FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

Financial Aid assistance is available from several government programs under the Title IV programs. Among these are the following:

PELL - The Federal Pell Grant Program is an entitlement program for undergraduates who demonstrate financial need. This is an entitlement program. The maximum award for this award year is $7,395.

FSEOG - The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program provides assistance for undergraduate students with exceptional financial need, with priority to Pell Grant recipients. Awards vary from $100 to $1000.

FWS - The Federal Work Study Program provides funding for part-time employment of undergraduate and graduate students who demonstrate financial need. In RSA, only graduate students are eligible for the FWS program. Employment is contingent on student qualifications based on faculty assessments. FWS opportunities are posted on an announcement board at the RSA campus as they are available. Students should contact the Financial Aid Office for more information on job opportunities, qualifications, and the application process.

The student applies for all Federal assistance by submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Contact the RSA Financial Aid Office for forms or call 1-800-4-FED-AID. Alternatively, the student can submit his application through FAFSA on the Web at https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa.. There are both Federal and institutional deadlines, so early filing of applications is advised.

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

To apply for financial aid, a prospective student should fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is available in the Financial Aid Office. Each student is also recommended to read the Student Guide which is also available in that Office.

Some students may be required to supply verification documentation such as tax returns, photo ID, high school diploma, or other supporting documents, from which figures were taken to complete the FAFSA. RSA will reach out to the students or their parents directly to request verification. Students are required to submit verification documentation before the specified deadline. Students who fail to submit documentation before the deadline will cause a delay in the processing of aid for which the student may be eligible, inasmuch as the second half of a student's award may not be disbursed until verification is complete.

Awards are determined based on financial need as determined by a needs analysis formula.

Awards are made for one academic year at a time. Awards are not automatically renewable. Students must re-apply each year by the deadline, generally, June 30. All recipients of financial aid are required to notify the Financial Aid Office of any change in their status.

FEDERAL AID DISBURSEMENTS

Within one to three days of submitting the FAFSA form, the student will receive a response called the FAFSA Submissions Summary. The FAFSA Submissions Summary should first be reviewed carefully to make sure it is correct. Changes may be made in the "FAFSA Form Answers" section of the FAFSA Submissions Summary.

If the data is correct and no changes are required, submit the original FAFSA Submissions Summary to the Financial Aid Office where an administrator will work with you to produce an aid package. Packaging is the process of finding the best combination of aid that meets the student's financial needs given the constraints of allocating funds.

The FAFSA Submissions Summary will contain an official SAI (Student Aid Index) which is needed before the student can receive any payments from federally funded programs.

During this meeting, the student's awards will be calculated and explained. The student will be able to ask questions and receive responses.

Payments from the Pell and FSEOG programs will be made by credit to the student's tuition account. Disbursements will generally be made in two payments: one during each semester period unless the FSEOG is distributed in one payment during the spring semester. Students may inspect their tuition records during regular hours with the Financial Aid Office.

FSEOG will be given to students based on the lowest SAI with priority given to Federal Pell Grant students. Students should request FSEOG as early as possible. Even though FSEOG funds are reserved for use over the year, the school can establish a deadline after which one will not be guaranteed an FSEOG. This deadline is after the beginning of the spring semester to allow spring students to receive FSEOG.

THE FEDERAL WORK-STUDY PROGRAM

The Federal Work-Study Program is an employment program wherein needy students are offered part-time employment. Eligibility is determined by the school based on a needs analysis. The Dean of Students determines through an interview or faculty assessments if a student is eligible for employment. It is expected that the student will be able to handle his employment as well as academic responsibilities. If a student's academic progress suffers because of the time required for his work duties, he will be relieved of his duties.

Work-study disbursements are in the form of payrolls, distributed via paper check monthly during the duration of the student's work schedule, until the allocated funds are exhausted.

RSA is required to utilize money from the FWS program to compensate students employed in community service jobs. Any eligible students who would like to participate and perform community services should contact the Financial Aid Office.

INSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

RSA offers institutional scholarships for students who have exhausted all other avenues of assistance and are still unable to meet their cost of attendance. These scholarships are derived from donations and special fund-raising functions throughout the year. See Financial Aid personnel for more details.

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

The Financial Aid Office is open to students and their families during the hours of:

Monday through Thursday	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday	9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

If it is not convenient for current or prospective students, or their families, to visit the Financial Aid Office during regular business hours, a special time can be set up for an appointment by calling (718) 268-4700 or emailing financialaid@rabbinical.org.