Academic Programs

The disciplines and professions of urban planning, public policy, public health, health administration and public informatics are strongly situated in an educational context that stresses social science education and public service. The Bloustein School grants B.A. and B.S. degrees in five majors, four Master's degrees, and, through the Rutgers School of Graduate Studies, a Ph.D. in Planning and Public Policy.

Research

Faculty, staff and students conduct research on critical issues facing the world, country, state, and neighborhoods. Researchers study climate change, poverty, inequality, housing finance, community development, transportation, health, immigration, education, urban design, statistics, and government funding and budgeting, expanding the school’s public service mission and providing students with opportunities for research on some of the most critical planning and public policy issues.

Community

The Bloustein School educates a highly select group of students and prepares them for careers in the public, nonprofit and for-profit sectors, teaching and research professions, and service at all levels of government. Alumni of the school are employed in areas of planning, land use, politics, public and community health, employment and social policy, human services, transportation, housing, urban policy and international development.

Since 2000, the number of academic programs offered has doubled—the school offers five undergraduate majors, four master’s programs, and one doctoral program.
Degree Programs

Undergraduate Programs
The Bloustein School offers bachelor degrees in five major fields and seven minor programs. With an undergraduate population of approximately 800 students and growing, the Bloustein School is small enough to offer students individual academic support and the focus of a professional school, but large enough for students to enjoy all the benefits, resources, and opportunities of a leading public research university.

At the Bloustein School, we lead by exploring planning approaches and policy solutions that are healthy, green, and fair, pursuing equitable and efficient responses to public problems at multiple levels from the global to the local. The Bloustein ethic engages those who do their jobs not just honorably, but with a passion for their work.

Majors
- Public Health
- Urban Planning and Design
- Public Policy
- Health Administration
- Planning and Public Policy

Minors
- Public Health
- Urban Planning and Design
- Public Policy
- Health Administration
- Planning and Public Policy
- Public Administration and Management
- Urban Studies

The Bloustein School’s overall budget grew by $16 million between 2000-01 and 2017-18.

Degree program enrollment* has almost tripled since 2000-01

The school’s public health program is one of the first stand-alone baccalaureate programs to be accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health.

Tuition is now the largest source of income for the school, encompassing 45 percent of the school’s budget.
Ph.D. in Planning and Public Policy
Designed for students seeking careers in university teaching and research or in advanced policy research in the public or private sectors.

Public Policy Master’s Programs
Students prepare for careers in policy analysis, politics, and public affairs within the public, private, nonprofit, or private for-profit sectors.

- Master of Public Policy (two-year program)
- Master of Public Affairs and Politics (one-year program)
- Dual and joint degrees in
  - M.P.P./M.C.R.P.
  - M.P.P./J.D.
  - M.P.P./M.B.A.

Urban Planning Master’s Programs
Students develop a comprehensive understanding of cities and regions and the theory and practice of planning using a variety of analytic methods while becoming sensitive to the ways in which planning affects individual and community values.

- Master of City and Regional Planning (two-year program)
- Master of City and Regional Studies (one-year program)
- Dual and joint degrees in
  - M.C.R.P./M.P.P.
  - M.C.R.P./J.D.
  - M.C.R.P./M.B.A.

Health Administration Master’s Programs
Through executive and traditional master’s degree programs, students receive an interdisciplinary education focused on improving health care, health systems, and policy.

- Master of Health Administration (traditional, two-year program)
- Master of Health Administration (executive, cohort based, two-year program, weekends only)

Public Informatics Master’s Program
The program provides the vehicle for educating students in the competencies needed in the field of big data: context, statistics, programming, data management, data analytics, visualization, spatial analysis, applications and the integration of these skills. This interdisciplinary program uses scientific methods, processes, algorithms, and systems to extract knowledge and insights from data in various forms, cross-trained professionals with skills in public applications of information science are needed.

Since 2000, the number of students taking Bloustein School courses* has increased by over 400%

Accreditations and Rankings—Graduate Programs

*Courses open to students across Rutgers University
The Bloustein School has a number of research centers and initiatives that carry out economic, social, environmental and health research, outreach, service, community engagement, and training.

The **Bloustein Center for Survey Research** (BCSR) provides high-quality data collection and research methodology consultation services for social and economic project areas. Examples of recent projects are the *New Jersey Substance Abuse Monitoring System*, New Jersey Department of Human Services, and the *New Jersey Birth Defects/Autism* project, New Jersey Department of Health.

The **Bloustein Center for Local Government Research** (BCLGR) provides research useful to New Jersey’s elected and appointed officials, faculty and researchers, policy analysts and practitioners. One recent example is the *Comprehensive Accountability Report of the Transition Plan for the Return of Local Control to Newark Public Schools*, New Jersey Department of Education and Newark Board of Education.

The **Center for Energy, Economic & Environmental Policy** (CEEEP) conducts applied research to evaluate and help develop energy policy at the state, regional, national, and international levels. Examples are *Developing the State of New Jersey Offshore Wind Strategic Plan*, Ramboll and New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, and *Collaborative Research Modeling Strategic Regulators in Network Infrastructure*, National Science Foundation.

The **Center for Negotiation and Conflict Resolution** (CNCR) is at the forefront of a movement that believes disputes can be settled by constructive negotiation and consensus-building and problem-solving approaches instead of by force or adversarial argument. CNCR provides training, workshops, and seminars for those interested in negotiation and the theory and practice of conflict resolution.

The **Environmental Analysis and Communications Group** (EAC) advances strategies to build communities that are healthier, greener, equitable, resilient and more prosperous. Examples of recent projects include *Survey of Organizations Engaged in Delaware River Watershed Conservation*, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Coastal Zone Management Project, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

The **HIV Prevention Community Planning Support and Development Initiative** (CPSDI) is a joint program of the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Division of HIV/AIDS Services (NJDHSS, DHAS) and the Bloustein School. CPSDI runs the *NJ HIV Prevention Community Planning Group* and provides training courses in HIV Prevention Counseling, Capacity Building, and Effective Behavioral Interventions for the New Jersey Department of Health.

The **John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development** (HCWD) is dedicated to addressing the core challenges of New Jersey’s and the nation’s workforce. For example, HCWD provides research and support to New Jersey Departments of Education and Labor, New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, U.S. Departments of Education and Labor on the *New Jersey Education to Earnings Data Systems*, and leads Transforming U.S. Workforce Development Policies and *Investing in America’s Workforce*, The Federal Reserve Bank System.

The **Planning Healthy Communities Initiative** (PHCI) promotes the consideration of public health impacts into decisions about projects and policies. Examples of projects are *Opportunities for Health Impact Assessment*, Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts, and *Lifelong Elizabeth: Age-Friendly Community Planning*, Grotta Foundation.

The **Rutgers Center for Green Building** (RCGB) promotes green building through research, advocacy and education. Examples of projects are the *New Jersey Green Building Manual* for the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, and *Community Solar Pilot Program*, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.


The **Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center** (VTC) is the nucleus of transportation training and education, policy, and research at Rutgers University, and includes the National Transit Institute, which was created by Congress in 1992. Other ongoing projects include the *NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center* for the New Jersey Department of Transportation, and *Together North Jersey Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development*, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority.

The **Ralph W. Voorhees Center for Civic Engagement** (VCCE) is a collaborative effort towards community development, food security, and housing issues in some of New Jersey’s largest cities. Examples include *Working Together for a Food Secure New Brunswick*, New Brunswick Community Food Alliance (NBCFA), Johnson & Johnson, and Rutgers University and the *Federally Assisted Housing in Greater Newark*, Greater Newark Federally Assisted Housing Coalition.
The Bloustein School has long been a leader in the fields of planning and public policy. The wealth of resources at Rutgers University has enabled us to build strong partnerships with the private sector, public agencies on federal, state and local levels, elected officials, and a vast network of Bloustein alumni throughout the world.

The convergence of our disciplines—planning, policy, public health, and more recently health administration and informatics—provides our students the opportunity to understand the important role of planning, policy-making, analytics, and community design in livability and health and wellbeing.

The school’s stellar faculty and dedicated research associates and staff have led the way in collaborative efforts resulting in cutting-edge research initiatives.