

Programs + Offerings

Undergraduate Degrees:

- > Advertising and Public Relations BS
- > Applied Modern Languages and Culture (Chinese, French, Japanese, Spanish options) BS
- > Communication BS (with journalism track)
- > Criminal Justice BS
- > Economics BS
- > English BS
- > History BS
- > Humanities, Computing, and Design BS
- > International and Global Studies BS
- > Museum Studies BS
- > Philosophy BS
- > Political Science BS
- > Psychology BS
- > Sociology and Anthropology BS
- > Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies BS

Double Major Pathways:

A road map and support for every milestone in the pursuit of two majors in four years.

- > Computer Science + Philosophy BS
- > Computer Science + Economics BS
- > Computer Science + Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies BS
- > Cybersecurity + Political Science BS
- > Game Design + Applied Modern Languages and Cultures BS
- > New Media Interactive Development + Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies BS
- > Human Centered Computing + Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies BS

Graduate Degrees:

- > Artificial Intelligence MS (joint program)
- > Experimental Psychology MS
- > Communication MS
- > Criminal Justice MS
- > Cognitive Science Ph.D.
- > Science, Technology and Public Policy MS

Partnership Programs:

- > Law 3 + 3 with Syracuse University
- > Early childhood, Adolescent, Special, and Higher Education 4+1 MS with University of Rochester and M.Ed. with Roberts Wesleyan University
- > Art Education MST with RIT College of Art and Design
- > Secondary Education: Deaf or Hard of Hearing MS with RIT National Institute for the Deaf
- > Mental Health Counseling MS with University of Rochester
- > School Counseling MS with University of Rochester

Scholarships, Funds, and Grants for College of Liberal Arts Students

> **Student Research Fund:** Supports research by students enrolled in COLA degree programs. Up to \$500.

> **Student Travel Fund:** Supports student travel to present research at conferences (up to \$500) and for study or research abroad (up to \$750).

> **Clark Internship Support Fund:** Supports internships and co-ops for full-time COLA students.

> **Alumni and Friends Endowed Scholarship:** Rewards students who have exercised leadership in improving the life of the RIT community.

> **Simmons Scholars Internship Fund:** Exposes high-performing RIT COLA undergraduates to government and public policy careers through co-ops and internships in public policy, government affairs and issue advocacy.

> **Liberal Arts Multidisciplinary Scholars Program:** Gives financial support to students in STEM majors who are interested in adding a second major within the College of Liberal Arts.

A Guide to Conversations about the College of Liberal Arts

Tech-focused
Humanities, social science, and communication curriculum relevant for our contemporary world.

Multidisciplinary: STEM+ Liberal Arts
Equipping grads to think critically, adapt, and succeed in a rapidly changing tech landscape.

Career launching
Co-ops and internships that give our students a head-start and our grads an advantage in the workplace.

The Elevator Pitch

RIT delivers contemporary liberal arts studies for a complex digital age. Through a tech-focused curriculum relevant for our contemporary world, students learn to think critically, adapt, and succeed. The multidisciplinary education of STEM plus liberal arts, supported by our highly ranked co-op and internship program, gives RIT liberal arts students an advantage in the workplace.

Supporting Points:

- **Complex digital age requires technology:**
Today, technology is woven into nearly every aspect of human life — from the ways we solve problems and exchange information to how we share stories and make connections to other people. It affects our legal systems, economic, political, and social structures, as well as our most fundamental, personal relationships. Here at RIT, a technical institution known for cutting-edge innovation, our students build the skills and mindset to adapt and thrive in a world that's going to keep on changing.
- **Tech-focused Liberal Arts curriculum:**
We teach students to openly examine problems from multiple perspectives; to analyze data and information deeply and critically; to put equity and inclusion in the forefront; and to seek inspiration in the pursuit of new possibilities. Our students become empowered to effect positive change through one of 15 majors, 40 minors, five graduate programs, or countless double major combinations.
- **Launching careers before they even graduate:**
Exceptional access to co-ops and internships at today's most influential companies and organizations, limitless study abroad options and RIT's five international campuses, research project participation, and other hands-on learning experiences support our students in launching successful and impactful careers and lives.
- **Human-centered:**
At the RIT College of Liberal Arts, our faculty and staff care as much about bettering the world as they do helping each other. They are driven researchers, teachers, advisors, and mentors, dedicated to helping future leaders turn "What If?" into "I Will."

Contemporary Liberal Arts for a Complex Digital Age

The real world requires that you think in multiple dimensions. We envision an education where engineers and scientists pursue performance, techies tackle the humanities, and artists learn to code. This is about fostering curiosity, discovery, innovation, and teamwork.

This is about maximizing talent and living a whole life.

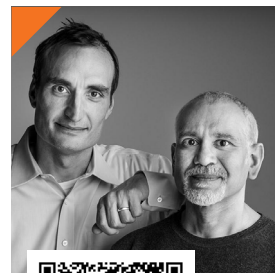
— RIT President David Munson

RIT College of Liberal Arts in the News



Where STEM and the Arts live in Harmony, as reported by *Inside Higher Ed*

(performing arts)



Exploring the deadly connection between Parkinson's disease, weed killer, and misinformation

(Associate Professor Amit Ray, humanities/English)



New Neuroscience BS: A College of Liberal Arts and College of Science collaboration



RIT scientist developing machine learning techniques analyzing body worn camera footage

(criminal justice)

5,151
Amazing Alumni

100%

Influential—university wide
All RIT students, in all majors, enroll in core courses; 40% of those core courses are delivered by the College of Liberal Arts.

\$12.3M

Sponsored Research
In the last five years, \$12,367,475 in sponsored research funding has been awarded to the College of Liberal Arts. (2019–2023)

1,816

Performing Arts Students
Across all majors, who sing, act, dance, and play instruments at RIT. (Fall 2023)

Our Alumni : Amazing People, Inspiring Work



“There is nothing more invigorating than using my research to brainstorm solutions to problems that have plagued my community.”

Libnah Rodriguez, criminal justice BS and MS '23
Research Associate

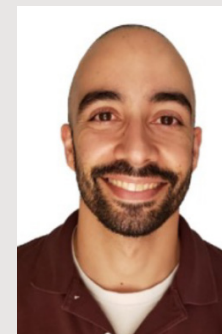
Libnah's research and criminal justice work includes Project CLEAN (open-air drug market); the Case Clearance project (non-fatal shooting investigations associated with an arrest of the suspect); expert panelist, Rochester Beacon's "Rochester's Homicide Crisis;" and more. She graduated summa cum laude from RIT and earned awards such as the Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar Award, Excellence in Research Award (2017-2022), Erving Goffman Award, Foucault Award, Hodgson Russ Discover Law Scholar Award, Richard B. Lewis Award, and Shaw & McKay Award.



I still use what I learned every day. It shows up in how I write proposals, business pitches, and how I develop marketing materials. Business is second nature to me because of my experience in the College of Liberal Arts.”

Krystle Jones-Ellis, advertising and public relations BS '09, communication MS '15
Owner of Ellis K Consulting

Krystle strategizes with organizations such as the University of Rochester Medical Center, USA Today, Rochester Police Department, Willow Domestic Violence Center, and the Women's Foundation of Genesee Valley to advance through leadership development, policy remastering, and culture change. She sits on multiple boards and committees, all advocating for women's rights, equal access to healthcare for children, and the international right to have clean water and has been featured in nationwide publications like the Chronicle of Philanthropy and USA Today.



“The professors that I worked with, one-on-one, helped solidify the career path that I chose.”

Luiz Freitas, economics BS '07
Senior Analytic Manager, Amazon Ads

Prior to this role, he held analytics and leadership positions at Google, Fidelity Investments, and Digitas.

“My greatest accomplishment is becoming a licensed attorney in New York State. I was heavily mentored by professors who truly believed in me and wanted to see me succeed beyond RIT.”

Shakira Smith, J.D., criminal justice BS '18 and MS '19, RIT;
Juris Doctorate, University at Buffalo School of Law '22
Associate (corporate and commercial real estate attorney), Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson, NYC

During law school, Smith founded the First-Generation Law Students Association and was the first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Editor of the Buffalo Law Review; a faculty research scholar; a peer advocate, student ambassador, and admitted student mentor; and a member of the Black Law Students Association. She interned for the United States Attorney's Office and the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, the second highest court in the U.S., and in October of 2022, she passed the New York State bar exam—on her first try— with a score high enough to practice in any UBE jurisdiction.