



**RUTGERS**  
THE STATE UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW JERSEY

# Fast Facts about Rutgers



# Fast facts you might not know

**Rutgers University is the sole university in the United States that is a colonial college, a land-grant institution, and a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities.** Rutgers is the eighth-oldest university in the United States.

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**Rutgers is named after Revolutionary War veteran Colonel Henry Rutgers.** He fought in the Battle of White Plains in New York State.

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**Rutgers University–New Brunswick was the site of a key turning point in the Revolutionary War.** On December 1, 1776, American forces commanded by Alexander Hamilton, a 20-year-old captain, fired on British troops across the Raritan River, enabling George Washington’s army to escape. This helped lead to Washington’s December 25 crossing of the Delaware River near Trenton, New Jersey, and one of the most significant American victories in the Revolutionary War.

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**Rutgers awarded its first academic degree in 1774.** Since then, the university has awarded more than 551,000 degrees.

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**Rutgers is one of two new members of the Big Ten but the oldest university in the Big Ten.** Rutgers also belongs to the Big Ten Academic Alliance, the eminent academic consortium of Big Ten member schools.

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**Announced in 2016, Rutgers Health will unify existing clinical practices and specialties of Rutgers to create an unmatched range of services that address the needs of the whole person.**

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**At Rutgers’ faculty practices and clinics, 1.7 million patient visits are logged annually.** Rutgers Cancer

Institute of New Jersey is New Jersey’s sole National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center.

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**Rutgers is the birthplace of college football.**

On November 6, 1869, at Rutgers University–New Brunswick, Rutgers played Princeton in the first intercollegiate football game. Rutgers won, 6 to 4.

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**A Rutgers star was a trailblazer in the racial integration of college football.** Rutgers

football great and 1919 class speaker Paul Robeson, who later achieved worldwide fame as an actor and civil rights activist, was one of the first African Americans to be named a college football All-American. Robeson first won the award in 1917—three decades before Jackie Robinson integrated Major League Baseball.

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**A Rutgers alumna played a significant role in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision that declared school segregation unconstitutional.**

Julia Baxter Bates, the first African-American woman admitted to the university, was head of research for the NAACP when the Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954. She participated in the preparation of the NAACP’s successful legal brief.

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**Rutgers is home to the papers of Thomas A. Edison, woman suffrage advocates Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, and John Roebling, the engineer who designed the Brooklyn Bridge.**

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**The Institute of Jazz Studies is the world’s largest and most comprehensive archive of jazz and jazz-related materials.** For his film *Jazz*, documentary filmmaker Ken Burns mined the archive, calling it “one of the world’s treasures.”

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# about Rutgers University

## Rutgers developed a treatment for tuberculosis.

Nobel Prize winner Selman Waksman and a team of Rutgers microbiologists discovered the antibiotic streptomycin in 1943. In 2013, the FDA approved a Rutgers-developed TB detection test, called “the first major breakthrough in TB diagnostics in more than 100 years.”

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**Rutgers continues to be a leader in health-related research.** Rutgers researchers are renowned worldwide for their efforts to cure spinal cord injuries, combat AIDS and cancer, and treat autism.

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**Rutgers is home to the world’s largest university-based repository of DNA and cell lines.** These are crucial assets for biomedical research to cure diseases like schizophrenia, diabetes, autism, Tourette syndrome, Parkinson’s, and Alzheimer’s.

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**Rutgers researchers are deeply involved in efforts to feed the world.** Rutgers geneticists were instrumental in mapping the genomes of rice and corn, which could lead to bigger and better food harvests.

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**A Rutgers-led team is developing innovative methods to treat battlefield injuries.** Chemistry professor Joachim Kohn has assembled a team of the nation’s top scientists and clinicians to develop new regenerative therapies, including engineering of tissues, for service members maimed and disfigured in battle.

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**Rutgers is a key player in worldwide efforts to combat global warming.** Eight Rutgers scientists participated in the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former Vice President Al Gore.

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## Rutgers academic departments and programs that have been ranked in the top 10 nationwide include:

- Digital Librarianship
  - Discrete Mathematics and Combinatorics
  - Drama
  - English: 18th-to-20th-Century British Literature
  - English: Gender and Literature
  - Fine Arts: Painting and Drawing
  - History: African-American
  - Library Information Systems
  - Library Services for Children and Youth
  - Philosophy
  - Sociology of Culture
  - Women’s History
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## Outstanding Rutgers alumni include:

- The late **Milton Friedman**, Nobel Prize-winning economist
  - The late **James Gandolfini**, Emmy Award-winning actor
  - Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist **Junot Díaz**
  - **Randal Pinkett**, Rhodes scholar and a winner on NBC’s *The Apprentice*
  - **Natalie Morales**, coanchor of NBC’s *Today* show
  - **Bernard Marcus**, cofounder of The Home Depot, Inc.
  - Super-chef **Mario Batali**
  - Golden Globe-winning actress **Calista Flockhart**
  - **Avery Brooks**, award-winning actor and longtime Rutgers professor
  - **Peter Schultz**, coinventor of the optical fiber that revolutionized telecommunications
  - **Janet Evanovich**, best-selling mystery writer
  - **Michael Gottlieb**, physician and immunologist who first identified AIDS as a new disease
  - Three-term U.S. Poet Laureate **Robert Pinsky**
  - 2015 World Cup champion and 2008 and 2012 Olympic gold medalist **Carli Lloyd**
  - **Elizabeth Warren**, United States Senator from Massachusetts
  - Founder of ESPN **William Rasmussen**
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