

FY25 EOF Graduate Grant Application Training

New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE)
Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)

OSHE/EOF Central Office Staff

Dr. Hasani Carter

Hasani.Carter@oshe.nj.gov

Peter Collazo

Peter.Collazo@oshe.nj.gov

Hema Patel

Hema.Patel@oshe.nj.gov

Catherine Sackey

Catherine.Sackey@oshe.nj.gov

Dr. Stephanie Shanklin

Stephanie.Shanklin@oshe.nj.gov

OSHE Finance

Tiffany Hazzard

Tiffany.Hazzard@oshe.nj.gov

Kevin Kobylowski

Kevin.Kobylowski@oshe.nj.gov

Overview



EOF Mission
and Purpose



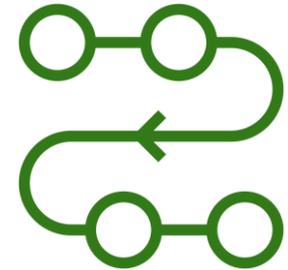
EOF Graduate
Student
Eligibility



Verification of
Financial
Eligibility &
Duration of
Student
Eligibility



EOF
Graduate
Grant Award
Amounts



EOF Graduate
Grant Application
and Awarding
Process

EOF Mission and Purpose

NJ Educational Opportunity Fund



New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund created by law in **1968**



For students from educationally and economically disadvantaged backgrounds attending institutions of higher education in NJ

EOF Provides



Student support services
UG summer bridge program, advising/counseling, tutoring, developmental coursework, academic enrichment activities, student leadership development



Financial Assistance

EOF By The Numbers

14,000+

Undergraduate
Student
Enrollment

350

Graduate
Student
Enrollment

41

Participating
Institutions

70

EOF Campus
Programs

1,700+

EOF Campus
Staff
Members

Participating Institutions & Campus Programs

HASANI CARTER	PETER COLLAZO	HEMA PATEL	STEPHANIE SHANKLIN
Email: hasani.carter@oshe.nj.gov	Email: peter.collazo@oshe.nj.gov	Email: hema.patel@oshe.nj.gov	Email: stephanie.shanklin@oshe.nj.gov
Rutgers University - Camden	County College of Morris	Bergen Community College	Atlantic Cape Community College
Rutgers University - College of Nursing	Felician University	Brookdale Community College	Caldwell University
Rutgers University - Graduate Bio-medical	Middlesex College	Essex County College	Camden County College
Rutgers University - Graduate Education Prep	Monmouth University	Fairleigh Dickinson University - Florham	Centenary University
Rutgers University - Graduate Studies (except Bio-medical)	Ramapo College of New Jersey	Fairleigh Dickinson University - Metropolitan	Drew University
Rutgers University - New Jersey Medical School	Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine (SOM) - Graduate (Only)	Hudson County Community College	Georgian Court University
Rutgers University - Newark	Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine (SOM) - Pre-Matric	Kean University	Montclair State University
Rutgers University - ODAIS	Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine (SOM) - Summer Prep	Mercer County Community College	Montclair State University - Bloomfield
Rutgers University - Office of EOF Administration	Rowan University - Camden	New Jersey City University	Montclair State University - Health Careers Program
Rutgers University - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School	Rowan University - Cooper Medical School - Graduate (Only)	New Jersey Institute of Technology	Rider University
Rutgers University - School of Arts and Sciences (New Brunswick)	Rowan University - Cooper Medical School - PULSE Program	Ocean County College	Rowan College at Burlington County
Rutgers University - School of Engineering	Rowan University - Glassboro	Passaic County Community College	Rowan College of South Jersey - Cumberland
Rutgers University - School of Environmental and Biological Sciences	Rowan University - Graduate Bio-medical	Raritan Valley Community College	Rowan College of South Jersey - Gloucester
Rutgers University - School of Health Professions	Saint Peter's University	Sussex County Community College	Seton Hall - Law
Rutgers University - School of Pharmacy	Salem Community College	The College of New Jersey	Seton Hall University - Main
Rutgers University - Summer Grads	St. Elizabeth University	Union College of Union County, NJ	Seton Hall University - Pre-Legal
	Stevens Institute of Technology	Warren County Community College	Seton Hall University - Pre-Med/Pre-Dent Plus
	William Paterson University		Stockton University - Atlantic City
			Stockton University - Galloway

EOF Graduate Student Eligibility (9A:11-3.2, p.19)

EOF & Graduate Students

“The overall objective of the graduate EOF program is to increase the participation of New Jersey residents from backgrounds of historical poverty in graduate and professional study. Priority in granting EOF graduate grants shall be given to students who received EOF undergraduate grants.” (9A:11-3.1, p.19)

EOF is **not** an
entitlement grant

Admission into EOF is
facilitated **by the EOF**
campus program

Student Eligibility (9A:11-3.2) (Part 1)

(a) **Eligible students shall have economic backgrounds that reflect a history of poverty** as described in N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.2(b)1 through 5.

(b) **Students who received Article III EOF grants as undergraduates shall be given priority consideration for Article III graduate grants.** These students are presumed to have met the financial eligibility criteria (as outlined in N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.3) for graduate EOF as long as they continue to demonstrate financial need.

Student Eligibility (9A:11-3.2) (Part 2)

(c) To be initially eligible for an EOF Article III graduate student grant, a student must demonstrate that they:

1. Meet N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.2 and 2.3, which are the Tuition Aid Grant and Garden State Scholarship **programs' rules governing residency**, and noncitizens and resident aliens, respectively;

2. **Meet the financial criteria** established in N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.3, "Financial eligibility for initial Article III student grants";

3. **Is or will be a full-time graduate student** as defined by the institution offering the graduate program of study; and

4. **Is admitted to and enrolled full-time as defined by the participating institution in a curriculum leading to a graduate degree or certificate at an institution participating in the Fund**, provided that the student has not already received a graduate or professional degree at the same level of study for which he or she is applying. Graduate degree and certificate programs must have a minimum requirement equivalent to 24 semester hours and be at least one academic year in duration.

Student Eligibility (9A:11-3.2) (Part 3)

(d) Students shall not receive assistance under the programs administered by the Board if they owe a refund on a grant or scholarship previously received from a State or Federal program through any institution or are in default on any loan made under any State or Federal student financial assistance program at any institution. However, such students may receive State financial assistance if they make satisfactory repayment arrangements with the appropriate office.

(e) Students attending **out-of-State institutions are not eligible** for Article III graduate grants.

(f) Students **shall not receive an initial graduate grant in their last semester** of enrollment.

Independent students who failed to meet the financial criteria while in undergrad do not automatically gain the ability to become financially eligible for EOF once they have graduated with their bachelor's degree. Since most graduate students have the ability to be classified as an independent student, **the applicant must demonstrate a family history of historical poverty.**

Student Eligibility Residency Requirement

Students must be legal residents of New Jersey for a period of not less than 12 consecutive months immediately prior to the academic period for which aid is being requested. The residence of a student is defined in terms of domicile. (9A:2.2: Residency)

Domicile is defined as the place where a person has his or her true, fixed, permanent home and principal establishment, and to which, whenever her or she is absent, he or she has the intention of returning

A student may not establish State residence solely for the purposes of attending a particular college and will not be considered as fulfilling the definition of domicile for the purposes of State student financial aid

Institutions that certify a student's state of legal residence shall maintain documentation concerning the student's New Jersey residency and shall provide this certified documentation, if requested by the EOF Central Office

Verification of Financial Eligibility (9A:11-3.3, p.20)

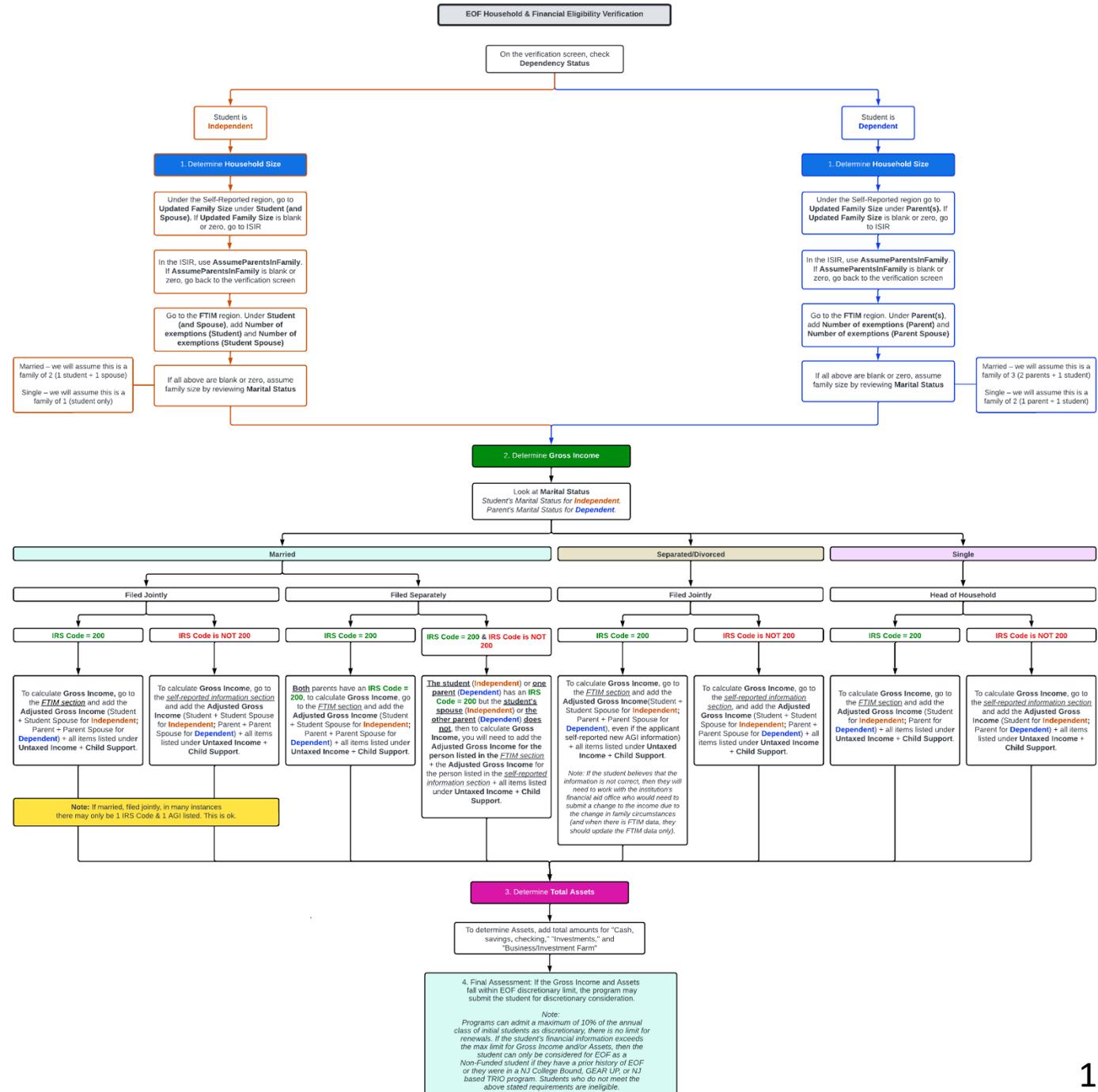
EOF Student Eligibility

- Must demonstrate an economically disadvantaged background
- Must be a New Jersey resident 12 consecutive months prior to receiving the award
- Must apply and be accepted to a participating New Jersey college or university
- Must meet the academic criteria as set by the institution of choice
- Must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application
- Gross Income and Assets must fall within the EOF financial eligibility range

2024-2025 EOF Income Eligibility Scale with Asset Cap Calculation

Applicants with a Household Size of	Gross Income (Not to Exceed)	Max. Asset Cap (Not to Exceed)
1	\$29,160	\$5,832
2	\$39,440	\$7,888
3	\$49,720	\$9,944
4	\$60,000	\$12,000
5	\$70,280	\$14,056
6	\$80,560	\$16,112
7	\$90,840	\$18,168
8	\$101,120	\$20,224
***	Add \$10,280 for each additional family member	Add \$2,056 for each additional family member

Verifying Financial Eligibility in NJFAMS



EOF & Graduate Students

When a student receives an EOF graduate grant, **the institution shall verify the income and assets of all applicants.**

If earnings are not the source of an initial awardee's income as described above, the file shall contain appropriate verified documentation on which to base the award (for example, statements from the public assistance agency, Social Security Administration, Division of Child Protection and Permanency, Veterans Administration, or other appropriate administrative agency), regardless of the awardee's dependency status.

In all cases, files must contain the relevant data for determining initial eligibility, such as household size, annual income, and sources of income and assets

Duration of Student Eligibility (9A:11-3.5, p.20-21)

Duration of EOF Graduate Grant Eligibility (Part 1)

(a) To retain eligibility for an Article III graduate grant, students shall comply with the Tuition Aid Grant and Garden State Scholarship programs' rule at N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.4, Eligibility and repayments, in accordance with the Board's annually established deadline dates.

(b) **No student shall be eligible for an Article III graduate grant for more than 10 semesters; however:**

1. Duration of eligibility shall be extended to one semester beyond the normal number of semesters usually required for a full-time student to complete the degree requirements.

Degree Requirement	Credits for Full-time Status	Length of Eligibility
36 credits	9 credits	$(36 \text{ cr}/9 \text{ cr}) = 4 + 1 = 5$ semesters
84 credits	12 credits	$(84 \text{ cr}/12 \text{ cr}) = 7 + 1 = 8$ semesters

2. Students pursuing a medical or dental degree shall be extended to one year beyond the normal number of years usually required for a full-time student to complete the degree requirements.

Duration of EOF Graduate Grant Eligibility (Part 2)

(c) Graduate grant recipients may pursue more than one advanced degree; however:

1. **Each degree must be a higher level than the previous** one unless the grant recipient is enrolled in a dual degree program; and
2. In no case shall the combined **eligibility exceed the equivalent of 10 semesters.**

(d) An Article III graduate grant shall not be awarded for summer program study except in those programs that, by their nature, require specific course(s) to be taken during the summer.

1. Exceptions are possible in cases where the program of study requires a mandatory sequence of courses for more than two terms in an academic year.
2. To qualify for an exception, the institution shall submit a written request to the EOF Executive Director.

(e) **Students in their last semester of study to complete degree requirements may enroll for less than full-time status and still receive the maximum Article III graduate grant** for which they would be eligible as a full-time student.

Graduate Grant Award Amounts

Grant Amounts (9A:11-3.4)

The dollar amount of each Article III graduate grant shall be based on three factors

1

Full-time enrollment
(as defined by the institution offering the graduate program of study)

2

The financial need of the student as determined by a needs analysis

3

The type of institution the student attends

An EOF graduate grant awardee shall receive not less than the minimum (\$100) nor more than the maximum semester award for the academic year

Per 9A:11-3.4(c): “The institution’s EOF and financial aid directors shall determine the exact amount of each student’s grant. In determining need and awarding Article III graduate grants, priority shall be given first to students who received an undergraduate EOF grant.”

EOF Graduate Grant Award Table

The academic year award ranges for EOF Article III graduate grants are as follows:

	<u>Semester Minimum</u>	<u>Semester Maximum</u>	<u>Academic Year Maximum</u>
State Colleges & Universities	\$100	\$1,425	\$2,850
Independent	\$100	\$1,700	\$3,400
Public Research Universities	\$100	\$1,700	\$3,400
Biomedical & Health Science Schools	\$100	\$2,450	\$4,900

EOF Graduate Grant Application & Awarding Process

EOF Graduate Grant Application

Please note: The link to the online application will be emailed to all EOF campus program Directors.

A copy of the Graduate Grant Application (for reference) and instructions can be found on the EOF website at:

https://www.nj.gov/highereducation/EOF/EOF_Program_Resources.shtml

Educational Opportunity Fund

EOF Program Eligibility How to Apply Special Projects History Campus Program Resources

Home / Campus Program Resources

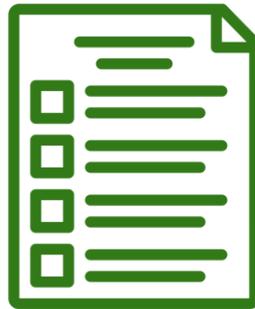
Campus Program Resources

- + EOF Annual Report & EOF Summer Program Report
- + EOF Contracts
- + EOF Directors Professional Development Resources
- + EOF Forms and Other Reports
- + EOF Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- EOF Graduate Grants
 - EOF Graduate Grant Application Instructions
 - Graduate Grant Application - Reference Only
 - EOF Graduate Grant Award Table
- + EOF Program Liaisons - Institutional Assignments
- + EOF Publications
- + EOF Regulations

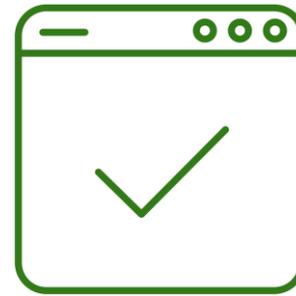
Graduate Grant Application Step-by-Step Walkthrough



Access the
EOF Graduate
Grant
Application



Complete ALL
Questions on
the Application



Submit the
Application and Save
for your Records and
to verify submission

Deadlines & Things-to-Know

Deadlines

<p>Academic Year (Fall 2024 & Spring 2025 Semesters)</p> <p>September 30, 2024</p>	<p>Spring Only</p> <p>February 6, 2025</p>
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Things-to-Know

Late & Incomplete Applications **will not be accepted**

Applications must be submitted by the EOF campus program
graduate grant administrator/coordinator

The EOF Graduate Grant application must be submitted
electronically via Qualtrics

Good Practices for Submitting

You cannot save the EOF Graduate Grant application while filling it out.

A copy of the EOF Graduate Grant Application for reference is available on the EOF Campus Resources webpage

Programs should share a copy of the application with applicants to ensure that they are aware of all of the information that is needed to complete the form.

Common Application Mistakes

EOF Graduate Programs allowing the EOF applicant to complete the application

The application is expected to be completed by the EOF Graduate Grant Administrator

Miss or skip a question

All questions must be completed before the application will be considered complete

Using non-numerical values for questions that require numerical values or not responding at all

If a question requires a financial indicator and the value is zero, please indicate \$0. Do not leave it blank or put "N/A", "Not applicable" or any other non-numerical indicator in the space

Missing the submission deadline

Institution/EOF campus programs must ensure that the EOF Graduate Application is submitted to OSHE by the deadline

EOF Graduate Grant Allocation

Institutions that have been approved to receive a FY25 EOF Graduate Grant allocation have their allocations listed on their institutional EOF contract

Institutions that did not receive an allocation for FY25 can still submit an EOF graduate grant application for your students. Please reach out to the EOF mailbox at EOF@oshe.nj.gov and CC Peter Collazo at peter.collazo@oshe.nj.gov

Funding will be based on available resources

Resources

All OSHE/EOF Program Resources, Including EOF Regulations and EOF Campus Program Liaison Assignments, Can Be Accessed on the OSHE/EOF Website

http://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/EOF/EOF_Program_Resources.shtml

Questions





THANK YOU
FOR JOINING
US!