

SUPPORTING YOUR INCOMING RUTGERS STUDENT

A checklist for parents, friends, and family.



RUTGERS

Mason Gross School
of the Arts

Congratulations! Your student is about to enter the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. Mason Gross students are some of the most talented, focused, and high achieving artists in the world, but despite their incredible drive, talent, and past achievements they may find the demands of navigating an artistic and academic path at a large research university challenging and even daunting. If they are feeling this – **DON'T WORRY!** We've got them covered, and you covered to support them in the best possible way. Below, please find a checklist which will help you and your student navigate this period of transition smoothly.



1

Recognize their achievement and let them FLY!

New students at MGSA will be embarking on a wide range of new roles and responsibilities within their department, our school, and the larger university community. Let them know how proud you are of their accomplishments, resilience, and hard work. As someone who has seen them grow through many milestones in their lives you know that sometimes the best path to success is supporting their independence. Encourage their growth. Trust their instincts. Know that their best experiences are yet to come!



2

Keep communication open.

Talk to your student about what they want to accomplish as an undergraduate but try not to be forceful or probing: they should come up with goals and commitments on their own. Follow up with general conversations as their journey progresses throughout the semester.



3

Do some networking.

Get to know the rest of the Rutgers family! Creating a strong network of college experts to reach out to for support and advice is indispensable in successfully navigating your student's education at Rutgers. Here are a few good places to start: MGSA Office of Advisement and Student Success - Academic Departments - Career Services - Rutgers Learning Center - Alumni – Student Health



4

Focus on the Process.

Degree programs are complicated! Incoming students will receive individualized attention from Deans and advisors on how to begin their academic journey. This is an important step as we help our students familiarize themselves with this new environment while guiding them to understand their role as the primary authority in their undergraduate educational experience.



5

Allow yourself to let go.

All students need room to grow. The first year is traditionally the time when students learn the most about the university and find their place within it. Be patient as your student will likely experience many ups and downs as part of this transition which will make them stronger and more prepared for a world that expects them to stand on their own.

FINAL THOUGHTS

There is no 'right' or 'wrong' way to experience Rutgers University.

Advising is part of an undergraduate education: advisors teach students how to problem solve and think through their academic & professional decisions.

You may be tempted to "pitch in" but creating an academic plan is your student's responsibility and a foundational career skill they will benefit from later on.