

# first-year experiences



## A Message to Families from Dr. Gerald Buckley

Welcome to Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID). We are pleased that your young adult has decided to study here. Our programs provide outstanding career education and many exciting opportunities for personal, social, and technical skill development.

Our orientation, known as the Summer Vestibule Program (SVP), is a vital first step in transitioning to college life at RIT. To complete SVP, students are expected to attend all required activities, complete all assessments and assignments, and adhere to SVP regulations.

During SVP, we review each student's readiness and commitment to succeed in his or her chosen educational program. Students attending SVP will apply to enter a specific major for fall quarter, and most are accepted into the program of their choice. Students needing additional time to decide on or prepare for a major can participate in the Career Exploration Studies program for up to three quarters.

Students who are admitted to majors or Career Exploration Studies within NTID will have faculty members who communicate directly with them using American Sign Language, spoken and written English, graphics and online materials. Students who are admitted to majors in the other colleges of RIT may request access services that include sign language interpreting, speech-to-text based real time translation services and notetaking. Both within NTID and in the other colleges of RIT our goal is to make sure each student has access to the information provided in the classroom. Throughout their

*Continues on page 2*

## Important Information for Families!

### Family Orientation

*You are invited to attend the RIT/NTID Family Orientation, August 20 – 22. We hope you will join us to learn more about your son's or daughter's college experience. Your participation is important!*

### What is the Summer Vestibule Program?

The Summer Vestibule Program (SVP) is a required two-week orientation designed to assist first-year students with their transition to college life. During SVP, your son or daughter will be exposed to the various academic programs offered at NTID and the other colleges of RIT, attend career seminars and learn about life on a college campus. He or she also will take important placement tests.

**Course Placement Tests** are used to match students with courses that are compatible with their achievement and aptitude.

In many cases, scores on these tests also are used to determine a student's readiness for a particular major and/or degree level. Students will be tested in English, math, and other subjects as appropriate.

- ▶ **Program Sampling** includes classroom lectures, activities, and laboratory projects relating to the programs at NTID and the other colleges of RIT. Program sampling activities help your son or daughter determine or confirm his or her interests and abilities for different majors.
- ▶ **Career Seminars** introduce students to decision-making models and enable them to identify their skills, interests and values as they relate to personal and professional goals. Career development counselors provide instruction and advisement.
- ▶ **Campus Life** activities introduce your son or daughter to college life and what is needed to succeed at RIT/NTID. He or she will be offered opportunities for personal enrichment, including cultural, recreational, athletic and residence life activities.

Continued from page 1

continue to develop the versatility of their communication and learning skills, working with others from diverse backgrounds across diverse settings.

During SVP Family Orientation, you will have an opportunity to learn more about the educational process at RIT/NTID. I look forward to getting to know your young adult, and hope to meet you at Family Orientation.

Sincerely,



Gerald J. Buckley  
NTID President and RIT  
Vice President and Dean



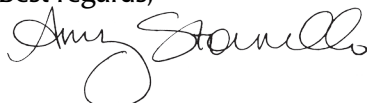
### A Message from the SVP Coordinator

Amy Stornello

The transition to college is filled with great excitement and many challenges for students. Parents and families play a very important role during this transition period, providing the support and encouragement that is vital for student success throughout college. During our Family Orientation program (August 20 – 22), we provide families with the opportunity to get acquainted with the resources, programs and requirements at RIT/NTID. We hope this will be the beginning of an important partnership as we work together to provide students with the educational opportunities that will lead them to a rewarding career and successful life. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important Family Orientation program.

I look forward to meeting you at orientation!

Best regards,



Amy Stornello  
SVP/First-Year Experiences Coordinator

# SVP Move-In and Registration

Students are expected to move-in between 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday August 20. Check-in and registration will be held in the CSD Student Development Center. At registration:

- You will pick up your SVP Family Orientation schedule.
- Your student will pick up his or her room and mailbox keys, SVP notebook and SVP schedule.

While some carts will be available to make your move-in easier, we recommend that you bring your own dolly or cart to transport luggage to the residence hall rooms. We also suggest that you avoid moving in during the early morning rush when residence hall elevators are busiest.

For more information, please refer to your student's Housing Operations packet, visit their Web site at: [www.rit.edu/housing/](http://www.rit.edu/housing/) or call directly at 585-475-2572 (v) or 585-475-2113 (TTY).

Students may not move onto campus before August 20 (move-in day). If you need to arrive in Rochester before August 20, please make arrangements to stay at a hotel. Nearby hotels are listed below. Be sure to ask for the special RIT rate when you make hotel reservations.

**Note:** If you expect to arrive on campus after 4:00 p.m. on August 20, please be sure to inform the SVP office at 585-475-6800 (voice), so we may prepare for your late arrival.

#### Comfort Suites Henrietta

2085 Hylan Drive  
585-334-6620

#### Doubletree Hotel

1111 Jefferson Road  
585-475-1510

#### Red Roof Inn

4820 W. Henrietta Rd.  
585-359-1100 (voice)

#### Microtel Discount Motel

905 Lehigh Station Road  
1-800-771-7171

#### Radisson Hotel

175 Jefferson Road  
585-475-1910 (v/TTY)

#### Holiday Inn-Airport

911 Brooks Avenue  
585-328-6000

#### RIT Inn and Conference Center

5257 W. Henrietta Rd.  
585-359-1800

#### Super 8 Motel

1000 Lehigh Station Rd.  
585-359-1630

# SVP Calendar of Events

SVP Move-In:	Sat., Aug. 20, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Family Orientation:	Sun., Aug. 21 – Mon., Aug. 22
SVP Student Programming:	Sat., Aug. 20 – Sun., September 4
Fall Quarter Classes Begin:	Mon., Sept. 5 (Labor Day)

Note: Students are expected to stay the full two weeks of SVP (including weekends).

# Family Orientation Schedule

## Saturday, August 20

- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Move-In; lunch & dinner on your own
- 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Campus Service Fair
- 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Mandatory meeting for students  
Optional program for families

## Sunday, August 21

- 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Self-pay brunch at Gracies with other families, students and staff
- 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Welcome presentation in Panara Theater
- 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Family presentation
- 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Students meet with career seminar groups
- 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Family dessert reception
- 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Meet your student's counselor
- 6:30 p.m. Family and student program

## Monday, August 22

- 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Meet with Financial Aid & Student Financial Services personnel

## RIT Public Safety

Public Safety officers are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week and can be contacted at 585-475-2853 (voice/TTY) or by Instant Message at RITPublicSafety. If requested, a Public Safety staff member will escort students across campus, to a vehicle or even from building to building.

**Additional Information** about RIT Public Safety services, procedures and statistics can be obtained at <http://finweb.rit.edu/PublicSafety/>.

## Shuttle-bus Service

RIT contracts with the Regional Transit Service (RTS) for bus service to designated stops on campus. RIT also offers bus service to local malls, food markets and movie theaters on Saturdays and Sundays at NO CHARGE.

## Mobility-impaired Van

RIT offers transportation for mobility-impaired students on weekdays as needed for academic purposes. To use this service, students first must register with the RIT Disabilities Office by calling 585-475-7804 (voice).

## Student Health Services

The Student Health Center, centrally located on campus, is available to provide health care, support and education for students. Services are available by appointment Monday through Friday.

- After-hours care is provided at four off-campus centers.
- Public Safety is available 24/7 for assistance with medical emergencies.
- For more information about RIT's Student Health Center, visit: [www.rit.edu/studenthealth](http://www.rit.edu/studenthealth), or call 585-475-2255 (voice) or 585-475-5515 (TTY).

## Student Health and Dental Insurance

RIT requires all students to have adequate medical insurance. If a student does not have coverage, this requirement may be satisfied by enrolling in Basic Accident and Sickness coverage before the enrollment deadline.

- For Student Accident & Sickness Insurance information, contact University Health Plans at 800-437-6448 or enroll through [www.universityhealthplans.com](http://www.universityhealthplans.com).
- To enroll in the RIT Student Dental Plan via Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rochester, contact the Customer Service office between 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday at 800-847-1200 (voice) or 585-545-2845 (TTY).

For more information about student health services or health insurance, contact the Student Health Center at 585-475-2255 (voice) or 585-475-5515 (TTY).

## Break Times/Holidays

Residence Hall contracts entitle students to live in their rooms during the academic year only. Residence halls are open during Thanksgiving and spring breaks, with meals available on a cash basis. The residence halls are closed during the winter holiday break, and all students must vacate their rooms during this time.

## Brick City Homecoming/ Parents Weekend

If you are looking for a suitable time to visit your son or daughter, plan to attend the Brick City Homecoming October 14 – 16, 2011. We recommend making hotel reservations as soon as possible. Please refer to the following Web site for details: [www2.rit.edu/brickcity/](http://www2.rit.edu/brickcity/).

## Cost of Books

Barnes & Noble@RIT offers new and used textbooks. The cost for books may average \$300 or more per quarter. Students in fine arts and photography may spend more for books and supplies. Barnes & Noble@RIT accepts cash, personal checks (with RIT ID card), MasterCard, Visa and RIT Tiger Bucks.

## Vocational Rehabilitation Support

If your student will be receiving VR support, it is important they keep their VR counselor informed of their program choice, grades and any other information he or she requires as part of their funding agreement (IPE). It is very important they communicate with their VR counselor throughout the academic year to keep him or her informed of their progress. Most VR offices expect students to maintain full-time status (minimum 12 credits/quarter) and to earn a GPA of 2.0 or above to continue to receive support. NTID would appreciate a copy of your student's Individual Plan of Employment (IPE). Please mail, fax or bring a copy of your student's IPE to NTID so we can assist students with maintaining compliance. (Refer to the SVP Office Contact Information section on this page.)

## The cost of SVP

The fee for NTID's Summer Vestibule Program is included in your student's fall quarter bill. These costs cover programming and room & board and are not covered by financial aid. If your student has VR or OSAP support, be sure to discuss the costs related to SVP with them before arriving. For a breakdown of these costs, refer to the SVP website at [www.rit.edu/NTID/SVP](http://www.rit.edu/NTID/SVP).

## Student Financial Services Office

The Student Financial Services Office, maintains all student financial records, generates quarterly billing, and determines each student's financial eligibility to register for each quarter. The office processes student charges, payments, and refunds. Questions regarding financial records should be directed to this office at 585-475-6186 (voice). Representatives will be available to meet with families on Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Student Financial Aid Office!

Save time – Don't stand in line  
Take care of Financial Aid questions and answers before you arrive.  
Review and sign your Financial Aid award.  
Contact NTID's Financial Aid office at 585-475-2186 or via e-mail at [NTIDaid@rit.edu](mailto:NTIDaid@rit.edu).

## Banking

M & T Bank is the only full-service bank on the RIT campus. Bank of America, HSBC and M & T ATMs are located in various locations on campus.

M & T at Park Point	800-724-2440, 585-272-8057
Bank of America	800-841-4000
HSBC	800-975-4722

Other banks located in the Rochester area include Charter One, Chase Manhattan, First Niagara, Key bank and National Bank of Geneva.

## Cashing Personal Checks

Students in good financial standing may cash personal checks at the Cashier's Window in the Student Financial Services Office. The check limit is \$50 and must be the student's own personal check or a third-party (parent's) check.

## Educational Records Policy

A summary of the RIT educational records policy is printed in the course registration schedule each quarter and in the *Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook*.

Students' educational records are confidential. Parents of dependent students, as defined by the Internal Revenue Service, have the same rights of access to their son's or daughter's educational records as the students. Regardless of whether your son or daughter is dependent or emancipated, we encourage him or her to sign the SVP Release of Information waiver. This enables us to share information with you during this critical adjustment period.

## SVP Office Contact Information

SVP Office Contact Information:  
Phone: 585-475-6800 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily  
E-mail: [bjgnhd@rit.edu](mailto:bjgnhd@rit.edu)  
Fax number: 585-475-7786  
Mailing address: 52 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623

## SVP Web site

[www.rit.edu/NTID/SVP](http://www.rit.edu/NTID/SVP)



## SVP Checklist

### Has your son or daughter completed the following?

- Language/Communication Background Questionnaire (LCBQ)
- Career Interest Survey
- Housing Contract
- Health History form
- VR/VESID Information form, if appropriate
- Release of Information form
- FAFSA (financial aid for U.S. citizens)
- Secondary Disability application, if appropriate