THE BLOUSTEIN SCHOOL MISSION

The Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy [http://bloustein.rutgers.edu/](http://bloustein.rutgers.edu/) has provided over two decades of academic excellence and service to the public and private sectors of the state, region, and nation and is committed to a rebirth of the public service ethic in the United States. The school is a nexus of planning, public policy, and public health, bringing together three core disciplines in a unique and multidisciplinary manner while promoting systematic thinking and innovative problem solving aimed at some of society’s most complex and challenging problems. As part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey [www.rutgers.edu](http://www.rutgers.edu), the school capitalizes on the strengths and resources of a major research university. The Bloustein School reaches out to the larger world, beyond the realm of academe, to contribute to regional, national, and international communities.

The Bloustein School seeks to improve our increasingly urbanized and interconnected world by exploring planning approaches and public policy solutions that are healthier, greener, fairer, and generate greater prosperity than do current practices. It pursues equitable and efficient solutions to public problems at multiple levels from the global to the local, and emphasizes the professional perspectives of urban planning, public policy, and public health. Within each of these domains, the school advances its aspiration to be a global leader in teaching, research, and service by engaging society’s challenges with focused programs that align current strengths with emerging needs. Its mission includes:

- Solving public problems through constructive engagement of governmental, private, and non-profit actors;
- Addressing the challenge of urbanization in its various global manifestations;
- Serving New Jersey's need for a rigorous and engaging public policy forum; and
- Preparing students for rewarding professional careers in public service.

Edward J. Bloustein — Rutgers president, constitutional scholar, active citizen, philosopher, and teacher — lived a life of civic engagement that the school’s ethic seeks to perpetuate. Research, teaching, and outreach at the Bloustein School aim for intellectual originality and practical rigor in an atmosphere of spirited and open debate. Bloustein activities are rooted in diversity of experience and thought. They create settings where individuals and
communities can flourish. The Bloustein ethic strives to improve the quality of public discourse by producing ideas and measures that have impact.

The Bloustein ethic engages those who do their jobs not just honorably, but with a passion for their work that alters their surroundings. The Bloustein School seeks to foster new research and thinking that achieve both scholarly recognition and public acceptance.

PREPARING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

The School supports a wide variety of educational activities, from undergraduate http://bloustein.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/ and master’s and doctoral degree programs http://bloustein.rutgers.edu/graduate/ to continuing education courses and conferences for professionals and alumni http://bloustein.rutgers.edu/alumni/. The School also hosts international fellows programs, which provide education and professional development opportunities for individuals from nations around the world.

The core purpose of all our educational programs is to enhance students’ understanding of the theories, methods, and practice of planning and public policy. The School’s educational programs encourage open discussion of all viewpoints, the application of quantitative methods for analysis, the careful study of history, and a thorough consideration of economic and demographic trends and political institutions and processes. Full- and part-time students examine theories and methods in a wide variety of concentrations, including community and economic development, public health, workforce development, land use, housing, transportation, urban design, education, social policy, science and technology policy, and environmental policy.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The Bloustein School is one of the few schools able to address local, state, regional, national and international policy and planning issues with expertise and credibility. With the graduate urban planning program ranked as one of the top ten in the nation and accredited by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ASCP) and the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB), and the public policy program accredited by the NASPAA—The Global Standard in Public Service Education (NASPAA), the school is a leader in areas such as smart growth, transportation policy, workforce development, urban redevelopment, energy and
environmental policy, public health, and conflict resolution. The Bloustein School builds on its association with its research centers, and is distinctive in its simultaneous focus on graduate and undergraduate education.

The Bloustein School’s Graduate Program in Public Policy http://bloustein.rutgers.edu/graduate/public-policy/ is designed to fill the need for highly trained individuals to work on complex public policy problems. This program prepares students for careers in government, politics, and public affairs within the public, private, nonprofit, or private for-profit sectors. It seeks to give students conceptual and analytical tools to build their competencies in four areas: public policy, research methods, economics, and politics, as well as training in leadership, values, and ethical behavior that guide the responsible application of these competencies in the field.

The school offers a two-year Master of Public Policy (MPP) and a one-year Master of Public Affairs and Politics (MPAP), as well as a combined MPAP / Juris Doctorate (JD) with the Rutgers Schools of Law at Camden and Newark (MPAP/JD); a MPP / Master of Business Administration (MBA) the MPP/ Master of City and Regional Planning (MCRP) joint program with the Bloustein School’s Urban Planning department.

Master of Public Policy students are also required to present a concentration to complete their degree requirements in one the following specialization areas: budget and finance; economics; education; environment; health; labor and workforce development; management; methods; non-profit management; political processes and institutions; social policy and women’s issues, and urban policy and community development.

The school’s accredited Program in Urban Planning http://policy.rutgers.edu/academics/uppd/ has been awarding professional master’s degrees for 40 years, and Bloustein graduates populate the top ranks of planning directors, consultants, public officials, professors, lawyers, and business professionals worldwide. The urban planning program educates innovative people who wish to combine social concerns with analytic skills. While planners work on a wide range of problems, they also are likely to focus on a particular issue or specialization in building individual careers, concentrating their professional expertise. For this reason the trained planner is often called “a generalist
with a specialty." That phrase is more than just a cliché. It suggests that a useful curriculum will contain a productive application of faculty disciplines and other program resources and defines the approach to graduate study in urban planning and policy development at Rutgers.

The two-year Master of City and Regional Planning (MCRP) degree prepares students for practice in planning, policy analysis, and program development through a curriculum designed to develop in the student an understanding of the linkages between the social, economic, and political factors of urban society and the physical and environmental framework of regions and communities. The one-year Master of City and Regional Studies (MCRS) program is open to individuals who hold advanced degrees in other disciplines and wish to develop special auxiliary knowledge in planning, or who are international practicing planners with extensive professional experience. In addition, dual degrees are also offered: MCRP / Juris Doctor (JD); MCRP / Master of Business Administration (MBA); MCRP / Master of Infrastructure Planning (MIP); MCRP / Master of Public Policy (MPP); and the MCRP / Master of Science (MS) in food and business economics.

Five issue-oriented concentrations, or specialties, reflect the strengths of the faculty in the urban planning and policy development program, including Environmental and Physical Planning, Housing and Real Estate, International Development and Regional Planning, Transportation Policy and Planning, and Urban and Community Development. The program concentrations are intended to help students develop a program of study that will help them fulfill their individual career goals.

Allied with Urban Planning and Policy Development is the school-wide Ph.D. program, which focuses on the preparation of planning-focused scholars seeking a career in university teaching and research or a leadership position in planning and public policy in the public, private or non-profit sector.

The Bloustein School offers undergraduate major and minor programs [http://bloustein.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/](http://bloustein.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/) of study in planning and public policy (BA), public policy (BS), and public health (BS) and Health Administration (BS). Beginning in the fall of 2015, the school will also offer a major in Urban Planning and Design (BS). It
also offers direct-admission public health and public policy programs, allowing students currently pursuing an undergraduate degree from a two- or four-year institution outside of Rutgers University who are seeking to transfer to Rutgers University, students currently holding an associate’s degree from a two-year institution, or students with at least 45 credits, who are already in a career track, to apply directly to the Bloustein School’s programs and complete the degree requirements to obtain a BS degree from Rutgers University.

Students are trained and ultimately employed in areas including land use, political processes, public health, employment and social policy, human services, transportation policy and planning, housing and real estate, urban redevelopment, and regional development and planning. The school also offers competitive and highly selective BA or BS / MPP and BA or BS/MCRP programs, which allow exemplary students the opportunity to complete their liberal arts education in five years of full-time enrollment, rather than the normal six, while preparing for careers in planning, public policy or politics.

The distinguished faculty is led by Dean James W. Hughes and comprises researchers, theorists and practitioners, including government leaders, who apply research to promote positive social and economic change. The Bloustein School faculty members are widely recognized within their respective fields, having been ranked in the top 10 nationally for scholarly output, and have received the highest awards offered by the university and professional associations for public service, teaching and research. Faculty members serve on numerous boards of national, professional and public policy organizations, testify before Congress and the New Jersey Legislature, present at major academic conferences, and edit prestigious academic journals. Major positions held by Bloustein School faculty members include Governor of the State of New Jersey, president of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, and chairman of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. In addition, faculty members have served on university committees that establish and oversee academic policy and programs.

RESEARCH AND SERVICE

Students at the Bloustein School are encouraged to work on real world projects by becoming involved with the school’s many centers and institutes. The School serves as an intellectual focal point at Rutgers University for the examination of societal problems and
solutions. Research undertakings are governed by a strong commitment to quality through the use of sound social science theory and methods and to full dissemination of results and peer review of findings. Research is carried out on a wide variety of challenging topics. Specialized centers, established by the University's Board of Governors, carry out large-scale projects and are supported by external funding. The centers support the educational and public service mission by focusing research in the substantive areas of the School's strength and by supporting students, faculty, and staff in those areas.

The School is committed to addressing community, regional, state, national, and international needs. Faculty, staff, and students fulfill this commitment in a variety of ways, by preparing students for careers in public service; through continuing education courses and seminars; by serving as advisors to public officials and community organizations; by working to strengthen the capacity of governmental and nonprofit organizations through education and training; and by undertaking research projects that address the pressing needs and concerns of our society.

APPLICATION DEADLINE AND ADMISSION

For applicants applying for graduate degree admission for the fall semester to the urban planning, public policy or Ph.D. programs, applications are held until after the January 15th deadline for students with interest in merit-based scholarships, fellowships and assistantships. Application review begins at the end of January and is completed by mid-March. Most admissions and funding decisions will be made in March and April, with a completion of most activity by May. All admission and funding decision notifications will be made by email and decisions posted online via the status page (http://gradstudy.rutgers.edu/apply/check-your-status).

All admissions decisions are informed judgments based on the applicant's previous academic performance, standardized test scores, experience and achievement, recommendations, and other relevant data. The number of students who can be accommodated in some programs is limited. Applications are reviewed by the department faculty and either members of the undergraduate, master's or the doctoral admissions committee, as applicable. Because admission requirements vary among the programs,
applicants should carefully review the information and instructions provided in the application form, and consult with the individual program (http://policy.rutgers.edu/prospective/admissions.php).

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ AND THE CIVIC SQUARE BUILDING

The construction of the Bloustein School’s home—the Civic Square Building—nearly 20 years ago realized Dr. Bloustein’s vision that Rutgers University would one day occupy a physical position in the cultural and economic hub of New Brunswick, New Jersey—the host city of Rutgers’ flagship campus. New Brunswick is one of the state’s most significant areas for education, health care, and the arts. The city is home to Rutgers’ historic Old Queen’s campus; Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, Saint Peter’s University Hospital, and the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. The Bloustein School itself is located in New Brunswick’s thriving cultural area, with The State Theater, Crossroads Theatre, and the George Street Playhouse just steps away. Downtown New Brunswick offers something for every taste through a spicy menu of restaurants and entertainment venues.

The Civic Square Building epitomized public-private partnership during the city’s redevelopment, and was financed by nearly equal investments from Rutgers University and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, through the Port Authority’s mandate to promote economic and commercial redevelopment in the region.

The school continually strives to maintain and enhance its technological capabilities for both research and instructional needs. Bloustein School students also have 24/7 access to 88 workstation-class computers in two labs designated solely for student use, a project collaboration room, a newly-remodeled student lounge, and a new dedicated “quiet” space complete with comfortable seating and a laptop bar.

At Rutgers University–New Brunswick, you can have it all—a community of five distinct and lively campuses, the urban vibe of the city of New Brunswick, and the ivy-covered buildings and verdant open spaces of a university with a history going back to Colonial times (1766, to be precise). The campus, with facilities in the city of New Brunswick, the township of
Piscataway, and several surrounding municipalities, offers something for everyone. Top-notch recreational facilities. Art galleries, theaters, and coffeehouses. The roaring crowds at High Point Solutions Stadium. Hiking trails, a golf course, and even a farm. When you live in New Brunswick, you’re living in the gateway to New Jersey.

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