



Rutgers University–Camden: The State of the Campus 2020

The Big Picture

We are a place of access by tradition and by design. Our Bridging the Gap tuition reduction program has significantly increased access and diversity on our campus. It links families across New Jersey to our history of helping first-generation college students toward success and increasing opportunities for underrepresented minorities to choose Rutgers. Because of its response to affordability and access, Bridging the Gap has been replicated elsewhere and is the subject of a longitudinal study by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

We offer a personalized environment that provides exceptional opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to thrive and to succeed. Students work in mentoring relationships with faculty who are recipients of Pulitzer Prizes, National Science Foundation CAREER Awards, fellowships to the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, and hundreds of other honors. Undergraduate research is a hallmark of the student experience across the curriculum and a signature success of the campus. Students engage in career-building activities at every level that develop them as our next generation of leaders.

We serve as a model for civically engaged urban universities. Our commitment to civic engagement offers students real-world experiences that develop critical reasoning, opportunities for faculty to apply their research in service to our state and communities in Camden, and partnerships with other institutions in the region every day. Rutgers–Camden is unquestionably a cornerstone of the Camden Rising movement and is making an impact in communities in every county in South Jersey.

We are an institution powered by Rutgers faculty who are respected leaders across a spectrum of disciplines. Our research centers and academic programs create transformational scholarship in such areas as urban policy, insurance law, biomedical computation, intellectual property, and childhood studies.

We are a crucible for innovation in pedagogy and curricular development. Our PhD programs are models of interdisciplinary design, leveraging traditional campus strengths to create new opportunities that produce leaders. Rutgers–Camden is home to the first PhD in childhood studies in the United States, as well as doctoral programs in computational and integrative biology, public affairs, and nursing practice. We also offer terminal degree programs in law and creative writing (MFA). Continuing to develop doctoral programs that break down disciplinary silos is a key priority of the campus.

We make student success a priority across campus units. We have created an integrated system of enrollment management, classroom instruction, teaching assessment, professional development, and student support that has improved academic achievement and retention.



Rutgers–Camden by the Numbers

Rutgers University–Camden, an R2 doctoral university, has enjoyed steady growth in size and academic programs. We deliver 39 undergraduate programs, 24 master’s-level programs, and four doctoral programs across four schools and colleges (Faculty of Arts and Sciences, School of Business, School of Nursing, and Rutgers Law School). Rutgers–Camden has 375 full-time faculty, more than 1,000 staff and part-time faculty, and approximately 55,000 living alumni, many of whom return to interact with and support our students.

As of Oct. 1, **our fall 2020 enrollment is 7,226 students**, including 5,882 undergraduates and 1,724 graduate students. **We have 604 first-year undergraduate students, including 333 who are first-generation, 144 who are Latinx, and 113 who are Black.** Despite the sharp challenges in student recruitment that are being experienced by colleges and universities across the nation, Rutgers–Camden is on track to sustain its enrollment with only a modest decline from its record 7,350 figure in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic has, however, affected the campus in other ways. The residential student population is below 200, which is less than 25% of normal capacity. More than 95% of our fall 2020 courses are being delivered remotely; only laboratory, studio art, and nursing clinical classes are happening in person within public health guidelines.

Rutgers–Camden is planning for expanded in-person course offerings during the spring 2021 semester that will be made available within our inventory of campus classroom space that will meet accommodate public health requirements.

Examples of Current Initiatives

- **Strengthening the Research Profile:** In 2019, Rutgers–Camden achieved the Carnegie designation as an R2 national doctoral university. In order to continue to elevate our profile as a research institution, last year we appointed a vice chancellor for research and are expanding the structure of administrative support to offer faculty better opportunities to identify, pursue, and secure competitive grant funding.
- **Rising in National Stature:** During fall 2020, Rutgers–Camden received national recognition for its effectiveness as a research university that provides great value and opportunity for its students. *U.S. News and World Report* gave strong marks to Rutgers–Camden in its 2021 rankings. Among national universities, Rutgers–Camden posted higher rankings in the following categories: Top Performers on Social Mobility (26), Top Public Universities (71), Best Colleges for Veterans (108), Best Value (140), and Overall (153). *Washington Monthly* magazine again ranked Rutgers–Camden as a “Best Bang for the Buck” university and as a university that provides social mobility opportunities for its students.
- **Building the Campus Environment:** While Rutgers–Camden’s enrollment has grown impressively during the past five years, investment in its built environment has not. As a result, classroom space is at a premium, and we lose qualified students who are unable to secure on-campus housing. Our major capital priority is a multi-use academic building, for classrooms and programs, among them, for example, business and graduate education.
- **Recruiting and Retaining a Diverse Faculty and Staff:** The Committee on Institutional Equity and Diversity, composed of faculty and charged by the Chancellor, advances our commitment to achieving the principles of diversity and equity and promoting the recruitment and retention of faculty. In addition, we have created a new position – the vice chancellor of diversity, inclusion, and civic engagement – who will lead efforts to create a culture of equity and inclusion across the campus and in our relations with our external partners.

Our Students

Where our students come from:

- Rutgers University–Camden attracts, retains, and graduates a student population of whom more than half are the first generation in their family to attend college. Many come from lower-income backgrounds. While this has been true throughout the history of Rutgers–Camden, the diversity of our undergraduate student population now aligns much more closely with the demographic profile of New Jersey, making Rutgers–Camden a true place of access for all students.
- Although tuition assistance programs such as Bridging the Gap, along with a more strategic enrollment management plan, have increased the number of students enrolling from across New Jersey, the undergraduate population primarily draws from the state’s southernmost six counties. Graduate programs largely recruit on a national scale, while the PhD and MBA programs recruit globally.
- In recognition of our commitment to serving our student-veterans, Rutgers University–Camden was named New Jersey’s first Purple Heart University. As Rutgers’ first Servicemembers Opportunity College, Rutgers–Camden recently secured a U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration grant to launch the Veterans Serving Veterans Nursing Fellowship Program, which is training veterans to become nurses who then will serve other veterans.

A few examples of what our students accomplish:

- Undergraduate student Patience Williams was selected as the winner of a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to facilitate her advanced studies in the Netherlands. She was among four Rutgers–Camden students named as semi-finalists for the Fulbright, a high number for any university.
- Tara Carr-Lemke, a Ph.D. student in public affairs, has earned a Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation Knowledge Challenge Grant to support her research examining the effect of local immigration policies and environment on immigrant entrepreneurship.
- Melani Cruz Stokes has been named as a 2020 Humanity in Action Fellow, an international honor that encourages emerging global leaders to study abroad. The Rutgers–Camden undergraduate will study in Warsaw, Poland.
- Sarah Filippi-Field won a two-year fellowship from the German Academic Exchange Service to study at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy at the University of Erfurt.
- Undergraduate student Sheridan Waterfall was awarded a Fulbright Summer Institute fellowship to study at the University of Westminster in England.
- Bielka Gonzalez earned a Gilman Fellowship, awarded by the U.S. Department of State, to study in South Korea.
- Students in the Rutgers–Camden Civic Scholars program launched Project 555 and have made great progress toward their goal of helping every high school senior throughout New Jersey register to vote.

Faculty Research and Creative Expression

Rutgers–Camden faculty regularly receive grants from such leading funders as the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, the U.S. Department of Energy, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Knight Foundation, and the U.S. Army Research Office. Their books are published by top trade (Knopf, Algonquin) and scholarly (Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard, Yale, and Johns Hopkins) presses, among others, and they publish in and edit top scholarly journals. They are fellows of the AAAS and the National Academy of Nursing. Here are a few recent examples:

- Benedetto Piccoli (Joseph and Loretta Lopez Chair in Mathematics) is a lead researcher on a \$3.5 million **U.S. Department of Energy grant to study congestion impact reduction**. He works in collaboration with a team that includes scholars from UC Berkeley, Temple University, the University of Arizona, and Vanderbilt University. The project seeks to demonstrate that reduced fuel consumption of all vehicles in the traffic stream can be achieved using intelligent control of a small number of connected and automated vehicles in the traffic stream.
- Gregory Pardlo (English) won the 2015 **Pulitzer Prize for Poetry**. He teaches in and directs the Rutgers–Camden MFA in Creative Writing program, which has **three Guggenheim Fellows**: Pardlo, Patrick Rosal, and Paul Lisicky.
- School of Nursing Dean Donna Nickitas’ co-edited policy textbook, *Policy and Politics for Nurses and Other Health Professionals: Advocacy and Action* (Jones & Bartlett), won the **2019 American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year Award**.
- Maureen Morrin (Henry Rutgers Professor of marketing) has been selected to serve as co-editor of the *Journal of Marketing Research*, which is a **top-tier, premier journal in the field of marketing**.
- Paul Jargowsky (public policy) is **one of America’s most prominent scholars in the area of poverty and residential segregation**. The Century Foundation published Dr. Jargowsky’s report, “The Architecture of Segregation: Civil Unrest, the Concentration of Poverty, and Public Policy,” which detailed the re-concentration of poverty since 2000. The National Science Foundation is funding his research to study the contribution of restrictive land use policies and suburban development patterns to segregation by race and class and the concentration of poverty.
- Rutgers Law School Co-Dean Kimberly Mutcherson has received the **Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Inaugural Impact Award** with four other law school deans for the creation of the Law Deans Antiracist Clearinghouse Project, a webpage for law deans, faculty, and the public that contains resources and information related to addressing racism in law and legal education.
- Lorrin Thomas (history) received a **National Endowment for the Humanities grant** in support of her forthcoming book, *Minority: Latinos and the Making of Multiracial America after the 1960s*, which will explore the centrality of the Latinx community to the struggles over law and policy that reconfigured American society after the 1960s.
- Jinglin Fu (chemistry) received the **Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers**, the highest honor that a beginning scientist or engineer can receive in the United States. He also received a \$1 million Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers from the Army Research Office. His research will aid the development of adaptable platforms that could be applied to engineer smart biosensors for molecular diagnosis and point-of-care tests.
- Michael Carrier (law) is **one of America’s most-cited scholars** on matters related to intellectual property law. His research is referenced by Congress, and he is interviewed by national media outlets frequently.



Civic Engagement

In 2020, we celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the creation of our Office of Civic Engagement, capping a decade during which Rutgers–Camden rose to national prominence for its success in incorporating civic learning into the curricula of each of our schools and colleges. In 2015, Rutgers–Camden earned **Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation**. Our Civic Scholars program creates a community of students who commit to delivering 300 hours of service each year. The Faculty Fellows program supports the development of courses that incorporate civic learning throughout the curriculum.

In our host city, Rutgers–Camden is the lead institution in a coalition of colleges, universities, and secondary schools to boost college enrollment among Camden families. We are a lead partner in “A New View,” a \$1 million **Bloomberg Philanthropies grant** to the City of Camden to transform illegal dumping sites across the city into community centers defined by public art. Our School of Nursing partners with the Camden Housing Authority to provide free health screenings in the Centerville section of the city. Our Law School clinics offer an array of pro bono legal assistance to citizens who might otherwise not be able to access such support; the law clinics also are leading change in state policies in order to better protect and serve vulnerable populations in New Jersey and across the nation.

Across southern New Jersey, the Rutgers School of Business–Camden is boosting economic growth through its Small Business Development Center, while the Rutgers–Camden Southern Regional Child Care Resource and Referral Agency is helping children in every southern county by providing guidance and technical assistance to early childhood education centers.

Fighting The Pandemic

Rutgers University–Camden is leveraging its research expertise to help New Jersey and the world fight back against COVID-19. A few examples:

- The Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs is generating research that serves our region and our state. This policy institute released a study examining how South Jersey’s 25 largest school districts will fare if state funding is reduced due to budgetary issues brought on by the pandemic. **The Rand Institute’s study projecting hospital bed shortfalls across the state at the beginning of the pandemic helped to shape New Jersey’s responses;** Governor Phil Murphy directly referenced the Rutgers–Camden study in a note to President Donald Trump.
- The National Science Foundation awarded a \$188,250 grant to Andrey Grigoriev in support of his biology lab’s **research project investigating the biology of COVID-19 and its interactions with the human host to stem the spread of the disease** and mitigate its devastating impacts on the global human population.
- Jinglin Fu’s chemistry research lab is working to develop a mechanism to **rapidly detect viral RNA for potential diagnosis of COVID-19.**
- Business interruption insurance and other forms of insurance never envisioned a global pandemic. The Rutgers Center for Risk and Responsibility located at Rutgers Law School in Camden is examining the crisis and **providing legislative and business leaders with immediate guidance regarding insurance.**
- The Rutgers School of Nursing–Camden responded rapidly, creating telehealth clinics to provide health services to Camden’s neighborhoods. We’ve received federal funding to augment our nursing program for military veterans so that we can prepare these students to serve in the fight against COVID. And **our nursing school has stood on the front lines of this fight:** our Class of 2020 students graduated early to help hospitals in this battle, our faculty have stepped up, and Kevin Emmons—a member of our nursing school faculty—served as the chief nursing officer for a COVID field hospital in Atlantic City.

Looking Toward the Future

Our vision for the future builds on goals first articulated more than a decade ago, when Rutgers University–Camden created its first interdisciplinary PhD programs. Having achieved Carnegie Research 2 Doctoral status in 2019, we are pursuing aggressively our ambition to become a national leader among urban public research universities in research, teaching, and civic engagement. Aspiring to have a transformative impact on a diverse student body and our communities, we seek to advance research in a broad range of fields, to be a pace-setter in cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and doctoral education, and to grow in size while retaining our intimate and collaborative campus culture, which nurtures the aspirations of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and fellow citizens.

Rutgers University–Camden is a place of access, opportunity, and excellence. We are meeting the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic while continuing to prepare our students to become the civic leaders of tomorrow. Our research profile and national stature continue to rise, and we remain grounded in our tradition of providing first-generation college students with a world-class Rutgers learning experience that includes personalized support. **More than ever before, Rutgers–Camden is Rutgers in South Jersey.**