



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Marketing and Communications
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Contact: Rosa Mulryan
201-684-7602
rmulryan@ramapo.edu

Ramapo College Welcomes Second Largest First-Year Class, a 4% Increase from Last Year

MAHWAH, N.J. – Ramapo College of New Jersey's new class has arrived and their journey begins. Welcomed during Ramapo's traditional Arching Ceremony on Sunday, September 2, the 1,539 new Roadrunners include first-year and transfer students. The Class of 2022 boasts 955 first-year students, the second largest first-year class in Ramapo's history and 4% larger than the class of 2021.

New residential students moved into their residence halls in the morning with the help of the Roadrunner and more than 425 student-leader volunteers. New commuter students also checked in throughout the day. Students and their families were officially welcome during New Student Assembly in the Bradley Center where they heard welcoming remarks from President Peter P. Mercer, members of the administration, student government and Parents' Council and then transitioned to the College's Arching Ceremony.

During the College's outdoor Arching Ceremony, President Mercer greeted each of the new students as they walked through the Arch, symbolizing their entry to Ramapo College. The day's festivities were rounded out with a barbeque, games, and bouncy houses on the Bandshell lawn.

"The Ramapo College Class of 2022 represents a highly talented, diverse, and motivated group of students in whose academic development and personal growth we are strongly invested. One need not look far from home to see that our communities are too often teetering, challenged to meet their economic, societal, and civic obligations for reasons ranging from the management of scarce resources to the undervaluing of cultural competency in decision making. When we welcome the Class of 2022 to Ramapo College, we simultaneously welcome the next generation of critical thinkers

and conscientious leaders—a responsibility and privilege that each faculty and staff member on our campus does not take for granted,” said President Mercer.

The very talented and diverse Class of 2022 is distinguished by its demographics:

- 28 percent were born in the 1990s, while 72 percent were born in the 2000s
- Students hail from nine different states
- All 21 New Jersey counties are represented
- The class includes 21 international students from seven foreign countries
- 57 percent of the incoming freshman class is female while 43 percent is male
- 38.3 percent identify themselves as non-white
- The average GPA, based on high school records, is 3.44
- 16 percent came through Early Decision
- 88 students are Educational Opportunity Fund students
- This year’s top majors are Undeclared, Nursing, Business Administration, Biology and Psychology

The Class of 2022 has more ahead this week including attending [Opening Convocation](#), featuring author Lisa Ko, whose award-winning novel, “The Leavers,” was Ramapo College’s first-year student reading selection. Students will also participate in additional [Welcome Week](#) events such as meeting their first-year seminar professors, attending mandatory trainings and workshops, and partaking in meet-and-greet gatherings, trips, movies, comedy shows, games, and team-building activities.

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Ramapo College of New Jersey is the state’s premier public liberal arts college. Ranked among the top colleges in the region by College Choice and recognized by, among others, *U.S. News & World Report*, Princeton Review, Colleges of Distinction and also designated by Victory Media as a “Military Friendly College,” Ramapo College is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include business, education, nursing and social work. In addition, the College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels, and offers graduate programs leading to degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education.