

# Find

# Your Fit



# RIT





Join our  
unique  
community of  
**exceptional  
individuals.**

Meet more  
students at  
[rit.edu/ntid/fit](http://rit.edu/ntid/fit)

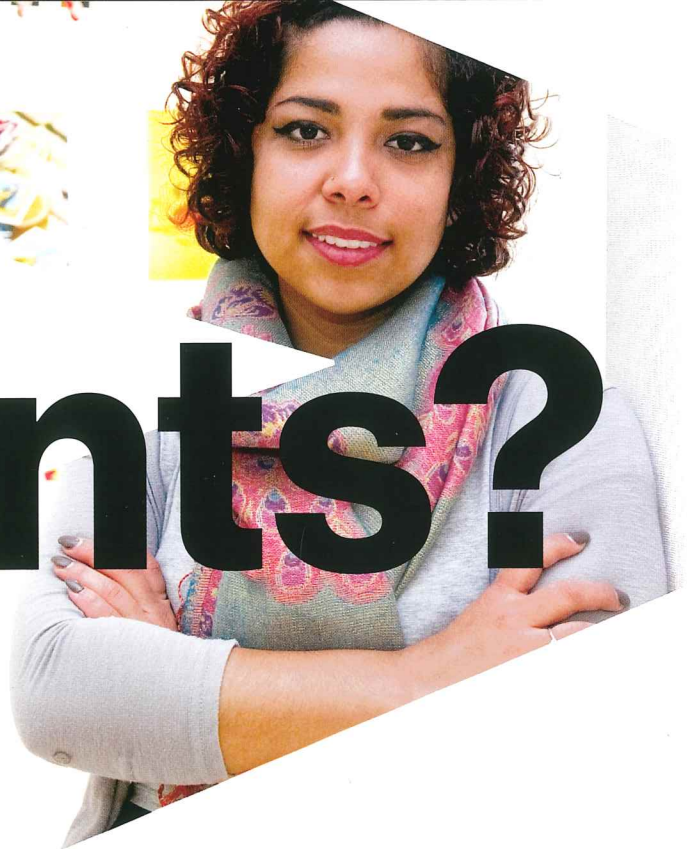
The Rochester Institute of Technology community includes more than 1,100 students who are hard of hearing or deaf. Our students come from all over the United States and the world, bringing with them a variety of backgrounds and life experiences. Many students attended mainstream schools. Others attended schools for the deaf. Some grew up in families where they were the only deaf person. Others came from culturally Deaf families. Some prefer to communicate using spoken English. Others prefer sign language or a combination of speaking and signing.

**The bottom line is that at RIT, you'll find other students like you.** And you'll discover more about yourself than you ever knew.

Meet some of our students and read their stories. Find out why RIT is the right fit for them and why it could be the right fit for you.



# Who are our Students?



**Gender**

- 48% Male
- 52% Female

**Home Region**

- 46% Northeast
- 18% South
- 16% West
- 16% Midwest
- 4% International

**Ethnicity**

- 62% White
- 15% Hispanic/Latino
- 11% Asian
- 8% Black/African American
- 4% Two or More Races

**Assistive Technology Use**

- 49% Hearing Aids
- 21% Cochlear Implant
- 20% None
- 10% Both Hearing Aids and Cochlear Implant

**High School Attended**

- 61% Mainstream
- 39% School for the Deaf

**Degrees Our Students Are Pursuing**

- 49% Bachelor's Degrees
- 23% Career-Focused Associate Degrees
- 18% Associate+Bachelor's Degrees
- 7% Graduate Degrees
- 3% Career Exploration Studies (Undecided)





LIFE

A portrait of Charles Hem, a young man with dark brown hair, smiling. He is wearing a teal shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing a sign with the word "LIFE" in white letters.

## Charles Hem

Hometown  
**Long Beach, Mississippi**

Major  
**Biomedical Engineering**

Preferred Communication Mode  
**Spoken English**

I grew up mainstreamed as the only hard-of-hearing person I knew, and I was very self-conscious of it during high school. Coming to RIT's diverse and accepting community, meeting people with similar backgrounds as me for the first time, and learning ASL and connecting with the positive sides of being hard of hearing has completely improved my mindset. When I think about what it would be like as one of the few deaf or hard-of-hearing students at another college, and having to figure out access services alone and explain to peers about being hard of hearing, I become even more thankful for all of the ways that RIT has helped me grow and flourish.

A portrait of Israelle Johnson, a young woman with long blonde hair and bangs, smiling. She is wearing a light-colored top. The background is a warm, yellowish-orange color.

## Israelle Johnson

Hometown  
**Baltimore, Ohio**

Major  
**Laboratory Science Technology**

Preferred Communication Mode  
**Spoken English and sign language**

I wanted to find a college that fit my learning style and interests. For me that meant small class sizes, tutors and support services, and direct instruction where faculty and staff can communicate directly with me using sign language. The college also had to have an orchestra I could join, because I have been playing the viola since fourth grade, and it brings me so much joy. RIT offers all the things I was looking for. I made the right decision to attend RIT—100 percent!

A portrait of Maya Penn, a young woman with dark hair pulled back, smiling. She is wearing a grey turtleneck sweater and large gold hoop earrings. The background is a warm, orange-brown color.

## Maya Penn

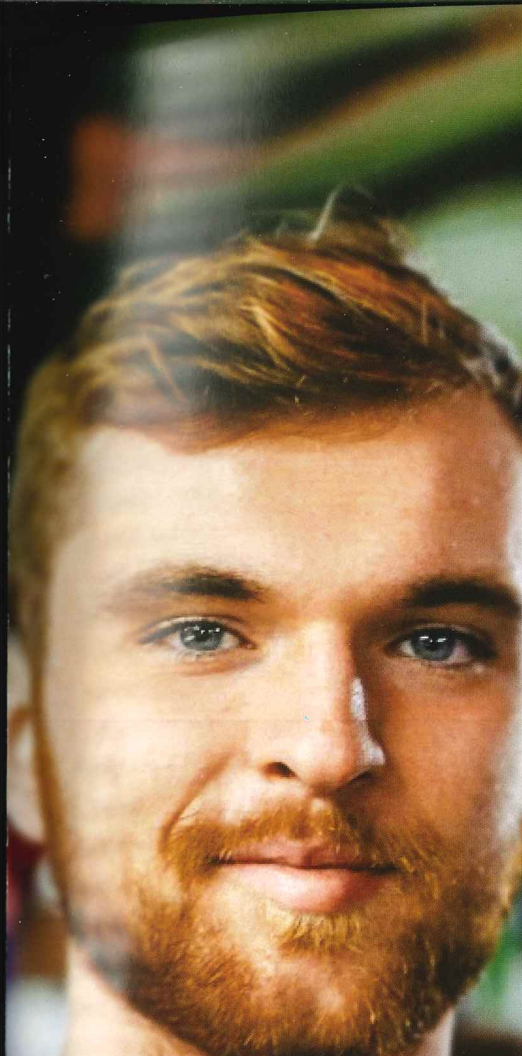
Hometown  
**Vallejo, California**

Major  
**Applied Liberal Arts/Psychology**

Preferred Communication Mode  
**American Sign Language**

I attended a school for the deaf, and loved my high school experience. I was very outgoing, so when I was searching for a college, I wanted to find a place where making friends would be easy and where I could become involved in any activity I wanted to take part in. I also wanted a college that had resources specifically for deaf students, so I could be successful in my major. I visited RIT and knew immediately I belonged here. I love the community here and fit in perfectly as an RIT Tiger.





## **Bobby Moakley**

Hometown  
**Boston, Massachusetts**

Major  
**Science, Technology & Public Policy**

Preferred Communication Mode  
**Spoken English and sign language**

RIT has been a wonderful fit for me because I am receiving an excellent education and incredible leadership experience that caters to both my general needs and to my specific needs as a deaf student. I'm not outcast from the hearing portion of our student body because all campus activities are inclusive of so many backgrounds, and it is incredibly easy to develop as a person here. I have been involved in many clubs and organizations. My time here at RIT has been nothing but amazing and enlightening. I found my identity here, and I have done things I had never imagined were possible.



## **Baylee Trani**

Hometown  
**Huntington Beach, California**

Major  
**Psychology**

Preferred Communication Mode  
**Spoken English**

When I was looking at colleges, I was searching for a place where I could continue to play competitive women's hockey, and I wanted to be on a Division I team. I didn't think colleges differed in how they accommodated hard-of-hearing students, but when I looked at RIT and learned about the access and support services available for hard-of-hearing students, I knew I wanted to go here. It's been a great fit. Everyone is accepting and respectful. The guidance and acceptance I get here at RIT have shaped me into the person I want to become.



## **Grace Yukawa**

Hometown  
**Newcastle, Washington**

Major  
**Mechanical Engineering**

Preferred Communication Mode  
**American Sign Language**

I was one of about 40 deaf students in a mainstream high school. My priority while searching for a college was finding a well-ranked engineering program close to home. But later in my search process, I realized how crucial communication accessibility was to me, and the importance of fit. That meant having the opportunity to meet deaf and hard-of-hearing people from various backgrounds, so I could find friends I could relate to, and we all could share in our common deafness. RIT met my criteria. I just knew I wouldn't be alone here. Coming to RIT has helped me find myself. I'm getting a fantastic education that is preparing me well for my future.



# RIT

## Rochester Institute of Technology

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RIT does not discriminate. RIT promotes and values diversity within its workforce and provides equal opportunity to all qualified individuals regardless of race, color, creed, age, marital status, sex, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, veteran status or disability.

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