General Education at Rhode Island College

The General Education Program provides a foundation for deeper study in a wide range of academic disciplines. Through the General Education Program, students develop the skills and habits of mind necessary for full participation in an increasingly complex world. The structure comprises both foundational courses and upper-division courses that afford students the opportunity to further develop in their majors, skills acquired in foundational courses and also to make connections across disciplinary boundaries. Students will develop the capacity to learn in their undergraduate courses and for the rest of their lives; we believe that goal requires introducing them to many different kinds of knowledge and offering many occasions for relating the knowledge they acquire. One key goal is to engage students fully in their own educations; we therefore offer as much choice and flexibility as possible in course selection and, crucially, a first year seminar meant to excite student interest in college-level learning and to introduce the habits of inquiry essential to the academic enterprise. The program also includes an integrated course that emphasizes comparative perspectives on particular topics or ideas.

General Education Outcomes

Each course in General Education addresses several outcomes. Students who complete the general education program will encounter each outcome at least once at an introductory level. No introductory course can fully meet an outcome. Rather, every course introduces or develops several outcomes. Relevant outcomes are addressed at a higher level within the advanced work of the respective majors.

**Written Communication** Students will understand the different purposes of writing and employ the conventions of writing in their major fields. Students will produce writing that is well organized, supported by evidence, demonstrates correct usage of grammar and terminology, and is appropriate to the academic context.

**Critical and Creative Thinking** Students will be able to analyze and interpret information from multiple perspectives, question assumptions and conclusions, and understand the impact of biases, including their own, on thinking and learning.

**Research Fluency** Students will demonstrate the ability to access, understand, evaluate, and ethically use information to address a wide range of goals or problems.

**Oral Communication** Students will learn to speak in a clearly expressed, purposeful, and carefully organized way that engages and connects with their audience.

**Collaborative Work** Students will learn to interact appropriately as part of a team to design and implement a strategy to achieve a team goal and to evaluate the process.

**Arts** Students will demonstrate through performance, creation, or analysis an ability to interpret and explain the arts from personal, aesthetic, cultural, and historical perspectives.

**Civic Knowledge** Students will gain knowledge of social and political systems and of how civic engagement can change the environment in which we live.

**Ethical Reasoning** Students will demonstrate an understanding of their own ethical values, other ethical traditions from diverse places and times, and the process of determining ethical practice.

**Global Understanding** Students will analyze and understand the social, historical, political, religious, economic, and cultural conditions that shape individuals, groups, and nations and the relationships among them across time.

**Quantitative Literacy** Students will demonstrate the ability to: (1) interpret and evaluate numerical and visual statistics; (2) develop models that can be solved by appropriate mathematical methods; and (3) create arguments supported by quantitative evidence and communicate them in writing and through numerical and visual displays of data including words, tables, graphs, and equations.

**Scientific Literacy** Students will understand how scientific knowledge is uncovered through the empirical testing of hypotheses; be familiar with how data is analyzed, scientific models are made, theories are generated, and practical scientific problems are approached and solved; have the capacity to be informed about scientific matters as they pertain to living in this complex world; be able to communicate scientific knowledge through speaking and writing.

Program Requirements

All degree programs require the completion of ten 4-credit General Education courses: three Core courses and seven Distribution courses. Students must also complete the Second Language requirement. A Writing in the Discipline requirement is also included in General Education and is a part of each major.

Core Requirement

**First Year Writing (FYW)**

FYW 100 (or FYWP) is required in freshman year. It introduces students to college-level writing and helps them develop the writing skills needed for success in college courses. Successful completion of the course (a final grade of C or better) will also meet the college’s Writing Requirement. Courses are limited to twenty students.
First Year Seminar (FYS)
FYS 100 is required in the freshman year, with sections on a wide variety of topics. Each section is discussion-based, focused on developing critical thinking, oral communication, research fluency, and written communication. FYS 100 will not be offered in the summer or the early spring sessions. Students who enter the College as non-first year transfer students are not considered first-year students and are exempt from this requirement. Courses are limited to twenty students.

Representative First Year Seminars

Bologna or Proscuitto: Social Class in America
Collapse!
Communication and Teamwork
Conflict and Resolution
Dracula: The Monster (Always) Returns
Dynamics of Disaster
Fantastical World Travel Adventures
From the “Raja” to the “Desi” Romance: 100 years of Bollywood
Global Perspectives on Health
Graffiti Punks and Photojournalists: Art, Power, and Politics
Grimm and Glitter: The Books of Our Childhood
Language and Gender
Let’s Play
Not Just a Theory: Science and Knowledge
Performance in the First Person: This is ME!
Philosophy of Death
Philosophy of Mind and Mental Disorder
Play, is it more than just games?
Reacting to the Past: Learning Through Game Play
Science and Reason Matter
Self, Mind, Heart in Eastern Philosophies
Sex Right’s, Sex Wrongs
So You Want a Revolution? Rhetoric, Culture and Politics of the 1960s
Social Justice, Change and Leadership: Be the Change YOU Want to See
Takin’ It to the Streets...
Tattoos aren’t just for sailors anymore: Men, Women and Bodies
Technological Design and Innovation: Toward the Good Life
The Fix is In: Sports Page Scandals
The Science of Learning
The Spies’ Dilemma: Harry Potter & the Art ofSpying
What Do You Believe? Religions, Denominations, Orders, and Sex [sic] Sects
Why Pop Culture Matters: Identity & Friday Night Lights

Connections (C)
Courses in the Connections category are upper-level courses on topics that emphasize comparative perspectives, such as across disciplines, across time, and across cultures. Students must complete the FYS and FYW courses and at least 45 college credits before taking a Connections course.

AFRI 262 Cultural Issues in Africana Studies
ANTH 262 Indigenous Rights and the Global Environment
ANTH 265 Anthropological Perspectives on Childhood
ANTH 266 Anthropological and Indigenous Perspectives on Place
ART 261 Art and Money
ART 262 Encounters with Global Arts
BIOL 261 The World’s Forests
COMM 261 Issues in Free Speech
COMM 262 Dialect – What we Speak
COMM 263 East Asian Media and Popular Culture
ENGL 261 Arctic Encounters
ENGL 262 Women, Crime, and Representation
ENGL 263 Zen - East and West
ENGL 265 Women’s Stories Across Cultures
ENGL 266 Food Matters: The Rhetoric of Eating
ENGL 267 Books That Changed American Culture
FILM 262 Cross-Cultural Projections: Exploring Cinematic Representation
GED 262 Native American Narratives
GEND 261 Resisting Authority: Girls of Fictional Futures
GEOG 261 Globalization, Cities and Sustainability
HIST 263 Christianity
HIST 267 Europe and Beyond: Historical Reminiscences
HIST 268 Civil Rights and National Liberation Movements
HIST 269 Jazz and Civil Rights: Freedom Sounds
HIST 272 Globalization 15th Century to the Present
HIST 273 Latin America and Globalization, 1492-Present
HIST 275 Russia from Beginning to End
HONR 264 Seminar in Cross-Cultural and Interdisciplinary Issues
MUS 261 Music and Multimedia
NURS 262 Substance Abuse as a Global Issue
NURS 264 Status of the World’s Children
NURS 266 Health and Cultural Diversity
PHIL 261 Music and Multimedia
PHIL 262 Freedom and Responsibility
PHIL 263 The Idea of God
PHIL 265 Philosophical Issues of Gender and Sex
PHIL 266 Asian Philosophies: Theory and Practice
PHIL 266 Power and Community
POL 262 Power and Community
POL 266 Investing in the Next Global Economy
POL 267 Immigration, Citizenship, and National Identity
POL 268 Investing in the Next Global Economy
SOC 264 Sex and Power: Global Gender Inequality
SOC 267 Comparative Perspectives on Higher Education
SUST 261 Exploring Nature through Art, Science, Technology
THTR 261 Contemporary Black Theatre: Cultural Perspectives
Distribution Requirement

Distribution courses emphasize ways of thinking and methods of inquiry within various disciplines. Students are required to take one course in each of the following seven areas:

**Arts – Visual and Performing**

- ANTH 167 Music Cultures of Non-Western Worlds
- ART 101 Drawing I: General Drawing
- ART 104 Design I: Two Dimensional Design
- ART 201 Introduction to Visual Arts (No longer offered)
- ART 210 Nurturing Artistic & Musical Development
- ART 231 Prehistoric to Renaissance Art
- ART 232 Renaissance Art to Modern Art
- COMM 241 Introduction to Cinema and Video
- COMM 244 Digital Media
- DANC 215 Contemporary Dance & Culture

**History**

- HIST 101 Multiple Voices: Africa in the World
- HIST 102 Multiple Voices: Asia in the World
- HIST 103 Multiple Voices: Europe in the World to 1600
- HIST 104 Multiple Voices: Europe in the World since 1600

**Literature**

- ENGL 120 Studies in Literature and Identity
- ENGL 121 Studies in Literature and Nation
- ENGL 122 Studies in Literature and the Canon
- ENGL 123 Studies in Literature and Genre
- FREN 115 Literature of the French Speaking World
- ITAL 115 Literature of Italy
- PORT 115 Literature of the Portuguese Speaking World
- SPAN 115 Literature of the Spanish Speaking World

**Mathematics**

- MATH 139 Contemporary Topics in Mathematics
- MATH 177 Quantitative Business Analysis I
- MATH 209 Precalculus Mathematics
- MATH 212 Calculus I
- MATH 240 Statistical Methods I

**Natural Science (lab required)**

- BIOL 100 Fundamental Concepts of Biology (Formerly BIOL 109)
- BIOL 108 Basic Principles of Biology
- BIOL 111 Introductory Biology
- CHEM 103 General Chemistry I
- CHEM 105 General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry I
- CHEM 109 Introductory Physical Science I
- CHEM 110 Principles of Chemistry
- PHYS 110 Introductory Physics
- PHYS 102 American Government
- PHYS 103 Global Politics
- PHYS 104 Introduction to Political Thought
- PHYS 105 Introduction to Psychology
- PHYS 106 Social Psychology
- PHYS 107 Society and Social Behavior
- PHYS 108 The Family
- PHYS 109 Urban Sociology
- PHYS 110 Crime and Criminal Justice
- PHYS 111 Minority Group Relations
- PHYS 112 Aging and Society

**Social and Behavioral Sciences**

- AFRI 200 Introduction to Africana Studies
- ANTH 101 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
- ANTH 102 Introduction to Archaeology
- ANTH 104 Introduction to Anthropological Linguistics
- ANTH 205 Race, Culture and Ethnicity: Anthropological Perspectives
- COMM 240 Mass Media and Society
- ECON 200 Introduction to Economics
- GEND 200 Gender in Society
- GEOG 100 Introduction to Environmental Studies
- GEOG 101 Introduction to Geography
- GEOG 200 World Regional Geography
- GEOG 206 Disaster Management
Advanced Quantitative/Scientific Reasoning
Prerequisites are in parentheses following the course title.

ANTH 306 Primate Ecology and Social Behavior (BIOL 100 or BIOL 108 or BIOL 111)
ANTH 307 Human Nature: Evolution, Ecology and Behavior (BIOL 100 or BIOL 108 or BIOL 111)
BIOL 221 Genetics (BIOL 111/BIOL 112)
BIOL 335 Human Physiology (BIOL 111 and BIOL 112, or BIOL 108 and BIOL 231)
CHEM 104 General Chemistry II (CHEM 103)
CHEM 106 General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry II (CHEM 105)
CSCI 423 Analysis of Algorithms (CSCI 315, MATH 212 and MATH 436)
GEOG 201 Mapping our Changing World (Any General Education Mathematics Course)
GEOG 205 Earth’s Physical Environments World (Any General Education Mathematics Course)
HIST 207 Quantitative History through Applied Statistics (MATH 240 or 248 and the History Distribution Requirement)
HSCI 232 Human Genetics (BIOL 100, 108, or 111)
MATH 213 Calculus II (MATH 212)
MATH 239 Contemporary Topics in Mathematics II
MATH 241 Statistical Methods II (MATH 240)
MATH 248 Business Statistics I (MATH 177)
MATH 324 College Geometry I (MATH 212)
PHIL 220 Logic and Probability in Scientific Reasoning (Any Mathematics or Natural Science General Education course)
PHYS 102 General Physics II (PHYS 101)
PHYS 201 Electricity and Magnetism (MATH 213, PHYS 200)
PHYS 309 Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (Any Natural Science General Education course)
PSCI 214 Introduction to Meteorology
POL 300 Methodology in Political Science (POL 202 and the General Education Mathematics category)
PSCI 208 Forensics (Any Mathematics or Natural Science General Education course)
SOC 302 Social Research Methods I (Any 200-level sociology course and completion of Mathematics distribution requirement)
SOC 404 Social Research Methods II (Any 200-level sociology course, POL 300 or SOC 302, and completion of Mathematics distribution requirement)

Second Language Requirement
Rhode Island College graduates are expected to communicate in and understand a language other than English at a novice-mid proficiency level. The Second language requirement of General Education is designed to meet that expectation.

Please Note:
• The Modern Language online placement test cannot be used to satisfy the language requirement. It is only a tool to select a class.
• If a student places at the 114 level through the placement test, he or she can take French 115, Italian 115, Portuguese 115, or Span 115 and satisfy the language requirement as well as the Literature category.

The Second Language Requirement may be fulfilled in any of the following ways:
1. By completing a RIC language course 102 or higher with a minimum grade of C. Note that the prerequisite for 102 language courses is completion of 101 with a passing grade, placement through the departmental online placement exam for selected languages, or consent of Department Chair. Completing ASL 102 (American Sign Language) with a minimum grade of C also satisfies the Second Language Requirement.
2. Through transfer credit from an accredited college or university.
3. Through transfer credit of a second language course from an approved study abroad program.
4. Through Advanced Placement (AP) credit. If students score three or higher on the AP Test in French, German, or Spanish, RIC will award 6 credits (equivalent to RIC language courses 113 and 114).
5. Through Early Enrollment Program credit for language courses 113 or 114. Students who wish to receive credit for language courses 101 and 102 will have to take the CLEP Test.
6. By completing the CLEP Test in French, German, or Spanish, with a score on the Level I test of 50 or higher.
7. By completing the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and the written exam for languages for which there are no CLEP or AP Tests. Level: OPI (offered in 65 languages): Novice Mid to High. Written test: Novice High (offered in twelve languages).
8. By completing the SAT II Subject Test (scores vary according to language).
9. Foreign/International students must submit an official middle school or high school transcript from a non-English-speaking country of origin.

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