Professional Golf Turf Management School

Two-Year Certificate Program

Fall 2021 Online & Fall 2022 On Campus*
Winter 2022 Online & Winter 2023 On Campus*

The Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School will conduct the Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 sessions of our 2-Year Certificate Program online. Students who attend either of these online sessions will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on training activities and field trips during their second 10-week session, which we plan to conduct on campus in Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 respectively - federal, state, and university safety regulations permitting.

FALL 2021: Online
September 30, 2021 - December 17, 2021

FALL 2022: On Campus*
October 5, 2022 - December 16, 2022

WINTER 2022: Online
January 5, 2022 - March 18, 2022

WINTER 2023: On Campus*
January 4, 2023 - March 17, 2023

Online classes will run from 11:00am to 5:00pm EST, Monday through Friday.
On campus classes will run from 8:30am to 2:30pm EST, Monday through Friday.

*Federal, state, and university safety regulations permitting
About Us

The Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School is a world-class learning center that has trained thousands of successful greenskeepers in the art and science of golf course management. To ensure you receive a well-rounded education, the #RUTurf team of instructors includes both distinguished faculty and acclaimed industry professionals. To strengthen your skills and enhance your industry relationships, our programs consist of classroom lectures, hands-on field training, and real-world experience via a paid internship. Our alumni lead the industry and work at top golf courses around the world. We hope to help you build your career in the same way!

Why Rutgers?

CAREER ADVANCEMENT
Over 4,800 golf turf professionals, from all 50 states and over 20 countries, have graduated from our two-year certificate program since 1962. More than 730 of these alumni are currently working as golf course superintendents or leaders in related turfgrass careers. Plus, an additional 600+ Rutgers turf alumni are assistant superintendents worldwide. Add this widely respected credential to your resume to grow your career.

CONVENIENCE
Our two ten-week sessions are sandwiched around a nine-month break, during which you must complete a paid 200+ hour internship. Designed to minimize your time away from work and home, this is a great opportunity to quickly attain the education you need without breaking the bank or putting your career on hold.

NETWORKING
Become part of our prestigious network of Rutgers turfgrass alumni. Throughout your career, whether you are searching for a job for yourself, looking to hire someone for your greens team, or have technical questions, the Rutgers alumni network will serve you as an invaluable resource.

PRACTICAL CONTENT
Learn what you need to keep your course at peak playability. Our certificate program will refine and develop your technical skills. You’ll learn the science behind turfgrass management and how to implement real-world solutions to any challenges that come your way.
Curriculum

APPLIED GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT
Budgeting and Financial Management
Golf Course Construction
Growth Regulators
Irrigation Principles
Landscape Design
Landscape Management
Mathematics for Golf Course Superintendents
Mower Technology and Reel Grinding
Principles of Golf Course Design
Stress Physiology
Surveying
Tournament Preparation Strategies
Turfgrass Establishment and Maintenance

CRITICAL THINKING FOR SUCCESS
Case Studies in Turfgrass Management
Regional Concerns
Turfgrass Work Experience

PEST & DISEASE MANAGEMENT
Insect and Disease Laboratory
Insects and Diseases of Ornamental Plants
Principles of Integrated Pest Control
Turfgrass Disease Identification
Turfgrass Insects and Weeds

PLANT BIOLOGY
Agronomic Characteristics of Turfgrass Species and Varieties
Botany of Turfgrass and Ornamentals
Landscape Plants
Ornamental Grasses
Plant Physiology
Soil Fertility
Turfgrass Identification and Development

MANAGEMENT OF GOLF COURSE PERSONNEL
Effective Business Communication
Managing Your Golf Course Employees
Professional Development

HANDS-ON TRAINING*
Hands-on training in our on-site workshop and greenhouse demonstrates concepts learned in the classroom. You will have the chance to participate in soil tests, reel grinding demonstrations, plant identification walks, sprayer calibration, spreader training, irrigation pipe fitting, disease identification using microscopes, and more.

FIELD TRIPS*
During your second ten-week session at Rutgers, you will visit some of the world’s most highly-rated golf courses, including Baltusrol Golf Club, Pine Valley Golf Club, and Trump National Golf Club in Philadelphia. You will also tour the United States Golf Association (USGA) Museum and Archives and go “behind the scenes” in their testing laboratory.

REQUIRED INTERNSHIP
Students are required to complete 200+ hours of field experience (paid internship) following their first ten-week session in the program. You may complete your internship in your current position or we can help you locate an internship. Requirements for all internships include maintaining a daily log of activities and participating in various cultural practices. Students present their field experience activities in written and oral reports during their second ten-week session.

NOTE: Students who attend the Fall 2021 or Winter 2022 sessions will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on training activities and field trips during their second 10-week session, which we plan to conduct on campus* in Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 respectively.

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FOR CURRICULUM DETAILS: www.golfturf.rutgers.edu/CURRICULUM

The Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School
Our Founder, Our Roots

In the 1960s, Dr. Ralph Engel spearheaded research in weed and insect control to improve the quality of turfgrasses. Devoting his 40+ year career to turf development, Dr. Engel also pioneered the concept of turfgrass consultation visits, which became the basis for the current USGA Green Section Turf Advisory Service. Because he believed in mentoring first, encouragement second and, finally, exposure to the finest educators, he established our Two-Year Certificate Program.

Part of Rutgers University, the eighth oldest college in the US and one of the “colonial colleges” founded before the American Revolution, the Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School continues to honor Dr. Engel’s vision with our world-renowned learning center.

Learn From The Best

To give you a well-rounded and practical education, we have gathered the best turf instructors from both the academic community and turf industry. You will learn from distinguished Rutgers professors, who conduct research on topics such as breeding improved turfgrass species that are pest resistant, stress tolerant, and drought resistant. You will also receive personalized attention from established superintendents, expert plant diagnostic specialists, industry-leading irrigation contractors, and prominent turf consultants. Dedicated to your education, our teachers work tirelessly to make sure you have a complete understanding of the information you need. You’ll leave Rutgers able to make effective decisions to prevent and solve issues on your golf course. Plus, you will always have the Rutgers team at your fingertips to leverage as a resource throughout your career.

Our Leadership Team

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, OFFICE OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Mark Robson, PhD., Director                Laura Boyd, Program Coordinator

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, CENTER FOR TURFGRASS SCIENCE
James Murphy, Ph.D., Director               Josh A. Honig, Ph.D., Student/Curriculum Advisor

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
Laura Lawson, Ph.D., Executive Director        Brian Schilling, Ph.D., Sr. Associate Director

MEET OUR TEAM: www.golfturf.rutgers.edu/FACULTY
Fall 2021 & Winter 2022 Dates

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Online & On Campus Learning Details

The 10-week curriculum will be the same whether the course is conducted online or on campus.

**ON CAMPUS**
In-person learning will consist of classroom lectures, hands-on training, and field trips within the hours of 8:30am to 3:30pm EST. Classes are held in on Rutgers Cook Campus in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

**ONLINE**
Online learning will combine the following types of classes:
- Live classes that require student participation (eg. public speaking presentations). Students must be present during these live sessions
- Live classes that encourage students to engage with instructors and each other. These classes will be recorded and available for the students who are unable to attend
- Prerecorded lectures that you can view at your own pace

Online sessions will run from 11am to 5pm EST and are a great opportunity to cut travel and housing expenses in half while formally studying turfgrass science and management through Rutgers.

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Apply Today!

No matter which session you would like to attend, even if you are unsure, the first step to advancing your career with a formal 2-Year Certificate is to apply.
Program Details

SCHEDULE AND DATES
Our intensive program is designed to fit conveniently around your work schedule. Classes meet five days a week, six hours a day, for ten weeks during the off-peak season. Program content and admission requirements for the fall, winter, and online sessions are identical.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS AND ASSESSMENT
Your performance will be evaluated in each class based on a combination of examinations, term papers, projects, attendance, and class participation. You should allow approximately 20 hours per week for homework and studying. Certificates are awarded to students who attend both semesters of class work, maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0, and complete a field internship.

TUITION
For Fall 2021 and Winter 2022, tuition is $5,195 for each ten-week session. If tuition is not paid in full one month prior to the first day of class, an additional $250 fee will be charged. If tuition rates increase after your first year, your second year tuition rate will NOT go up; tuition remains the same for both sessions. Tuition is payable upon acceptance to our program by credit card, certified check, or money order. Personal checks are not accepted.

FINANCIAL AID
Our turf program qualifies for student loans that can cover the full cost of tuition and living expenses, including travel, lodging, and books. Lifetime learning tax credits and scholarships are another great way to offset tuition costs. Veterans benefits are available to those that qualify. Also, many students take advantage of employer assisted tuition programs. Because these arrangements are mutually beneficial, tuition service agreements are becoming more commonplace.

LOCATION*
Classroom sessions will be held in New Brunswick, NJ on Cook Campus, at the Ralph Geiger Turfgrass Education Center and the Holly House. Our turfgrass research complex and the Rutgers Display Gardens become an extension of your classroom.

*Federal, state, and Rutgers regulations permitting.

STUDENT HOUSING
We provide a wide variety of discounted, off-campus housing options, including local hotels, extended-stay facilities, and short term apartment rentals. You should budget between $2,000 and $6,000 for housing per each ten-week session.

Splitting accommodations is a great way to minimize living expenses. We are happy to help you secure housing and/or provide resources to connect you with other turf students looking for roommates.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES
Rutgers Global provides immigration services and advising to help international students maintain legal status while attending Rutgers. Contact Carissa McCarthy at carissam@global.rutgers.edu or visit www.global.rutgers.edu/international-scholars-students for more information.

FOR MORE PROGRAM DETAILS:
www.golfturf.rutgers.edu/2YEAR
Application Checklist

YOUR APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:

[ ] A completed application form in print (included on the last page of this brochure) or online at: www.golfturf.rutgers.edu/APPLY. Please provide all information. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

[ ] A letter of intent written by you describing your education and work experience, why you are applying to the Rutgers program, and how the course fits into your career plans.

[ ] A current resume or CV.

[ ] Two letters of recommendation from current or past supervisors describing your duties, responsibilities, and potential for success in our program. Work experience in the turfgrass industry or a related field is required. Please note that both letters can be from the same employer.

[ ] A copy of your high school or college transcripts (GED certificates accepted).

[ ] A $50 non-refundable application fee. All checks should be made payable to Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey or you may pay online by credit card.

The preferred method of submitting your application items is by emailing them as PDF attachments to Student Advisor Casey Sky Noon at Casey.Sky.Noon@rutgers.edu. All letters should be directed to the Admissions Board. You can submit each item separately or as a complete package. Only when ALL pieces are received will your application be reviewed.

If you are not able to send your application items via email, you can fax them to 732-932-8726 or mail them to:
Rutgers University
RE: Golf Turf Management School Admissions Board
102 Ryders Lane
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8519
**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name
(First)          (Middle)          (Last)                         (Name for Name Tag)
Home/Mailing Address (include Street, PO Box or Apt. #)__________________________
City ___________________________ State ________ Postal Code ______________________ Country___________
Cell Phone ____________________________ International Visa Assistance Needed [ ] No [ ] Yes
Home Phone ____________________________ Email Address ____________________________
Person to Contact in an Emergency
(Name)                             (Relationship)                            (Phone Number)

**SESSION**

Please indicate the session for which you are applying: (select only one)
[ ] Fall 2021 (Course Code AT0201WA22) [ ] Winter 2022 (Course Code AT0201WB22)

**HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US?**

How did you hear about The Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School Two-Year Certificate Program?
[ ] Mail Code ________________ [ ] Search Engine ______________________________
[ ] Rutgers Website [ ] Other Website _______________________________________
[ ] Referred by a Rutgers alumnus (Please specify) ____________________________
[ ] Referred by my supervisor (Please specify) _________________________________
[ ] Referred by a colleague (Please specify) ________________________________

**EDUCATION**

High School Graduate? [ ] No [ ] Yes, Year ________________ Final Grade Point Average (GPA) ___________
College Graduate? [ ] No [ ] Yes, Year ________________ What type of degree? [ ] Associate’s [ ] Bachelor’s [ ] Master’s
Final GPA ________________ Number of Credits Earned ________________ Certificate Earned? [ ] No [ ] Yes
Have you attended Rutgers Three-Week Preparatory Course? [ ] No [ ] Yes, Year ________________
Are you a US veteran? [ ] No [ ] Yes

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

Your Current Employer ___________________________________________
Employment Dates -    Full time ____________________________ Part time (seasonal) ____________________________
Position held ____________________________ Supervisor ____________________________
Previous Employer ____________________________________________
Employment Dates -    Full time ____________________________ Part time (seasonal) ____________________________
Position held ____________________________ Supervisor ____________________________

**METHOD OF PAYMENT FOR YOUR $50 APPLICATION FEE**

Proof of payment MUST be presented with this form to process your application. For assistance with your application payment, please call 848.932.9271 option 2.

[ ] Check / Money Order (Checks payable to: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Mail to Rutgers University, Office of Continuing Professional Education, Attn: Registration 102 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8519)

[ ] Credit Card (VISA, MasterCard, AMEX, and Discover accepted.) Visit: www.golfturf.rutgers.edu/APPLY.
Hear From Our Graduates!

**MAYNOR CASTILLO, 2020 Graduate**
Assistant in Training at The Bridge Golf Club in Bridgehampton, NY

“Although this past year was difficult for all of us, I am proud and grateful to finally call myself a Rutgers graduate. I am thankful for all the instructors who shared their vast knowledge with the class.

I understand that this is just the beginning of my long adventure in the turf industry, but the 2-Year Certificate Program already started to help my career. Just last week I was promoted to Assistant in Training at my course.

Now I work alongside the Superintendent of The Bridge Golf Club, which is one of the most exclusive and prestigious golf courses on eastern Long Island. This would not be possible without the help of everyone at Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School.”

**PAUL J. STOKES, 2005 Graduate**
Golf Course Superintendent at Logan Golf and Country Club in Logan, UT

“The Rutgers experience for me was life and career changing and I will always be grateful to the program and all those that I met and learned from.”

**ERIC SCHMITT, 2010 Graduate**
Superintendent at Bass Lake Golf Course in Deerbrook, WI

“I feel like I am a living embodiment of another Rutgers Golf Turf Management School success story. I am now a Superintendent at Bass Lake Golf Course in Deerbrook, Wisconsin!

It took me a little bit, but I was as “green” as one can be entering the program. The professionalism and knowledge I learned at Rutgers have not been forgotten and have been utilized over the past 10 years to get me where I am today.

I am proud to say that I have reached my career goal!”

We Are Here To Help!

Our team is here every step of the way. Feel free to call or email Fran or Casey at any time for help with choosing which program is best for you, the application process, arranging housing, payment/financial aid issues, and anything else you may need. We would love to hear from you and are happy to discuss your opportunities here at Rutgers.

Laura Boyd
Program Coordinator
848.932.7184
laura.boyd@rutgers.edu

Casey Sky Noon
Student Advisor
848.932.7250
casey.sky.noon@rutgers.edu

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