



RISE PROGRAM FAQ

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

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

- a. Mission: Shaping a greater future for students with intellectual disabilities
- b. Vision: An inclusive college life experience for students with intellectual disabilities to prepare for a more fulfilling and self-sustaining future.

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 competitive 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
- 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:

RISE Program: RISEprogram@judsonu.edu



5. **Will you accept all students that meet these criteria?**
The RISE program accommodates 10-12 students in each cohort; we select the 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 Certificate 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 graduating students.

7. **Do we need to provide a computer for our student?** RISE students will need to provide their own technology. A laptop, tablet, or Chromebook would be appropriate as long as it has the ability to run Microsoft offices and the Internet. These are required for their coursework and assignments, as well as email.

8. **What types of classes will RISE students take?**
The RISE students take a variety of classes, including: household life skills, current events, budget and personal finance, fitness & wellness, career exploration and self-discovery, and intro to the workplace. 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, which they audit, in a subject area concentration



that s/he selects. Judson offers RISE students six concentrations to choose from, including

- a. Business & Entrepreneurship
- b. Christian Ministries
- c. Education
- d. General Studies
- e. Health & Wellness

In their second semester, RISE students have an on-campus internship, accompanied by a Vocational Advisor. Second year RISE students work alongside his/her Vocational Advisor at a local business, church or organization. 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

RISE Student Sample Schedule



Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:30am	BREAKFAST Bettg Lindner Commons	BREAKFAST Bettg Lindner Commons	BREAKFAST Bettg Lindner Commons	BREAKFAST Bettg Lindner Commons	BREAKFAST Bettg Lindner Commons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Get ready -Church -Laundry -Clean your room -Fitness Center -Go for a walk -Get Jerrys w/ a friend -Play a game w/ a friend -Do homework -Go to the store 	
8:00am							
8:30am							
9:00am	Vocational Development Creekside 131		Vocational Development Creekside 131		Vocational Development Creekside 131		
9:30am							
10:00am	Chapel	Study Tables University Center Student Center	Chapel	Study Tables University Center Student Center	Chapel		
10:30am							
11:00am	Current Events II Lindner Tower Classroom 3C		Current Events II Lindner Tower Classroom 3C				
11:30am							
12:00pm	LUNCH Bettg Lindner Commons	LUNCH Bettg Lindner Commons	LUNCH Bettg Lindner Commons	LUNCH Bettg Lindner Commons	LUNCH Bettg Lindner Commons	BRUNCH Bettg Lindner Commons	BRUNCH Bettg Lindner Commons
12:30pm							
1:00pm	Healthful Living Lindner Tower Classroom C		Healthful Living Lindner Tower Classroom C		Healthful Living Lindner Tower Classroom C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Check for Campus Events -Attend a game -Do a puzzle -Do a devotional -Journal -Check out a book or magazine from the library -Call a family member -Call a distant friend -Color / Do art -Watch a movie w/ a friend 	
1:30pm		Interpersonal Communications Creekside 105		Interpersonal Communications Creekside 105			
2:00pm							
2:30pm							
3:00pm	Intro to the Christian Bible Lindner Tower Classroom F		Intro to the Christian Bible Lindner Tower Classroom F		Intro to the Christian Bible Lindner Tower Classroom F		
3:30pm							
4:00pm		On-Campus Internship Plant Ops 4p-6p		On-Campus Internship Plant Ops 4p-6p			
4:30pm							
5:00pm							
5:30pm	DINNER Bettg Lindner Commons		DINNER Bettg Lindner Commons		DINNER Bettg Lindner Commons	DINNER Bettg Lindner Commons	DINNER Bettg Lindner Commons
6:00pm		DINNER Bettg Lindner Commons		DINNER Bettg Lindner Commons			
6:30pm							
7:00-11:00pm	Student Chosen Activities/Free Time						
Check In with Resident Community Coordinators Before 11:00pm							

NOTE: RISE provides a campus map with buildings/locations matching the colors shown on the students' schedules.



9. **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 RISE specific support lives adjacent to, or across the hall from, their assigned students.

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 relatively full day of activity, with short breaks. 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 weekdays, students are either in class with instructors and a Student Advisor. Should a RISE student not come to class or be available for his/her on-/off-campus internship, the instructor or Student Advisor will contact students to confirm their whereabouts.

Judson University is a very safe environment, named the third safest college campus in the U.S. by Universities.com. The RISE staff leverages mobile technology, including Life360, 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.



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

A key component of the RISE program are Student Advisors. A RISE Community Coordinator (RCC) shares the suite or 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 resolving roommate issues. Trad RAs are on duty every night to oversee the dorm. RISE students must check-in by 11pm each night.

There are also Learning and Vocational Advisors. Learning Advisors assist RISE students with curriculum and class assignments. Vocational Advisors help train RISE students and work alongside of them for both on- and off-campus internships.

RISE students have access to all campus resources, including the Student Center. The Student Center is a place where RISE students have study table sessions twice a week where they receive assistance to successfully understand and complete class assignments, as well as achieving personal goals.

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

The RISE staff communicates with parents through email. RISE students send a weekly email update to his/her parents throughout their first year. A quarterly update will be sent to parents via email each semester with a midterm and a final grade report sent out as well. Parents/Guardians may reach out to the RISE Program at any time to discuss the student and/or questions.



12. **What will happen if my student becomes homesick or ill?** If the student becomes homesick, the RISE staff, Student Advisors and/or the Student Success Center will 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 students will be evaluated by Judson staff, parents may be contacted to make the decision for a doctor visit.

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.

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

RISE tuition, fees, room & board, program, and support cost is the same as the tuition as a Judson student entering into the traditional 4-year track. Please see the Judson University tuition cost breakdown for the cost of the program



14. **Will there be additional costs for textbooks and additional class materials?**

The only additional costs would be books/materials for traditional courses that the RISE student elects to take within his/her subject area concentration. RISE students may be subject to additional fees for private music lessons, lab or studio fees for certain classes. Typically, the traditional class instructors will communicate the course materials/cost to RISE students on the first day of class. Private music lessons, lab or studio fees are communicated to families prior to the start of the semester.

15. **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 the RISE staff at RISEprogram@judsonu.edu.

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

RISE is a Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP); therefore, our students qualify for federal student aid through the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Judson University's School Code is: 001700.



RISE has received scholarship monies from local, private foundations. There are also four endowments that have been created to provide scholarships for RISE students:

Al Rogers Scholarship Fund – Awards scholarship monies to a RISE student in memory of Al Rogers, whose daughter, Emily, graduated with the first RISE cohort in May, 2019.

- **Cody Binger Scholarship Fund** – Awards scholarship monies to a RISE student who has Down syndrome, in honor of Cody Binger.
- **RISE Founder Scholarship Fund** – Awards scholarship monies to a RISE student, in honor of the Gianopulos family and the many people who funded the RISE Program start-up.
- **Tracy Naples Gassen Scholarship Fund** – Awards scholarship monies to a RISE student, in memory of Tracy Naples Gassen, whose daughter, Ellie, graduated with the first RISE cohort in May, 2019.

Private Grants or scholarships are also available from various agencies and organizations. Visit these websites for more information:

Scholarship Search Engines:

- [Nitro College](#)
- [Scholarships.com](#)
- [Think College](#)

Diagnosis Based Scholarship:

- [Division of Rehab Services \(DRS\)](#)
- [Organization for Autism Research](#) (April Deadline)
- [Epilepsy Foundation](#) (Deadline dates vary)
- [National Down Syndrome Society](#) (May Deadline)
- [Ruby's Rainbow](#) (Open Jan-Apr)
- [UPS for Downs](#) (April 1st Deadline)



Judson University is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Private, church and/or corporate donations may be tax deductible.

Please contact the Financial Aid office (*847-628-2531*) to discuss:

- Federal Student Aid
- Charitable Donations
- Endowments
- Corporate Sponsorships