The University of Rochester, founded in 1850, is one of the leading private universities in the country. With roots in the liberal arts, it is now a distinguished research institution offering a full range of liberal arts and professional programs. Many departments are widely recognized to be among the best in the country. The University's schools and colleges are:

- The College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering
  - College of Arts and Sciences
  - School of Engineering and Applied Sciences
- Eastman School of Music
- Margaret Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development
- William E. Simon Graduate School of Business Administration
- School of Medicine and Dentistry
- School of Nursing

The Memorial Art Gallery houses a permanent collection of more than 10,000 objects and has been called the best balanced in the state outside of metropolitan New York City. It is one of the few university-affiliated art museums in the country that also serve as community art museums.

Eastman Dental Center is now merged with the University of Rochester Medical Center to form one organization with a mission to improve oral health through caring, discovery, teaching, and learning.

The Laboratory for Laser Energetics, established in 1970 as a center for the investigation of the interaction of intense radiation with matter, is a unique national resource for research and education in science and technology.

The University of Rochester is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Higher Education, the New York State Board of Regents, and the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs.

Programs within the University's Schools are accredited by the following agencies:

- Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology, Inc.
- Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education
- American Academy of Microbiology
- American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
- American Dental Association
- American Psychological Association
- Association for Clinical and Pastoral Education
- Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, International
- Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs
- Council on Education for Public Health
- Liaison Committee on Medical Education
- National Association of Schools of Music
- National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
- National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission