

Ryan Campbell  
EOF First Year Student  
Ramapo College EOF Program

My name is Ryan Campbell. I began college this summer as an EOF student at Ramapo College of New Jersey. I do not come from an affluent background like other students in my hometown with families able to pay for college. Therefore, I was very happy when I was accepted at Ramapo College as a member of the EOF program. Without this opportunity, I would not be at this important step in my life.

I've understood for a long time that it would have been difficult for my parents to send 4 children to school. From a young age, I made a commitment to myself that I was not going to put them in that position. When it came time to start my college search, I planned to work this out myself, either through a soccer scholarship or some other way. Fortunately, as I was researching for financial assistance, I found out about the EOF program at Ramapo College. In a sense, the EOF Program rescued me and my family. Watching how my older brother completed his first 2 years of college gave me inspiration and the drive to succeed. He has become my role model.

When I got accepted at Ramapo, I found out that I had to attend a summer program. Initially, it made me feel a little uneasy because I did not want to go to summer school. However, despite these feelings of uneasiness I knew that I had to do this for me and my family. That is the reason why I am still here today. The EOF Summer Program was an exhilarating experience for me even though I confess that the first couple of weeks were tough and I struggled a lot. The classes were different from high school and my sleep schedule was off due to the long days. Speaking with the EOF staff on a daily basis gave me a wake-up call. It helped me realize that I had to get through this first step of college and that I could do it no matter how hard things became. Although I might rather be home "chillin" with my family, I knew that I must strive to do better. I realized that getting my schoolwork done was much more important than having fun and even sleeping. I give many thanks to the EOF staff for keeping me focused and to my roommate for helping me write my papers. Sometimes, it felt like I had composed a thousand pages when in actuality it was only 8. I have made memories and friends that will last my lifetime. Thank you for the opportunity. I will forever be grateful.