

The College of New Jersey

Pathway Program FAQ

What does it mean to be a Pathway student?

Now in its fourteenth year, the Pathway Program allows provisionally admitted students to take a full-time course load in the Fall 2025 semester as a non-matriculated student, with the ultimate goal of becoming a fully matriculated student in the Spring 2026 semester.

Why have I been chosen as a Pathway student?

Selection is based on a combination of factors, including competitiveness of the major and the overall academic record that, while promising, was not as strong as other applicants in terms of GPA, course rigor (honors, dual enrollment, and AP courses), and/or standardized test scores (if applicable). A holistic review of the student's application—including extracurricular activities, personal statements, and letters of recommendation—indicated potential but did not fully align with the direct admission standards for their particular academic program.

How do I confirm my seat in the Pathway Program?

Students **must** submit the Pathway Acceptance Notification Form as well as the Pathway Contract, both of which can be found on their online Application Portal. These forms, as well as a non-refundable \$600 enrollment deposit, must be submitted no later than May 1st to confirm a seat in the Pathway Program for Fall 2025.

What are the expectations during this Pathway period?

Pathway students must earn a semester GPA of 2.3 or higher, pass all classes, and actively work with their advisor in order to be eligible for matriculation in Spring 2026. Students who earn incomplete/in-progress grades or grades of F are not eligible to matriculate. While students may matriculate with a 2.3 GPA, some programs (such as those that require certification) may require a higher GPA to be successful. Certain majors may have further expectations which are outlined on the Pathway Program Contract in the student's online Application Portal; this must be reviewed and signed by all Pathway students.

How many classes can a Pathway student take in Fall 2025?

Pathway students will be required to take 3 course units at TCNJ, which is considered full-time. The first course will be a writing seminar, and the remaining two courses will either be a major-specific course or a College Core (TCNJ's general education program) course, as deemed appropriate. They will also be required to complete a non-credit College Success course facilitated by their Pathway advisor. The student will be registered for these courses by the Pathway advising team and the department housing their academic major.

The College of New Jersey

Pathway Program FAQ

How many credits will a Pathway student earn in Fall 2025?

TCNJ is on a course unit system. A course unit is equal to four (4) credit hours. Pathway students will take 3-3.5 units depending on their intended major and placement results.

Can I take more than 3.5 course units as a Pathway student in the Fall 2025?

No, students may not take more than 3.5 course units at TCNJ in the fall. However, they can take a summer or winter course at TCNJ.

What major will a Pathway student be pursuing?

Pathway students are non-matriculated students who are provisionally accepted into a major program. Upon successful completion of all requirements during the Pathway semester, students will be matriculated at the beginning of the Spring 2026 semester into the major listed in their Pathway acceptance letter and contract.

Can a Pathway student change their major?

Although major changes are not guaranteed, there is an internal major change process at TCNJ which can be explored after full matriculation and consultation with an academic advisor. Students with questions about major changes should discuss with their Pathway advisor.

What is the cost for this program?

TCNJ will discount the cost of attendance for the Fall 2025 semester for all Pathway students. For example, the cost for Pathway students last fall was \$8,110.00 compared to the \$9,819.90 for tuition and fees (excluding health insurance) for matriculated, full-time in-state students. The final discounted cost will be available after our Board of Trustees meet in July.

Am I eligible for Financial Assistance?

No, as a non-matriculated student, Pathway students are not eligible for financial aid for the Fall 2025 semester. The only lenders currently available to non-matriculated students are College Ave and Sallie Mae. We strongly encourage Pathway students to submit the FAFSA this summer regardless, since students matriculating in Spring 2026 will become eligible for aid at that time. TCNJ's Title IV School Code is 002642.

The College of New Jersey

Pathway Program FAQ

What does the program cost cover?

The discounted cost will cover the cost of the courses, campus computer access, student activity fee, and student center fee. Health insurance is not included in this fee, but health insurance is required for all TCNJ students. Although we strongly encourage students to stay under their parent/guardian's insurance if possible, Pathway students will have the option to purchase TCNJ health insurance.

When are the payments due, and can I be placed on a payment plan?

Students will be billed on July 29th, with a payment due date of August 11th. A reminder bill will be issued on August 12th for any unpaid balances, with a final payment due date of August 26th. A payment plan through our third-party vendor will be available. Please contact Student Accounts for more information: stuacct@tcnj.edu or **609.771.2172**.

Will there be an orientation for students accepted into the Pathway program?

Yes, a one-day orientation program will be held over the summer. More information to follow.

What housing options are available to me for the Fall 2025 semester?

Pathway students are strongly encouraged to live on campus. TCNJ's housing requirement states that all first-year students must live on campus, and those who are unable to must submit a Housing Exemption Request. Pathway students who live on campus will have the total cost of room and board added to their fall bill. They will reside in the same residential spaces as all first-year students. Historically, students who live on campus during their time in the Pathway program have matriculated at a higher rate.

Are Pathway students allowed to play a Varsity sport?

Not for Fall 2025. According to NCAA rules, non-matriculated students are not able to play varsity sports but can participate at the intramural and club sport levels.

Are Pathway students allowed to join clubs/organizations on campus?

Yes! We encourage all students to get involved with the TCNJ community. There are a few exceptions, however. Pathway students are not able to join the Student Finance Board, be a representative for the Student Government Association, or hold a leadership position in a campus organization. In the Spring 2026 semester, these options will be available without restrictions to all matriculated students.

The College of New Jersey

Pathway Program FAQ

Are Pathway students permitted to work on campus?

No, Pathway students are not able to work on campus in the Fall 2025 semester. However, this opportunity will also be available upon matriculation.

Can Pathway students continue at TCNJ if they do not meet the minimum GPA for the spring semester?

Students who do not meet the requirements for matriculation but earn above a 1.75 semester GPA have the opportunity to return for a second Pathway semester in the spring. Those who earn below a 1.75 semester GPA will not be able to continue at TCNJ.

The Pathway Program sounds great, but may not be for me. Can I still be considered for matriculation for this fall?

On the Pathway Enrollment Notification form, students may decline their offer of acceptance into the Pathway Program while requesting a place on the TCNJ Wait List for Fall 2025 admission. Wait List students are typically notified of a decision in June. Some years as few as 10 students have been admitted off the Wait List. For those extended a Pathway acceptance, the Pathway Program is the best option for joining the TCNJ community this fall.