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## WHAT IS HEOP?

Originally established in 1969, the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) provides access to higher education at independent colleges and universities for “educationally and academically disadvantaged” students in New York State. HEOP is one of several programs—SEEK, EOP, College Discovery—designed to meet the special needs of students from disadvantaged backgrounds. In July 2007, HEOP was renamed in honor of Arthur O. Eve, the State Legislator who was initially responsible for obtaining the funding to establish opportunity programs.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for HEOP you must meet all of the following conditions:

1. Have been a resident of New York State for one year preceding your term of entry into HEOP.
2. Possess a high school diploma or a State-approved equivalency diploma or its equivalent. The equivalent of a general equivalency diploma is defined as being one of the following:
  - a) An Armed Forces Equivalency Diploma, with a minimum score of 40 on each test section and a minimum composite score of 225;
  - b) A level of knowledge and academic ability equal to the level required for entrance to the educational opportunity program at the institution to which the individual seeks admission.

Be educationally disadvantaged. An educationally disadvantaged student is one who otherwise would not be accepted as a matriculated student under the institution's normal admissions standards in the degree program for which application is made.

Have the potential and motivation for successful completion of college.

Be economically disadvantaged. A student is economically disadvantaged if he or she is a member of a household whose annual income does not exceed the applicable amount set forth by the New York State Education Department.

Have been in an approved opportunity program (if a transfer student).

To apply for admission to the Higher Education Opportunity Program at Rochester Institute of Technology, you may complete the online application ([www.rit.edu/admissions](http://www.rit.edu/admissions)) or call the Admissions Office at (585) 475-6631 to request an application.

## IF ACCEPTED—WHAT NEXT?

**Summer Program.** All incoming freshmen must attend a summer orientation program. Students live on campus while taking selected courses including writing, math, study skills, self & society and reading. They also attend cultural and social activities sponsored by RIT.

HEOP counselors meet weekly with each new student. Peer and professional tutors and the use of computer, writing and math labs also help students with the completion of classroom assignments. Summer tuition, room, board, and other costs are at **no charge** to the student.

**Supportive Services.** During the summer and academic year, supportive services take many forms:

- a) **Remedial and Developmental Courses.** If you need additional academic assistance to prepare you for college-level work, HEOP can meet your academic needs. Before you begin your classes, the HEOP professional staff will evaluate your academic strengths and weaknesses, and design a specific academic program to help eliminate your academic deficiencies. You will have the opportunity to take noncredit and credit remedial/developmental courses. These courses provide instruction in basic skills, reading, writing, vocabulary, mathematics, and other areas of study.

**Tutorial Services.** HEOP provides you with tutorial services to assist you with your academic courses. Tutorial services are conducted on a one-to-one basis or in groups, depending upon your needs. Some tutors are competent, experienced HEOP students and some are professional tutors.

- c) **Counseling Services.** Counseling services are provided by the HEOP staff on an individual or group basis to assist you with any problems which may interfere with your academic work. You will receive the following types of counseling:

**Academic** - The HEOP counselor will assist you in selecting your academic major and courses. You can take a reduced course load during your first semester. You are also given an extra year of eligibility to graduate.

**Personal** - Adjustment to college life often presents many new problems for HEOP students. Counseling helps you develop your self-confidence, identity, and a positive attitude about learning.

**Career** - Students are often undecided about what to do after graduation. The HEOP staff will assist you in making career choices. Career counseling will help you in selecting the necessary courses to prepare you for employment or postgraduate study.

## FRESHMAN APPLICANTS?

### Academic Documentation

The following ACADEMIC information should be submitted by February 1 to the **RIT Admissions Office**:

A completed RIT Application Packet which includes official transcript(s)  
SAT or ACT scores  
Guidance counselor's letter of recommendation  
Personal statement

#### Important Note:

*Remember to check the box that indicates you are applying for admission through HEOP. Write "HEOP—Waive Fee" across the top of the application. This allows you not to pay the application fee.*

### Economic Documentation

The following ECONOMIC information should be submitted, at least, by mid-February but no later than March 1, directly to the **HEOP Office**. Remember, all totals are based on your household's previous year's income. Where applicable, complete and mail **signed** photocopies of the following documentation:

Parents' Federal 1040, 1040A or 4506 **signed** income tax forms  
Social Services Verification for all recipients in the household  
Social Security Benefits Statement(s) for all recipients in the household  
Notarized Child Support Statement for all recipients in the household  
Unemployment and/or Pension Summary for all recipients in the household  
Foster Care Documentation, including total living expenses  
Other income related documentation, if requested

### Financial Aid Documentation

*Before* submitting the following required financial aid forms to the specified processing center, send **signed** copies to the HEOP Office. Students should also retain copies for their personal records.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Additionally, if you are a resident alien, please include a copy of your green card (both sides).

### Personal Interview

All eligible freshman applicants must complete a personal interview held from January through March. During the interview session, students will participate in a general overview session; submit any missing financial documentation; and meet individually with a HEOP representative.

After completing the entire application process, those students selected for entry through HEOP will be notified officially by Admissions.

## TRANSFER APPLICANTS?

**Transfer students must be admitted to an RIT academic program prior to admission to HEOP. Remember to check the HEOP box on the RIT application.**

To transfer to RIT through HEOP, students must currently be or previously have been enrolled in an approved HEOP, EOP, SEEK or College Discovery Program. Transfer admission for HEOP is on a space available basis. Remember, potential RIT transfer students must be admitted through HEOP *before* beginning their first quarter of study.

**Important Note:** *General admission to RIT does not ensure admission through HEOP. In filling out the Admission Application, remember to check the box that indicates you are applying for admission through HEOP. Write "HEOP—Waive Fee" across the top of the application. This allows you not to pay the application fee.*

Before HEOP can approve admission, the following information must be forwarded directly to the HEOP Office:

**HEOP Transfer Application.** Once the RIT-HEOP Office is aware of your decision to transfer, this form will be sent to your present college's program office.

**RIT Credit Evaluation.** This form details the number of quarters needed for graduation, institutions attended and credits awarded from **ALL** previous academic institutions.

Once all documentation has been received and the student has been accepted, HEOP will send a letter of confirmation.