

# Rutgers University

The JLIC educators at Rutgers University are Rabbi Yisroel and Shoshana Porath.

## Demographics:

Rutgers University has approximately 5,000 Jewish undergraduate students, which is about 17% of the entire undergraduate population. About 350 students are Orthodox, and about 100+ attend Orthodox Friday night services at Hillel. Many Orthodox Students have spent a year in Israel prior to enrolling at Rutgers.

## Kosher Food:

The Chabad house runs a full-service kosher meal plan, providing three meals a day, seven days a week, and students can choose from a meal plan that offers different numbers of meals per week. Kashrut is under the supervision of the Chabad House. Packaged kosher sandwiches and meals are also available in some campus cafeterias.

Hillel provides breakfast after morning Minyan, Shabbat dinner, and various program-related meals.

## Programming and Shiurim:

The variety of programming includes: Rosh Chodesh events, Pre-Purim party with Yachad, “Cholympics” chulent cook-off, Social events (crafts nights, open-mic night, Freshmen Fiesta, Chillfest), Israel-related activities (Israel related films, Chug Ivrit Hebrew Speaking Club, etc.), Chessed programs, “Life after College” dinner panel with observant Rutgers alumni for upper classmen, Health & Halacha Series.

Jewish learning opportunities include weekly Shiurim and special guest Shiurim. These have included: Daf Yomi, Parsha, Hilchot College, Mens’ dinner shiur, Women in Tanach, Na”Ch, Pre-holiday Halacha, Mishmar with guest speakers, Giants: Inspiring Torah Personalities, Student-taught Mishmars, Dinner n’ Learns with visiting teachers from Yeshivot and Seminaries in Israel, TGIT (Thank God It’s Thursday) Chavruta and pizza night.

## Orthodox Community:

Mesorah, the Orthodox community at Rutgers Hillel, is run by a student board. They organize social, educational and religious events geared towards the Orthodox students at Rutgers and open to all. They aim to strengthen and expand the Orthodox community at Rutgers. To learn more about Mesorah visit: [www.rutgersmesorah.org](http://www.rutgersmesorah.org).

The board is comprised of a president and chairs that include social, Shabbat, communication and Freshmen Representative. There are also sub committees such as Chessed, Beit Midrash and Rosh Chodesh.

Most upper classmen and some freshmen live in off campus houses and apartments together (right off of College Ave, the main street of campus). A few students commute from home and the rest live in either university residence halls or the Chabad womens' residence hall. Students may request a College Ave. campus residence in order to be within walking distance to Hillel and Chabad.

There is an Orthodox Minyan three times a day Monday through Shabbat and sometimes on Sunday mornings.

Highland Park is the closest Orthodox community. Individuals from the community offer hospitality and some neighborhood Shuls offer students free or discounted High Holiday seats. There is a selection of kosher restaurants on the main street.

### **Shabbat:**

Shabbat at Rutgers includes Minyanim, Shiurim, and meals at Hillel, Chabad and students' apartments. Hillel offers free Shabbat dinners that typically attract 200-300 students. Chabad offers free Shabbat dinner and lunch. Mesorah sometimes sponsors communal Shabbat lunches as well. Hillel and Chabad both offer free seudah shlishit. There is a Carlebach style Havdallah service at Hillel with lots of singing.

Rutgers Hillel students help maintain the New Brunswick Eruv, which is connected to the Highland Park Eruv.

### **Additional Resources:**

The Orthodox community at Rutgers has grown in both quality and quantity over the past few years. More Orthodox students are coming from all over the country as well as New Jersey. As Rutgers' Orthodox programs and staff grow, the Orthodox community and its reputation grow as well. Despite the increase in size, Rutgers has achieved the reputation of being a warm, friendly and lively community.

“What I like about Rutgers is that even though we're young adults we're able to create community atmosphere where people help each other out and pitch in for the common good.”- Gabe Homa '09

“The Orthodox community at Rutgers is laid back with lots of opportunity for leadership and involvement.”- Eytan Morgenstern '08.

“From the moment I stepped into Hillel I felt extremely comfortable. Hillel has been amazing for my transition to college because living in the residence halls is hard over Shabbat and the holidays...Hillel is an amazingly warm and inviting community. I have made such strong bonds and connections with people...” - Kim Schwartzman, '11