Rutgers Business School
Office of Social Mobility, Access, Innovation, and Leadership

RBS UFirst Program

Building Access, Community, and Opportunity at Rutgers Business School

Rutgers Business School UFirst Program is a comprehensive student success initiative that supports students navigating college that may not have equal access to institutional knowledge, professional networks, mentorship, and resources. Students that often face these barriers include first-generation, Pell Grant-eligible, and students from high-need and historically underrepresented communities.

Through academic readiness and enrichment, leadership development, mentorship, community-building initiatives, professional networking opportunities, educational programming, and a signature capstone experience, the RBS UFirst Program provides multiple pathways for student engagement and growth. By fostering meaningful connections, expanding access to resources and opportunities, and strengthening students' sense of belonging, the program cultivates a supportive community that promotes student success and long-term achievement.

Academic Enrichment Opportunities

The RBS UFirst program offers access to specialized academic enrichment opportunities that support success in key Rutgers Business School courses. These provide students with additional preparation, skill development, and exposure to foundational concepts that can strengthen classroom performance and increase confidence.

Financial Accounting Fundamentals is an academic readiness initiative designed to prepare students for **Intro to Financial Accounting.** Through focused instruction and guided practice, this and similar RBS UFirst academic readiness initiatives build participants' familiarity with core course principles and help them gain a stronger foundation prior to enrolling in related credit-bearing courses.

Program Quick Facts

Program Timeframe: Full Academic Year
(Fall – Spring semesters)

Application Deadline: See website for details.

Program Requirements

Open to all current Rutgers Business School students in Newark and New Brunswick, with particular emphasis on supporting:

- First-generation college students
- Pell Grant-eligible students
- Students from high-need communities
- Students from communities that have historically faced barriers to educational and economic opportunity
- Students seeking additional support, community, and professional development opportunities

How to Register

Register Online:
business.rutgers.edu/idea-office/ufirst

Mentorship Track

The RBS UFirst program offers a structured mentorship track that connects participants with trained mentors from across the Rutgers Business School community, including undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and professional staff.
RBS UFirst Mentoring Track participants will engage in:

- Mentor matching and orientation
- Goal-setting activities
- Regular mentor-mentee engagement
- Mid-semester check-ins
- Community-building opportunities

National First-Generation Celebration

Each November, the RBS UFirst program hosts **National First-Generation Celebration** programs and events, designed to recognize the achievements and contributions of first-generation college students, professionals, and allies. Through activities such as student and alumni panels, networking opportunities, leadership discussions, recognition events, and celebrations, the RBS UFirst program fosters awareness and strengthens the community across Rutgers Business School.

Student Success & Professional Development

Throughout the academic year, the RBS UFirst program offers programs and workshops focused on:

- Navigating Rutgers University and Rutgers Business School
- Academic success strategies
- Professional communication
- Leadership development
- Career exploration and internship readiness
- Networking skills
- Resource awareness and utilization
- Personal and professional growth strategies

Annual Capstone Experience

The RBS UFirst program culminates each spring in a signature capstone experience designed to engage students in meaningful reflection and exploration around themes of access and opportunity, resilience and perseverance, social mobility, identity and belonging, and personal and professional growth. The capstone experience encourages participants to connect their individual journeys with broader narratives of achievement, community, and leadership.

Contact

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