

Academic Rhode Map for BA Political Science Major at Rhode Island College

GENERAL EDUCATION: A complete listing of General Education courses can be found in the online catalog; look at catalog for year you enrolled. For Gen Ed courses, aside from Second Language requirement, which varies depending on where you are placed, you need ONE course from each category. Second Language 101/102 options are: American Sign, Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, or Spanish. For other ways to satisfy the second language requirement look under the Gen Ed. section of the catalog. For information about Math Placement Exam visit the orientation webpage. Any courses marked (F) offered Fall only; (Sp) Spring only. **Courses with an asterisk* have prerequisites. Courses with a "W" in the prefix are Writing in the Discipline (WID) courses and will be writing intensive.**

Academic Major Checklist	Course
POL 102 American Government	
POL 103 Global Politics	
POL 104 Introduction to Political Thought	
POL 300 Methodology in Political Science*	
POL 308W Research and Writing in Political Science* (WID)	
POL 200/300 level or above* [3-4 credits]	
POL 200/300 level or above* [3-4 credits]	
POL 300 level or above* [3-4 credits]	
POL 300 level or above* [3-4 credits]	
POL 300 level or above* [3-4 credits]	
POL 300 level or above* [3-4 credits]	

Note: Not required but recommended POL 111 Careers in Politics and Public Policy (1 credit)

This map is a semester-by-semester plan to help you toward graduation in four years. Not everyone graduates in four years as it depends on how many courses you can take, and how you do in those courses. This map is not your only route; it is a suggestion. You might take additional courses over the summer (or early spring/winter) to catch up or get ahead if the courses you need are offered at these times. While many courses in your major will have prerequisites that you will need to take in a special order, there is some flexibility in this map, but always double check you have the correct prerequisites for a course you plan to take.

The column to the left on the other side of this page suggests the ideal courses for you to take each semester. There are times when those courses may be full or unavailable the semester you plan to take them, in which case consider another course from a different semester with which you can switch. The column on the right has "Checkpoints" for each semester that show where you should be by the end of that semester. You should work from this map as you plan each semester's schedule, before checking in with your advisor. The Map is designed primarily for freshmen coming to college for the first time, but transfer students may also use the Rhode Map with the understanding that they have most likely completed several requirements through transfer of credit and will be starting further into the program. Maps assume a Fall start.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: The following requirements must be completed by undergraduate degree candidates at Rhode Island College in order to graduate:

- General Education program, including a second language requirement and RIC 100 or its equivalent
- College Math Milestone (which is separate from the Gen Ed math requirement)
- College Writing Competency (satisfied by FYW with a minimum grade of C)
- Academic Major—see check chart above. Writing in the Discipline requirement is satisfied through major courses
- A minimum of 120 credit hours, with a minimum of 45 credit hours taken at RIC. Of the 45 credit hours, a minimum of 15 credit hours must be in the major (12 of which must be at the 300- or 400-level)
- A minimum overall grade point average of 2.0
- A minimum grade point average of 2.0 in your major

Approved by Department Chair: Michelle Brophy-Baermann Date 6/1/2020

Approved by Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Date 6/1/2020

Revised: 6/1/2023

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SEMESTER 1	CR	SEMESTER 1 CHECKPOINTS
First Year Writing (FYW 100) or First Year Seminar (FYS 100).	4	FYW 100P is a 6-credit option. There is a Directed Self-Placement questionnaire you can take to aid in this decision; check the RIC First Year Writing website
RIC 100 Introduction to RIC	1	Exempt if taking COLL 101, COLL 150, or HONR 150
Gen Ed Distribution course from one of these GE categories: Arts (A); Literature (L); Math (M); History (H); or Natural Sciences (NS).	4	If Math Milestone is completed, consider Gen Ed-MATH here, if not will need to take MATH 010; take Math Placement Exam to find out your best MATH.
Gen Ed--Second Lang 101 (based on placement, a course higher than 101/102 may be taken). If language requirement already satisfied, another Gen Ed Distribution course.	4	Language placement test with Dept. of Modern Languages (optional). Complete Second Lang 101 (if needed)
POL 102 American Government	4	Satisfies Gen Ed. Social and Behavioral Sciences (SB)
Requirements and GPA		Aim for 16 earned credits (While 12 is fulltime, 16 credits are preferred to stay on track to graduate in 4 years). Math Milestone completed. Minimum 2.0 GPA
# CREDITS EARNED	17	Make appointment in Sept. with advisor to discuss your schedule for next semester

SEMESTER 2	CR	SEMESTER 2 CHECKPOINTS
FYW 100 or FYS 100	4	Complete FYS and FYW, for FYW, grade C or better
Gen Ed (M). If taken, Gen Ed Natural Science (NS)	4	Complete Gen Ed Math (M): consider MATH 240* or MATH 139* (Prereq. for both Math Milestone or Math Placement Exam)
Gen Ed--Second Lang 102* (if needed), other Gen Ed Distribution course, elective, or second major/minor	4	Complete Second Lang 102* (if needed)
POL 103 Global Politics or POL 104 Introduction to Political Thought	4	
Requirements and GPA		Aim for minimum of 30 earned credits. Minimum 2.0 GPA
# CREDITS EARNED	16	Make appointment in Feb. with advisor to discuss your schedule for next semester

SEMESTER 3	CR	SEMESTER 3 CHECKPOINTS
Gen Ed (NS). If taken, other Gen Ed course	4	Complete Gen Ed Natural Science (NS); many use Math Milestone as a prerequisite
Gen Ed course from Arts (A); Literature (L); or History (H) if still needed, elective, or possible second major or minor	3-4	
Gen Ed course from Arts (A); Literature (L); or History (H) if still needed, elective, or possible second major or minor	3-4	
POL 111 Careers in Politics and Public Policy	1	Not required but recommended: Prereq. FYW 100 and at least 15 credits.
POL 103 Global Politics or POL 104 Introduction to Political Thought	4	POL 103 and POL 104 Completed
Requirements and GPA		Minimum of 2.0 GPA
# CREDITS EARNED	14-16	Make appointment with advisor in Sept. to discuss your schedule for next semester and discuss second major or possible minor

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SEMESTER 4	CR	SEMESTER 4 CHECKPOINTS
POL 308W Research and Writing in Political Science (WID)* or POL 300 Methodology in Political Science*	4	Prereqs. for POL 308W are POL 102 and 30 credits. Prereqs. for POL 300 are POL 102 and Gen Ed Math (M). POL 300 satisfies Advanced Quantitative/Scientific Reasoning (GE-AQSR)
POL 200/300-level or above*	3-4	Need SIX 300-level additional POL courses, with at least FOUR 300/400-level. Varied prereqs.– see catalog
Gen Ed course, elective, or possible second major or minor	3-4	
Gen Ed course, elective, or possible second major or minor	3-4	
Requirements and GPA		Aim for minimum of 60 earned credits, with minimum of 2.0 GPA overall and in the major
# CREDITS EARNED	13-16	Make appointment with advisor in Feb. to discuss your schedule for next semester

SEMESTER 5	CR	SEMESTER 5 CHECKPOINTS
POL 308W Current Political Controversy (WID)* or POL 300 Methodology in Political Science*	4	Prereqs. for POL 308W are POL 102 and 30 credits. Prereqs. for POL 300 are POL 102 and Gen Ed Math (M). POL 300 satisfies Advanced Quantitative/Scientific Reasoning (GE-AQSR). POL 300 and POL 308W completed. Writing in the Discipline completed
POL 200/300-level or above*	3-4	Varied prereqs. See catalog
Elective or course in another major or a minor	3-4	
Elective or course in another major or a minor	3-4	
Requirements and GPA		Aim for minimum of 75 earned credits, with minimum of 2.0 GPA overall and in the major
# CREDITS EARNED	13-16	Make appointment with advisor in Sept. to discuss your schedule for next semester

SEMESTER 6	CR	SEMESTER 6 CHECKPOINTS
Choose Connections course (GE-C)*	4	Prereqs are 45 completed credits and FYW and FYS. Note: POL offers three options: 262, 266 and 267.
POL 300-level or above*	3-4	Need SIX 300-level additional POL courses, with at least FOUR 300/400-level. Varied prereqs.– see catalog
POL 300-level or above*	3-4	Also, Independent Study options. Ask advisor
Gen Ed course, elective, or possible second major or minor	3-4	If pursuing minor or second major make sure you have registered for this with the relevant department prior to audit
Requirements and GPA		Aim for minimum of 90 earned credits, with minimum of 2.0 GPA overall and in the major. Apply for degree audit online through MyRIC
# CREDITS EARNED	13-16	Make appointment with advisor to discuss your schedule for next semester in Feb.

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SEMESTER 7	CR	SEMESTER 7 CHECKPOINTS
POL 300-level or above*	3-4	Need SIX 300-level additional POL courses, with at least FOUR 300/400-level. Varied prereqs.– see catalog
Elective or course in another major or minor	3-4	
Gen Ed course, elective or course in another major or minor	3-4	If elective courses are 3 credits, need one additional course for full-time status (12 credits).
Requirements and GPA		All ten GE courses and second lang. req. completed. Aim for minimum of 105 earned credits, with minimum of 2.0 GPA overall and in the major
# CREDITS EARNED	12	Make appointment with advisor to discuss your schedule for next semester in Sept.

SEMESTER 8	CR	SEMESTER 8 CHECKPOINTS
POL 300-level or above*	3-4	Completed SIX additional POL courses, with at least FOUR at the 300/400-level.
Elective or course in another major or minor	3-4	
Elective or course in another major or minor	3-4	If elective courses are 3 credits, need one additional course for full-time status (12 credits).
Requirements and GPA		Need minimum of 120 earned credits, with minimum of 2.0 GPA overall and in the major
# CREDITS EARNED	12	Attend Gradfest and Commencement

For more information, check the Political Science Department website:
<https://www.ric.edu/departments-directory/departments-political-science>

The minimum total credit count for the major is 41-44 credits (depending on choices), and 40 credits for General Education, although 8 of those may be offset against one Gen Ed. course (SB and AQSR), which leaves 3 more credits of Gen Ed. and possibly 9 more depending on secondary language needs, and RIC 100, so the minimum total is 73 credits. This leaves 47 credits that may need to include two secondary language courses and RIC 100 but could also include a second major or minors, or just taken as electives.