds for education-related expenses;
- maintain satisfactory progress toward completion of a program of study;
- be a high school graduate or have the recognized equivalent;
- complete a FAFSA and sign the certification statement that he does not owe a refund to any Title IV program, and is not in default on any Title IV loan.

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

To apply for financial aid, a prospective student should complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This form is available at the financial aid office. Alternatively, the student can submit his application through FAFSA on the Web at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

Students may be required to supply additional documentation, such as a Verification Worksheet and/or Tax Returns/IRS Tax Transcripts to verify the information reported on the FAFSA.

Awards are made for one academic year at a time, and are not automatically renewable. Students must reapply each year before the appropriate deadline.

FINANCIAL AID NEED

Title IV federal program eligibility is based on a process called Needs Analysis. The following is a brief explanation of Needs Analysis.

First, a determination is made as to whether the students are independent or dependent on their parents. There are several factors that are taken into account. Students should carefully read the FAFSA and its instructions. Should the students have questions determining their status, the financial aid staff can provide further explanation.

The students themselves are expected to contribute towards their education, using their income and assets. The students' assets (such as savings) are generally considered to be available for the purpose of their education and are expected to be divided among their years of post-secondary education. Allowances are made for expenses such as living allowance based on family size and the number of children in college.

If the student is determined to be dependent on his parents, a parental contribution is assessed. This is the amount that the parents are expected to pay, based on their income and available assets. Allowances are made for expenses such as living allowance based on family size and the number of children in college.

The parental contribution, where applicable, is added to the student contribution, to yield the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Expenses beyond those listed above may be considered under a process known as Professional Judgment. This process can be initiated by parent or

student request after the student's initial eligibility has been determined. Then, the students and/or parents would submit documentation of unusual circumstances, such as significant change in income or loss of employment, death/disability/divorce/separation of a parent, tuition paid for siblings, or unusual medical expenses. These expenses can be taken into account by the financial aid staff to produce an adjusted EFC.

The student's budget or cost of education is calculated based on tuition and fees plus a standard allowance for living expenses, which depends on whether the student lives on campus, with his parents, or has other arrangements. The EFC is then subtracted from the student's total budget. The result is known as the student's "need".

APPLICATION DEADLINE

While applications for Pell Grants may be processed until June 30, 2024, students may be required to submit their application earlier, as the application must be processed while the student is still enrolled. Students are urged to submit their applications as early as possible. Late submissions may delay the processing of a student's application. More important, the funds for some programs are limited and will be distributed with priority given to those students who submit their application in a timely fashion.

Only in some situations can a student update of may be required to update certain types of information that they have entered on their application, i.e. dependency status, household size, and number of family members enrolled in post-secondary education. Be sure to discuss any such changes with the financial aid office.

FEDERAL AID PROGRAMS

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides grants to undergraduate students. These grants do not have to be repaid. This program is an "entitlement" which means that each eligible student who attends an eligible institution and applies on time may receive a Federal Pell Grant. The maximum grant for a fully eligible student is \$7395 per award year, which is 100% of the scheduled award. The amount that each student is eligible for is based on the EFC generated by a federally mandated formula.

Financial aid disbursements in the federal Pell Grant Program are scheduled at the beginning of each semester, provided that all paperwork has been submitted and is complete. A student generally receives half of his scheduled award during the first semester and the second half

during the second semester. Students whose paperwork is completed during the second semester may be paid retroactively for the first semester.

With the availability of Year-Round Pell, students can receive Federal Pell Grant funds for up to 150% of their Pell Grant Scheduled Award for an award year. An eligible student may now receive a Federal Pell Grant for the summer semester, even if he received 100% of his scheduled Federal Pell Grant award during the fall and spring semesters. To be eligible for the additional Pell Grant funds, the student must meet all general eligibility requirements to receive financial aid for the payment period and must be enrolled at least half time (six credits) in the payment period.

Students whose paper work is completed during the second or third semester may be paid retroactively for previous semesters in the same academic year.

The amount of Federal Pell Grant funds a student may receive over his lifetime is limited by federal law to 600%. If a student's lifetime eligibility used (LEU) equals 600%, the student may no longer receive Pell Grant funding.

Payments from the Federal Pell Program will either be made by credit to the student's tuition account or by direct disbursement to the student. Students will be informed in writing of the expected amount of these payments. Students may inspect their tuition records during regular business hours at the business office.

The Campus-Based Programs are a group of programs funded under Title IV. The campus-based programs in which the institution participates are:

- FSEOG - Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants
- FWS - Federal Work Study

In these programs, fixed sums are allocated to each school based on its size and other factors. The institution then analyzes the need of all eligible financial aid applicants whose paperwork is completed in a timely manner, and determines an equitable distribution of the funds available in a process known as "packaging." Students who apply after the initial packaging deadlines, (as posted in school), may be too late to receive any funds from these programs.

The Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant is a Campus-Based grant program available to undergraduate students. Awards, when available, can range from \$100 to \$4,000.

Financial aid disbursements in the FSEOG Program are scheduled at the beginning of each semester, provided that all paperwork has been submitted and is complete. A student generally receives one half of his scheduled award during the first semester and the second half during the second semester. Students who complete their paperwork during the second semester may be paid retroactively for the first semester. However, students should keep in mind the strong likelihood that there may be limited FSEOG funds available by that time. FSEOG must be packaged while the student is enrolled.

Payments from the FSEOG program will be made by credit to the student's tuition account. Generally, the funds are matched 25% non-federal funds to 75% federal funds. However, if in a particular academic year the institution is granted a waiver of the institutional share requirement, the institution may choose not to provide the institutional match. Students will be informed of the expected amounts of these payments, and may inspect their tuition records during regular hours at the business office.

The Federal Work Study Program is an employment program. Funds are allocated to schools as part of the campus-based programs as explained above. Eligible students are offered part-time employment. The financial aid office, in consultation with the faculty, determines if a student is eligible for employment, based on his ability to fulfill his academic responsibilities with the added burden of employment. Employment is also contingent on student qualifications for the positions available.

Federal Work Study disbursements are in the form of payrolls, distributed monthly during the duration of the student's work schedule. FWS funds will be paid to the student. Generally, the funds are matched 25% institutional funds to 75% federal funds. However, if in a particular academic year the institution is granted a waiver of the institutional share requirement, the institution may choose not to provide the institutional match.

TAG

The Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) Program provides eligible undergraduate students who are New Jersey residents with grants to enable them to pay tuition and other educational costs for attendance at Rabbinical College of America.

New applicants for the TAG Program must submit their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by September 15, 2023 to be considered for fall and spring awards. New applicants who apply by February 15, 2024 will be considered for spring awards only. Renewal applications

for TAG for fall and spring awards must be submitted by April 15, 2023. Renewal applicants who apply by February 15, 2024 will be considered for spring awards only.

The New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application allows New Jersey Dreamers enrolled in eligible New Jersey colleges and universities to apply for state financial aid.

Complete this application if you are not a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen and meet all of the following criteria:

- Attended a New Jersey high school for at least three (3) years
- Graduated from a New Jersey high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in New Jersey
- Are able to file an affidavit stating that you have filed an application to legalize your immigration status or will file an application as soon you are eligible to do so

Additional information regarding the TAG Program is available from the financial aid office.

Payments from the TAG Program will be made by credit to the student's tuition account. Generally, one half of the TAG grant is paid at the beginning of each semester. Students may inspect their tuition records at the business office during regular business hours.

STUDENT LOANS

The Federal Direct Loan program offers loans to students, which must be paid back with interest, to help cover their education related expenses. There are two categories of direct loans, subsidized, where the government pays the interest that accrues while the student is in school and unsubsidized, where the student is responsible for the interest that accrues while he is in school. Loans are only given to students who demonstrate willingness to repay. Direct PLUS loans are unsubsidized direct loans which are given to the parents of an eligible student who would like to help pay for the student's expenses in this manner. Although the school is eligible to participate in the federal loan programs, the school discourages students and parents from taking out Title IV loans. The school encourages its students to apply for the federal, state, and institutional financial aid grant programs before considering the option of student loans and makes every effort to assist students with their direct educational needs. Students who are considering taking out loans should contact the financial aid office for a detailed list of eligibility requirements, available loan amounts, and sample repayment schedules.

INSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Institutional scholarships may be available to students who have exhausted all other avenues of assistance and are still unable to pay their direct educational charges.

The family is expected to contribute towards the student's education, based upon their ability to pay, as determined by formulae explained above. Students who apply for other types of financial aid will automatically be considered for institutional scholarships. Those who do not apply to other programs may contact the financial aid office to apply for institutional scholarships.