



Revolutionary for 250 Years

Founded in 1766, Rutgers' history is the nation's history, a story that begins before the American Revolution and emerges in today's fast-paced universe of the digital age. Rutgers has grown from a private colonial college with a small cadre of students to one of the largest, most diverse universities in America educating more than 65,000 students in a vast array of fields of endeavors. We mark our historic 250-year anniversary with a yearlong commemoration of events beginning on Charter Day, November 10, 2015.

Fast Facts on Our History

✿ On November 10, 1766, William Franklin, the Royal Governor of New Jersey, grants a charter for Queen's College for the purpose of educating young men for the ministry in the Dutch Reformed Church. The new college, the eighth of nine colonial colleges, is named in honor of Charlotte of Mecklenburg, queen consort of King George III of England.

✿ With 20 students enrolled, Queen's College holds its first commencement in October 1774 and confers the first and only degree that day to Matthew Leydt. Since then, Rutgers has awarded more than 500,000 degrees.

✿ In 1825, the college's trustees rename the school in honor of fellow trustee Colonel Henry Rutgers, a Revolutionary War veteran and devoted member of the Dutch Reformed Church. He later donates to the college the interest from a \$5,000 bond and a bell that still hangs in the cupola of the Old Queens building.

✿ In 1864, Rutgers prevails over Princeton University to become New Jersey's land-grant institution, tasked with offering educational access to a wider range of students who would be the new workforce for America's expanding businesses, factories, and farms. That year the Dutch Reformed Church also severs its last ties with Rutgers. Both events pave the way for Rutgers' eventual role as the state university.

✿ Rutgers is the birthplace of college football. On November 6, 1869, Rutgers played Princeton in the first intercollegiate football game. Rutgers won, 6 to 4.

✿ In 1945 and 1956, state legislative acts designate Rutgers as The State University of New Jersey.

✿ In 1946, the University of Newark becomes part of Rutgers, giving rise to Rutgers University–Newark. Four years later, Rutgers welcomes the College of South Jersey into the university and Rutgers University–Camden is born.

✿ Rutgers is the only university in the United States that is a colonial college, a land-grant institution, and a public research university.

✿ In 1989, Rutgers University–New Brunswick is invited to become a member of the Association of American Universities, a highly selective organization comprising the 62 top research universities in North America. Rutgers is the only public university in New Jersey represented in the association.

✿ Rutgers welcomes most units of the former University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey into the Rutgers community in July 2013. This merger—the largest in the history of U.S. higher education—creates a new health and patient care division, transforming Rutgers into a truly comprehensive public research university.

✿ The Big Ten Conference accepts Rutgers University–New Brunswick as one of its newest members, effective July 2014. The storied conference, comprising leading research-intensive flagship universities such as Ohio State, the University of Michigan, and the University of Wisconsin, is noted for its deep commitment to balancing excellence in academics and athletics. Coupled with the Big Ten move, Rutgers University–New Brunswick is invited to join the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, the nation's premier consortium of top-tier research institutions.

✿ At 250 years old, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, stands as a public research university with three higher education institutions—Rutgers University–New Brunswick, Rutgers University–Newark, and Rutgers University–Camden—and an academic health care division, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, which collaborates universitywide and is aligned with Rutgers University–New Brunswick. Rutgers educates more than 65,000 students at 31 schools, logs over 1.7 million patient visits annually, has more than 22,000 faculty and staff, and boasts more than 460,000 living alumni worldwide.

250.rutgers.edu

