

Requirements for Admission

Applicants with a high school cumulative GPA of 2.25 or higher in college preparatory courses are normally given regular admission if their college entrance test scores meet the following guidelines:

Minimum College Entrance Exam Scores for Admission

ACT Score (#2072) Composite Score 18

SAT Score (#1516) New SAT (effective March 2016) 940

Rochester College does not require the writing section of the ACT or SAT. However, prospective students are encouraged to take the writing section if they are interested in pursuing a degree in teacher education. The ACT is administered several times throughout the year. Registration forms are generally available from high school counselors or online at www.act.org. Registration information for the SAT is also available from high schools and at www.sat.org.

Applicants whose high school records, college records, or ACT/SAT results do not meet regular admission standards or who did not take the ACT/SAT exam may be admitted to Rochester College if there is other evidence of academic promise. Students who are granted conditional admission cannot register for more than 15 credit hours per semester and are required within the first two weeks of classes to attend an appointment with the director of the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) who will assist in creating an academic plan for the semester. Students who fail to do so are subject to suspension from classes until the appointment is set and attended. After creating an academic plan at the required appointment, students must attend special advising sessions throughout the semester. Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA at the end of each semester in order to sustain an acceptable academic standing at the institution.

Home-Schooled Students

Rochester College recognizes and values the educational experience of home-schooled students. These students are welcomed and encouraged to apply for admission through the process described above. The admissions criteria for home-schooled students are the same as for students who graduate from traditional high schools.

The following information is required from home-schooled students who wish to take courses at Rochester College before their graduation:

- Verification of home-school status and course work
- Home-schooled, Dual Enrollment, or Guest Student Application

First Time in College (FTIAC)

High school graduates with fewer than 15 credit hours of college credit are required to meet the following criteria for unconditional admission to Rochester College: a minimum 2.25 cumulative high school GPA and a minimum ACT composite score of 18 or new SAT score (effective March 2016) of 940. Additional consideration may be given to component scores on each test. Students who did not graduate from high school may be admitted unconditionally if they earned a minimum GED score of 680 with no single test below 170 (GED scores prior to 2014 must be at least 2250 with no single test below 410) and meet the minimum ACT or SAT score.

Transfer Students and Residency Requirements

Transfer students from other colleges or universities must provide official transcripts from each institution by the end of their first semester of enrollment and complete the steps listed under admissions procedures (above). ACT or SAT scores are not required of students who have earned 16 or more college credit hours. Transfer students must have earned a minimum 2.25 cumulative GPA in their college course work for unconditional admission to Rochester College. Rochester College grants credit for courses completed at regionally accredited colleges, schools accredited by the Association of Biblical Higher Education, or a select list of voluntarily unaccredited institutions when course grades are C- (1.7 on a four-point scale) or higher. Applicants should note that standards within individual majors may be higher. Composition A and B are exceptions; to transfer either of these classes, a minimum grade of C is required. Up to 30 hours of lower division credit might also be transferred from other unaccredited programs (see the section of this catalog titled "Non-traditional Credit"); these are subject to validation by the relevant academic department(s) at Rochester College and by a probationary semester of full-time coursework in which the student achieves a GPA of C (2.0 on a four-point scale) or higher. Students cannot receive transfer credit for developmental or remedial coursework taken at other institutions.

Students receive a transfer evaluation based on unofficial and/or official transcripts, prior to admittance. Admitted students have one semester to send official transcripts to the admissions office. A registration hold is placed on a student's account at the end of their first semester if official transcripts are not received. Transfer evaluations for traditional students are final as of the Census date (Census date is the second Friday of each semester; transfer evaluations for students in an accelerated program are final as of the session start date. Transfer hours are permanent once they are posted as credit (CR) to a student's Rochester College transcript; changes are not permitted.

Students whose prior academic experience includes coursework completed outside the United States or Canada must provide a transcript evaluation from a third-party evaluation company. For more information about evaluation of international transcripts, see "Transferring Credit for International Students." Credit received on a basis other than the semester unit will be converted to semester hours. Transfer credit counts as upper-level credit only if the course has junior or senior status at the institution where it was taken.

Transfer students may transfer up to 45 credit hours toward the Associate Degree or 90 hours toward the Bachelor's degree. For any degree, at least 50% of a student's major and minor core must be earned at Rochester College. In addition, once a student has reached senior status and completed 90 hours of coursework, no more than six hours of transfer work will be accepted. Transfer credit is not applied toward the calculation of students' Rochester College GPA. This policy is referred to as a "residency requirement" and is a standard practice at institutions of higher learning.

Rochester College participates in the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA). In order to fulfill the agreement, students must successfully complete at least 30 credits with at least a 2.0 grade point average in each course and present an official transcript bearing the "MTA Satisfied" designation. These credits, which will be certified by a Michigan community college, should be met according to the following distributions:

- 1 course in English Composition
- A second course in English Composition or 1 course in Communications
- 1 course in Mathematics from one of three pathways: College Algebra, Statistics, or Quantitative Reasoning.
- 2 courses in Social Sciences (from two disciplines).

- 2 courses in Humanities and Fine Arts (from two disciplines excluding studio and performance classes).
- 2 courses in Natural Sciences including one with laboratory experience (from two disciplines)

In keeping with the Christian liberal arts philosophy of Rochester College, students will be required to complete coursework in the following areas in addition to the MTA:

- 9 hours of Theological Literacy core (6 hours if transferring more than 29 hours).
- ENG 1123 Composition B

Transfer students should verify MTA requirements and course selection with their community college advisor.

The MTA applies only to general education requirements and does not exempt students from meeting requirements of their specific program, major, or other graduation requirements at Rochester College. Students should check the college's academic catalog to determine if any courses required for their major can be used to satisfy MTA.

Transferees who hold a bachelor's degree from another regionally accredited college or university are exempt from all general education requirements except for the Christian Values requirement and any specific general education courses or pre-requisites required for a major. All students must satisfy the writing proficiency requirement, which is outlined in the 'Academics' section.

Early Admission

High school students are eligible for early admission as full-time students at Rochester College based on the following criteria: completion of junior year of high school with a CGPA of 3.00 or higher and an ACT score of 21 or higher. Early admission students must make arrangements with their school districts to earn their high school diplomas or a satisfactory score on the General Equivalency Diploma (GED). The high school diploma or GED must be earned by the end of the second semester of enrollment at Rochester College. Students who have not earned a high school diploma or GED are not eligible for federal financial aid.

Dual Enrollment

(HIGH SCHOOL AND ROCHESTER COLLEGE)

High school students, after completion of their sophomore year, may dual-enroll at Rochester College and take lower division general education courses or, with permission of the appropriate department chair, other lower division courses. Dual enrollment provides a great opportunity to experience the college environment and earn college credits while completing the high school diploma. Students should consult their high school counselors to determine how college credits may apply toward their high school diploma requirements. Students who dual-enroll are granted a fifty percent (50%) tuition discount, are not required to pay the student support fee, and are not eligible for financial aid. This tuition discount is available for up to six semesters prior to the time the student completes the requirements for the high school diploma. Dual-enrolled students may enroll for no more than 11 credit hours of course work per semester.

Early College

Rochester College partners with area school districts to provide a rigorous early college program which allows high school students to receive college credits while still in high school. The early college program offers various avenues for receiving college credit:

- The Early College five-year program offers both online and face-to-face instruction to enable students to earn their high school diploma and college credits up to an Associate Degree. Students have the opportunity to earn up to 64 college credits from Rochester College. Courses can be taken at the high school, online, and/or on the campus of Rochester College
- Enhanced dual enrollment through early college allows students to take Rochester College courses at their high school for college credit

Current school districts participating in the Rochester College early college program are Oxford School District, Madison School District, L'Anse Cruese School District, West Bloomfield School District, and Fraser School District. Students should check with their high school regarding the early college application process.

Re-Enrollment

To return to Rochester College after an absence of 12 or more months, students must complete the online application for admission (rc.edu/apply) and submit it to the Enrollment Services office. Once the application for admission is received, Enrollment Services will process it and contact Academic Services, Student Financial Services and the Center for Student Life to make them aware of the student's desire to return to RC. If the student was suspended or dismissed for academic, financial, or social reasons, Academic Services, Student Financial Services and the Center for Student Life must approve the student's re-admission to Rochester College. Students who re-enroll after an absence of 12 or more months may only be re-admitted under the latest degree plan offered for the degree and major being pursued.

Accelerated Learning

Admission Requirements

Students seeking admission to Rochester College's Accelerated Learning program must be 21 years of age or older, or must have at least three years of work experience, or must have completed an academic program at a host institution (Macomb Community College, Oakland Community College, Mott Community College, or Specs Howard School of Media Arts). Unconditional admission is granted to transfer students who have earned a minimum of a 2.25 cumulative GPA from regionally accredited colleges or universities. Students without college experience may be granted unconditional admission with a 2.25 high school GPA or an earned GED. Students who do not meet these criteria may be granted conditional acceptance by appealing in writing to the director of accelerated learning. The minimum GED score prior to 2002 is 50. Beginning in 2002, the requirement is a minimum total score of 2,250 with no single test score below 410.

Prospective students who do not meet the regular GPA admission requirements may submit a written petition to the director of accelerated learning for provisional admission (academic alert). The written petition must include a rationale for why the applicant believes s/he will succeed in a challenging, accelerated program. Students who are approved to be provisionally admitted on academic alert are limited to 13 credit hours the first semester.

Provisionally admitted students must complete a minimum of 12 credit hours at Rochester College with a GPA of 2.0 or higher in order to be taken off of academic alert and returned to good standing academic status.

Policy for Concurrent Enrollment in Traditional and Accelerated Programs

Traditional students may take any accelerated learning course, provided the students have met the prerequisites of the course or program. The traditional tuition rate will still be charged.

Accelerated learning students may take any traditional course, provided the students have met the prerequisites of the course or program. The traditional tuition rate will be charged for that course.

Crossover enrollment between the accelerated learning and traditional programs is permitted on a space available basis. Traditional students taking accelerated learning courses may not displace Accelerated learning students and vice versa. Determination regarding available space will be made no later than the day preceding the start of the course(s) in question.

International Students

Students who receive their secondary education outside of the United States must demonstrate their ability to perform college-level work in the U.S.

Required Items

1. Submit the admissions application. You can complete the application online at rc.edu/apply. The application deadline is June 1 for the fall semester, and November 1 for the spring semester.
2. Submit official original transcripts, which must be in English, showing that you have successfully completed 12 years of education (U.S. high school equivalent). These credentials must display your ability to perform college-level work in the United States. If your official transcripts are not in English, they must be evaluated and certified by a third party evaluation company such as World Education Services, Inc. or Educational Credentials Evaluators, Inc. The transcripts should be in a course-by-course format. Photocopies are not acceptable. If you have completed college coursework and wish to transfer those credits to RC, you must also submit original transcripts from the college or university you attended. See the section "Transferring Credit" below for information on how to have transcripts evaluated and certified.
3. All student visa applicants born in a country whose native language* is not English must submit "official test documentation" of English language proficiency by submitting one of the following:
 - a. Student visa applicants residing outside of the United States and Canada need to take the "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (TOEFL) and score at least:
 - 520 on the paper based test
 - 190 on the computer based test
 - 68 on the Internet based test

You must also have official results mailed from TOEFL directly to Rochester College. The TOEFL website (www.toefl.org) has information on registration and testing locations. The DI Code for Rochester College is 1516.

- b. Student visa applicants already residing in the United States or in Canada should take the Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB) and score 70 or above.

- c. Student visa applicants need to successfully complete Level 112 at an ELS Language Center in the U.S. or one of eighteen other countries. The ELS Language Center website (www.els.com) has information on registration and center locations.

Once Rochester College receives all the required items described above, applications are evaluated. If you are accepted, you will receive an official letter of acceptance. All students educated outside the U.S. or Canada automatically enter Rochester College on academic alert, which may limit the number of hours for which they can enroll.

Transferring Credit for International Students

College coursework from institutions not in the U.S. or Canada may be accepted for transfer credit. Coursework should be evaluated by a third party evaluation company that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), such as World Education Services, Inc. or Educational Credentials Evaluators, Inc. The expense for transcript evaluation is the responsibility of the applicant.

World Education Services, Inc. (WES)

www.wes.org

Educational Credentials Evaluators

www.ece.org

In order to receive full credit, applicants should select a course-by-course evaluation.

*A native language is a language that is acquired naturally during childhood and is usually spoken at home, as opposed to a language that is learned later in life as, for example, part of a person's formal education.

International student athletes are encouraged to have their coursework evaluated by Incred International Credential Evaluations (www.playnaia.org), as they will also determine a student's eligibility for the NAIA.

Verification of Financial Resources and Student Account Payment for International Students

The details of the cost of attendance at Rochester College, financial documentation required, and tuition payment schedule are contained in the International Student Statement of Finances, which can be obtained from the Admissions Office. Once your ability to pay for your education at Rochester College has been established and your deposit is received by the Admissions Office, the college will issue a SEVIS Form I-20, which you use to apply for a student visa (F-1).

Immigration Procedures

When you have been accepted into Rochester College and all required financial statements and deposits have been received, the college issues an I-20, a Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Students that is used to show reason for entry into the United States and is, in effect, an invitation to attend school. When you have received the I-20 from Rochester College, you must make an appointment at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate closest to you to apply for an F-1 student visa. It is important to understand that the nature of an F-1 student visa assumes that you will return to your home country upon completion of studies and any authorized practical training. Each country is different in how it processes student visas.

It may be possible to make an appointment prior to receiving the I-20 as long as you have it in your possession at the time of the appointment. Please contact the embassy or consulate nearest you for specific details. Also note that in many countries several attempts are required to receive an F-1 student visa, so be prepared to try again if your application is initially denied. When you have been granted an F-1 student visa by the embassy or consulate, please contact us to confirm when you will be starting school and whether you need assistance with travel plans to Michigan.

On-campus work is authorized under the F-1 visa for a maximum of 20 hours per week while school is in session and full time when school is out of session if a position is available. Off-campus employment is generally not available to F-1 students except through application to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Financial Aid for International Students

No state or federal aid is available to international students who are in the United States on student visas. However, international students are eligible to receive institutional scholarships for athletics and academics, as well as other tuition discounts from Rochester College.

Academic scholarships for international students are very limited due to the lack of equivalent measure for academic ability. Most institutional scholarships are based upon the results of one of two standardized tests used in the U.S., the ACT or SAT, and high school grade point average. Since international students do not automatically take these tests, we do not require either for admission. However, if an international student decides to take either the ACT or SAT and have the scores sent to Rochester College, she/he will be considered for academic scholarships. Information on the ACT or SAT and the nearest testing center can be found at www.act.org or www.collegeboard.org. No other standardized academic test is accepted.

Institutional scholarships and tuition discounts are awarded by the admissions department and are based on the applicant's academic credentials and need.

Guest Students

A student is classified as a guest student in the following circumstances:

- The student is enrolled at another college or university.
- The student is not seeking a degree from Rochester College.
- The student is auditing a course.

Guest students must pay normal tuition and course fees or the audit fee and are not eligible for institutional, state or federal aid.

Those who are students at another college or university must fill out a Michigan Uniform Undergraduate Guest Application. Those who are not students at another college or university must fill out a Guest Student Application for both the traditional and accelerated programs and select "Non-Degree Seeking" for program or major. There is no application fee for guest students.

Guest students should be aware of the following:

1. Guest students attending another institution are responsible to ensure that they have successfully completed the pre-requisites to any course they are taking, if applicable. Guest students who are not attending another institution must produce evidence that they have completed pre-requisites to any course they are taking, if applicable.

2. Guest students who attend another college or university must request that their RC grades and credits be sent to their home college or university via a normal transcript request. Transferability of courses should be pre-determined by the student with his or her home institution.
3. Guest students who wish to take more than six hours in a semester, decide to begin working toward fulfillment of a Rochester College degree plan, or have accumulated 12 or more hours as a guest student must apply for admission to be enrolled as a regular student if they wish to continue taking additional Rochester College course work. Guest students may appeal these restrictions in writing to the provost.
4. Guest students are subject to the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy.