ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM SUMMARY OF COSTS
AY 2026-2027

These calculations are current estimates but are subject to change. Aside from tuition costs, these figures focus mainly on the professional phase of the program, since these are the typical years of additional general expenses.

TUITION: As of August 2026, the total estimated Tuition & Institutional and Program Fees for the program (11 semesters) is $356,895. This total estimated cost reflects the increased rate of graduate tuition that you will realize in the clinical rotation year.

Other Costs related to the program = $105,946.08 and are itemized below.

Total Cost of Attendance for the entire program: $462,841.08.

Note: 100% of all incoming first-year and transfer students receive aid.
RIT's personalized and comprehensive financial aid program includes scholarships, grants, loans, and campus employment programs. When all these are put to work, your actual cost may be much lower than the published estimated cost of attendance.

Expenses	Per semester – undergraduate
Tuition (12-18 credit hours)	$31,754
Student Activities Fee	$235
Student Health Services Fee	$315
Total per semester	$32,304
Total number of UNDERGRADUATE semesters	8
Total UNDERGRADUATE Tuition/Fees	$258,432

Transfer undergraduate students add $225 for orientation fees.

Expenses	Per semester – graduate
Tuition (12-18 credit hours)	$32,271
Student Activities Fee	$235
Student Health Services Fee	$315

Total per semester	$32,821
Total number of GRADUATE semesters	3
Total GRADUATE Tuition/Fees	$98,463

Students registered for 9 or more credit hours are charged both the student activity fee and student health services fee per semester. All PA program students take more than 9 credits per semester.

https://www.rit.edu/sfs/undergraduate-students
https://www.rit.edu/admissions/graduate/estimate-education-costs

Tuition costs beyond the 2026-27 academic year are subject to change.

Note: Students are not reimbursed during their time on clinical rotations, as they are considered full-time during this clinical training year and are responsible for tuition costs.

HOUSING EXPENSES: Costs vary based on individual students' needs. Suitable living on campus (dorms, apartments, etc.) is generally available for average housing fees.

*Below is based on RIT's official Cost of Attendance (COA) estimates published by the RIT Office of Admissions and Financial Aid: Tuition and Fees | Admissions and Aid | RIT

Housing & Food		Total
Housing Per Semester - Undergraduate	$5,045 (8 semesters)	$40,360
Food Per Semester – Undergraduate	$3,640 (8 semesters)	$29,120
Per Semester – Graduate (housing and food) **factors in utilities*	(3 semesters) – 12-month lease	$17,370
Total Living Expenses for Professional Phase	**11 semesters**	**$86,850**

CLINICAL YEAR ADDITIONAL HOUSING COSTS: In the final year of the program, students complete 10 clinical rotations that, from time to time, require them to be away from the Rochester area. Most of these clinical sites are within driving distance, but other times, the student will need to stay near the clinical site for the 4.5 weeks of the rotation. As a result, there may be slightly elevated housing costs during this fifth year. The responsibility for housing, travel, and food is that of the student. For the last two years, 3-5 students per year

were required to travel to a distant rotation site, requiring housing. The average cost of housing was ~$1,500.

TRANSPORTATION & PARKING - In the professional phase of the program (years 3, 4, 5), students can expect to be off campus a portion of the time. The student is responsible for transportation during these years. Because of this, a car is recommended at the start of the third year, and certainly during the fifth year. Car-pooling is recommended when applicable. For the 2026-2027 academic year, parking permits are $80.00 per semester for most permit types, except for *"Reserved/Commuter Students Only/Single Lot,"* which are $185 per semester. *Parking fees may be incurred as students park on campus and begin clinical training in hospitals*.
Below are estimates of the total cost of transportation and parking, which includes the cost of gasoline, car payment, insurance, maintenance, and repairs.

Cost Category	Low Estimate
RIT Parking Permits	$880
Gasoline	$2,300
Insurance	$5,600
Maintenance & Repairs	$1,900
Grand Total (5 Years/11 semesters)	**$10,680**

TEXTBOOKS - In the professional phase of the PA Program (third, fourth, fifth years), the coursework and clinical experiences are exclusively medical in nature. Additional textbooks are required in various areas of didactic and clinical instruction. These additional books and reference materials typically run around $4,500.00.

EQUIPMENT – Each student entering the professional phase of the program is required to purchase a stethoscope, blood pressure kit, diagnostic set (otoscope and ophthalmoscope), tuning forks, penlight, reflex hammer, tape measure, pocket eye chart, and clear ruler. The PA program contracts with medical suppliers to ensure that equipment costs will be the lowest possible while ensuring its quality. The current price for the equipment above, sold as a package, is $804.70.

LAB COAT – As part of professional attire for patient interviews within the hospital system, students are required to have a **short** white lab coat. While any short-length white lab coat is acceptable, we have provided a few purchase suggestions below.

- Women's:

    - Amazon.com: Healing Hands Women's Lab Coat with 4 Pockets, Moisture Wicking & 2-Way Stretch Fabric, Button Front Consultation Coat 5160, S, White: Clothing, Shoes & Jewelry $29.99 - $35.99
    - Amazon.com: Cherokee Women's Lab Coat 28" Button Up Front Consultation Coat CK451, S, White: Clothing, Shoes & Jewelry $28.99 - $34.99
- Men's:
    - Amazon.com: Healing Hands Medical Lab Coat Leo White Coat with 5 Pockets, Soft & 2-Way Stretch Fabric 5150, Medium, White: Clothing, Shoes & Jewelry $29.99 - $32.99
- Unisex:
    - Amazon.com: Adar Universal Unisex Lab Coats - Classic 31" Consultation Lab Coat - 805 - White - XL: Medical Lab Coats: Clothing, Shoes & Jewelry $24.54 - $26.94

PAEA ASSESSMENT:
During the final years of the professional phase, students will take several standardized tests via the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA). The program requires purchase of "The Student Exam Box", for $420, which includes:

- Two PACKRAT exams, one for each phase of education
- Ten End of Rotation exams for the clinical phase
- One End of Curriculum exam to be delivered during the final four months prior to graduation

See below for explanations of each exam, or visit PAEA Assessment | PAEA for detailed information.

PA CLINICAL KNOWLEDGE RATING & ASSESSMENT TOOL (PACKRAT) EXAM: A written competency examination will be given to students in the fourth AND fifth years of the Program. The Physician Assistant Clinical Knowledge Rating and Assessment Tool (PACKRAT) is a nationally recognized competency examination for PA students. This standardized examination provides excellent feedback to students and faculty regarding comprehensive knowledge bases and problem-solving abilities of the students. The content and approach have been created to simulate the computer-based Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE). Many students have found this to be excellent preparation for clinical rotations and the PANCE.

END OF ROTATION EXAMS: End of Rotation exams are a set of objective, standardized evaluations intended to serve as one measure of the medical knowledge students gain during specific supervised clinical practice experiences (clinical rotations), and are a required grading component.

END OF CURRICULUM EXAM: An objective, standardized evaluation of a student's medical knowledge as one component of their readiness for graduation. This exam is a required

part of the student summative evaluation, which must be completed during the final four months before graduation, and must be passed to complete the program.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS - In compliance with state laws and regulations, most clinical affiliates require PA students to complete a criminal background check before starting a rotation. Clinical sites reserve the right to deny student placement based on background check findings. Beyond the program, PA professionals should expect routine background screenings and credential verifications as standard components of hiring and ongoing clinical practice.
The RIT PA Program requires all students to undergo two mandatory background checks: one upon entering the professional phase (Year 3) and another before starting clinical rotations (end of Year 4). Students are responsible for the screening costs, which are approximately $142.70 plus a $2.99 service fee per check (total of $291.38).

DRUG TESTING - In accordance with various state laws and regulations, some clinical affiliates may require PA students to undergo drug testing prior to beginning a clinical rotation. These additional authorizations and their associated fees must be completed by the student at the student's expense. A PA student may not be allowed to participate in a clinical rotation(s) by the clinical affiliates based on the results of this drug testing. As a PA professional advances in his/her healthcare career, s/he can expect regular, random drug testing, and credential verification as part of the participation, hiring, and employment process. Cost typically runs $30-$80 per screening.

BASIC AND ADVANCED CARDIAC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS)/(ACLS) CERTIFICATION:
Students are required to have current BLS and ACLS certification before the start of clinical rotations in the fifth year. This training is arranged through the PA Program in conjunction with the American Heart Association and hospital affiliates. The cost for this certification is $250. The cost of these courses is subject to change annually to vendor pricing.

CLINICAL AFFILIATE REGISTRATION/SUBSCRIPTION: Beginning May 2021, each senior student on clinical rotations will be required to pay ~ $60 as a registration/subscription fee for the administrative services rendered by the clinical affiliate. This fee will cover the ten required clinical rotations.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS & IMMUNIZATIONS - A history and physical examination (including Hepatitis B titers, Tuberculosis testing, and current immunizations) are required before the start of the 3rd semester of the professional phase and again before beginning clinical rotations. Students must arrange for these examinations several months in advance of the start of clinical rotations. If you have paid the Student Health Services Fee ($300), which is automatically included in tuition for full-time undergraduate students, then there is no additional charge for the physical exam, as it is covered by the fee. However, there may be additional costs for the following services:

- PPD placement and reading: $15
- MMR vaccine: $90

- Tdap: $45

Please note that vaccine prices may vary based on market value.

Costs may range from $300.00 – $600.00 depending on insurance coverage and what each student may need.

FIT TESTING - Before the start of clinical rotations, students are required to undergo FIT testing, which tests the actual size and student's ability to use a respirator mask device that protects healthcare workers from inhaling harmful substances. The FIT testing will cost approximately $60.00, and students in some clinical disciplines will need to purchase personal I-95 protective masks for a nominal cost before beginning clinical rotations.

OPTIONAL COSTS

Student memberships to the following professional organizations:

- Rochester Regional PA Association (RRPAA): $10.00 annually
- New York State Society of PAs (NYSSPA): $75.00 for a 3-year membership
- American Academy of PAs (AAPA): $75.00 valid for the duration of your student enrollment