



1. **What does RISE stand for?**

RISE stands for **R**oad to **I**ndependent Living, **S**piritual Formation and **E**mployment.

2. **What is the purpose of the RISE program?**

The purpose is to provide students with intellectual disabilities the college life experience, in a Christian community, to prepare for independent living and customized employment.

3. **How long has RISE existed at Judson University?**

RISE was founded in 2016, with our first cohort beginning in the fall semester, August, 2017.

4. **Who is eligible to apply for the RISE program?**

Ideal candidates for the RISE program:

- a. Aged 18-25 upon enrollment
- b. With a diagnosed intellectual disability (IQ of 79 or lower)
- c. A high school diploma or equivalent
- d. Practical reading & writing skills (ideally grade 4 or higher)
- e. A desire to live on campus, and learn with, traditional college students

We evaluate each candidate on a case-by-case basis. If you are unsure if your student qualifies for the RISE program, please contact Kathy Lambert at 847-628-2524 or kathryn.lambert@judsonu.edu.

5. **Will you accept all students that meet these criteria?**

The RISE program accommodates 12 students in each cohort. Once

the 2nd cohort begins in August 2018, there will be 24 RISE students on campus. Our goal is to select the 12 most qualified students for each cohort.

6. **Is RISE a 4-year undergraduate degree program?**

RISE is a 2-year certification program. Students receive a Certification of Completion in Liberal Arts at the conclusion of his/her cohort. Each RISE student is invited to participate in the Judson graduation ceremony and receive his/her certificate on stage, along with all of our traditional student graduates.

7. **Do we need to provide a computer for our student?**

RISE students receive an iPad when they arrive on campus. This computer includes all software required for their coursework and assignments, as well as email.

What types of classes will RISE students take?

The RISE students take a variety of classes, including: independent living, current events, math & money management, fitness & wellness, person-centered planning, professional skills and daily living through Christian values. First semester RISE students also take a general education class with traditional freshmen, who learn about the Judson community.

In the 2nd, 3rd and 4th semesters, RISE students take one class with traditional students in a subject area concentration that s/he selects. Faculty have the option to offer the class as audit or with an adapted syllabus. Judson offers RISE students six concentrations to choose from, including:

- a. Business & Entrepreneurship
- b. Christian Ministries
- c. Creative Arts-3 different tracks: Visual, Vocal, Instrumental
- d. Education
- e. Health & Wellness
- f. Math & Technology

During the first year, RISE students have an on-campus internship, accompanied by a traditional student job coach. Second year RISE students work alongside his/her job coach at a local business. Placement for all internships are based upon the students' interests and abilities.

The course schedule, below, shows the typical first semester for RISE students:

 RISE Sample Class Schedule		
Monday/Wednesday/Friday	Tuesday/Thursday	Saturday/Sunday
BREAKFAST 7:15-8:50am Betty Lindner Commons	BREAKFAST 7:15-7:50am Betty Lindner Commons	BREAKFAST On your own
Professional Skills 9:00-9:45am	Personal Fitness & Wellness 8:00-9:15am	Saturday: Independent Living Activities (Laundry, Cleaning, Shopping, Relaxing) Sunday: Attend home church or Attend area church with suitemate(s) and/or housing mentor(s)
CHAPEL 10:00-10:45am	Daily Living Through Christian Values 9:30-10:45am	
Person-Centered Planning 11:00-11:50am	LUNCH 11:15-11:50pm Betty Lindner Commons	LUNCH 12:30-1:30pm Betty Lindner Commons
LUNCH 12:00-12:50pm Betty Lindner Commons	Faith Community (Gen Ed 101)/ Independent Study (with Study Mentors) 12:00-12:50am	
Independent Living Skills 1:00-1:50pm	Elective Class and On-Campus Internship 1:00-5:30pm	
Consumer Math & Money Management 2:00-2:50pm		
Current Events 3:00-3:50pm		
Elective Class or Extracurricular Activities 4:00-4:50pm		Extracurricular Activities 1:00-5:30pm
DINNER 5:00-7:00pm Betty Lindner Commons	DINNER 5:30-7:00pm Betty Lindner Commons	DINNER 5:30-6:30pm Betty Lindner Commons
Study, Shower and/or Extracurricular Activities 7:00-11:00pm	Study, Shower and/or Extracurricular Activities 7:00-11:00pm	Study, Shower and/or Extracurricular Activities 6:30-11:00pm
Check-in with Housing Mentor on duty by 11:00pm		

8. **Can you tell me more about living on campus?**

Each RISE student lives on campus in a residence hall. S/he rooms with another RISE student and a housing mentor lives across the hall.

RISE students eat their meals with traditional students and staff at the Betty Lindner Campus Commons. The food service staff accommodates special dietary requirements for any student. All facilities that are available to traditional students are open to the RISE students, including the library, on-campus cafes, intramural sports and the fitness center.

The daily class schedule is designed so that the students have a full day of activity. We expect that all RISE students can navigate the campus independently. That said, most of the time, RISE students walk to class and/or other activities in groups.

Spiritual formation is a key component of the RISE program. Therefore, RISE students participate in all campus life activities, including chapel three times each week and small groups.

During, the weekdays, either a class instructor or a peer mentor are with RISE students most of the day. Should a RISE student not come to class or be available for his/her on-/off-campus internship, the instructor or mentor attempts to contact the student to confirm their whereabouts.

Judson University is a very safe environment, recently named the third safest college campus in the U.S. by Universities.com. The RISE staff leverages mobile technology, including Life360 and other tools, to determine the location of the student. These tools are used as safety precautions and not to track students on a minute-by-minute basis.

9. **What support will be provided?**

A key component of the RISE program are student mentors. A housing mentor lives across the hall from two RISE students and is there to help the RISE students by answering questions, assisting them to navigate campus and checking in to see that the RISE students return to their room by 11pm. Housing mentors receive a discount on room and board.

There are also study and job-coach mentors, who are paid hourly for their time. Study mentors assist RISE students with curriculum and class assignments. Job-coaching mentors help train RISE students and work alongside of them for both on- and off-campus internships.

Social mentors are volunteer and take RISE students to sporting events, music concerts, theatrical performances and other campus activities. Our goal is that RISE students are fully-immersed in campus life, including all social activities and intramural sports.

We also encourage RISE students to use all campus resources, including the Student Success Center. The Student Success Center is a place where RISE students can connect with counselors and/or resources who can assist him/her to successfully understand and complete class assignments, as well as achieving personal goals.

The Wellness Center includes counseling services, which are available to any student. Should a student wish to utilize counseling services, the rate is \$25 per hour.

10. **How will RISE staff communicate with parents or guardians?**

Upon enrollment, the RISE staff asks parents and guardians for multiple contact methods, including email, phone and/or text options. The RISE Program Director sends a monthly newsletter to all parents. Individual progress reports are also emailed on a regular basis.

Parents/Guardians are given a list of contacts that they can reach out to anytime with questions or concerns.

11. **What will happen if my student becomes homesick or ill?**

If the student becomes homesick, the RISE staff, peer mentors and/or the Student Success Center attempt to resolve the situation with the individual. If the feelings persist, we encourage the student to contact his/her parent or guardian.

Should there be any concern for the student's personal care or safety, the RISE staff contacts the parent or guardian immediately.

If the student becomes ill with conditions such as the common cold or flu, there is a Wellness Center on campus. RISE students can be diagnosed and treated by this medical team.

The Department of Campus Safety is licensed by the State of Illinois as an EMS Non-Transport Provider through Advocate Sherman Hospital, with most Campus Safety staff licensed at the EMT-b level. EMT staff are equipped for life-saving intervention including administration of oxygen, EpiPen, albuterol and automated defibrillator. All department personnel receive training in CPR/AED use, controlling severe bleeding via tourniquet use and other methods, and other life safety techniques.

12. **What does tuition, room and board cost?**

RISE students pay the same tuition, room & board as traditional Judson students, currently \$39,274 per academic year, which breaks down as follows:

- Tuition-\$28,408
- Room & Board-\$9,840
- Student Life-\$526
- Technology-\$500

13. **How do I apply for admission into the RISE program?**

The RISE application for admission is available at:

www.JudsonU.edu/RISE. *If you are unable to access the application online, please contact Kathy Lambert at 847-628-2524.*

The deadline for applications for each fall semester is January 31st. RISE cohorts all begin in the fall semester, which starts in late August.

14. **What grants, scholarships, other funding sources are available?**

Judson University is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Please contact the Financial Aid office (*Contact Diana Winton, Director of Financial Aid, via email: diana.winton@judsonu.edu or phone: 847-628-2531*) to discuss:

- Charitable Donations
- Endowments
- Corporate Sponsorships

- Private Grants or scholarships are also available from various agencies and organizations. Visit these websites for more information:
- [Think College](#)
- [National Down Syndrome Association](#)
- [Ruby's Rainbow](#)
- [Scholarships.com](#)
- [DO-IT](#)
- [HEATH Resource Center at the National Youth Transitions Center](#)
- [Band of Angels](#)

On an ongoing basis, Judson University pursues grant monies, as well as corporate, community and/or agency scholarships and endowments.

Currently RISE students do not qualify for federal student aid, through the FAFSA (**F**ree **A**pplication for **F**ederal **S**tudent **A**id). However, RISE is applying to become a CTP (**C**omprehensive **T**ransition **P**rogram). When RISE is a certified CTP, students can apply for federal student aid via the FAFSA.

However, we do request that you complete a FAFSA form, which Judson University will review to allocate grant funding, scholarships and/or endowments.