

**ACADEMIC RHODE MAP**  
**BA POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR**



**GENERAL EDUCATION:** A complete listing of General Education courses can be found at the Office of Academic Support (OASIS) 401 456-8083 or online at <http://www.ric.edu/recordsoffice/Pages/College-Catalog.aspx>; 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, Korean, Latin, Portuguese, or Spanish. For other ways to satisfy the second language requirement look under the Gen Ed. section of the catalog. Any courses marked (F) offered Fall only; (Sp) Spring; (Su) Summer. **All courses marked with an asterisk \* have a prerequisite.** For info. about Math Placement exam visit: <http://www.ric.edu/orientation/Pages/Math-Placement.aspx>

Academic Major Checklist	Course
POL 202 American Government	
POL 203 Global Politics	
POL 204 Introduction to Political Thought	
POL 300 Methodology in Political Science*	
POL 308 Current Political Controversy*	
POL 300 level or above (POL 208 may be substituted)*	
POL 300 level or above*	
POL 300 level or above*	
POL 300 level or above*	
POL 300 level or above* (with writing emphasis)	
POL 300 level or above* (with writing emphasis)	

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 will need you to take them 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 Competency (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.
- 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

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<b>SEMESTER 1</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>SEMESTER 1 CHECKPOINTS ✓</b>
First Year Writing (FYW 100) or First Year Seminar (FYS 100).	4	<input type="checkbox"/> FYW 100P is a 6-credit option. To decide which FYW to take, check the Directed Self-Placement test at <a href="http://www.ric.edu/firstyearwriting">www.ric.edu/firstyearwriting</a>
RIC 100 Introduction to RIC	1	<input type="checkbox"/> Exempt if taking COLL 101, COLL 150, or HONR 150
Gen Ed Distribution course from <b>one</b> of these GE categories: Arts (A); Literature (L); Math (M); History (H); or Natural Sciences (NS).	4	<input type="checkbox"/> (If Math competency 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Language placement test with Dept. of Modern Languages (optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Second Lang 101 (if needed)
Gen Ed-- Social and Behavioral Sciences (SB); pick POL 202 American Government	4	
Requirements and GPA		<input type="checkbox"/> Aim for 16 earned credits (While 12 is fulltime, 16 credits are preferred to stay on track to graduate in 4 years) <input type="checkbox"/> Math competency completed <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum 2.0 GPA
# CREDITS EARNED	17	<input type="checkbox"/> Make appointment in Sept. with advisor to discuss your schedule for next semester

<b>SEMESTER 2</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>SEMESTER 2 CHECKPOINTS ✓</b>
FYW 100 or FYS 100	4	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete FYS and FYW, for FYW, grade C or better
Gen Ed (M). If taken, Gen Ed Natural Science (NS)	4	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete Gen Ed Math (M): consider MATH 240* or MATH 139* (Prereq. for both math placement exam)
Gen Ed--Second Lang 102 (if needed), other Gen Ed Distribution course, elective, or second major/minor	4	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete Second Lang 102, grade C or better
POL 203 Global Politics or POL 204 Introduction to Political Thought	4	
Requirements and GPA		<input type="checkbox"/> Aim for minimum of 30 earned credits <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum 2.0 GPA
# CREDITS EARNED	16	<input type="checkbox"/> Make appointment in Feb. with advisor to discuss your schedule for next semester

<b>SEMESTER 3</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>SEMESTER 3 CHECKPOINTS ✓</b>
Gen Ed (NS). If taken, other Gen Ed course	4	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete Gen Ed Natural Science (NS)
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 203 Global Politics or POL 204 Introduction to Political Thought	4	<input type="checkbox"/> POL 203 and POL 204 Completed
Requirements and GPA		<input type="checkbox"/> Minimum of 2.0 GPA
# CREDITS EARNED	14-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Make appointment with advisor in Sept. to discuss your schedule for next semester and discuss second major or possible minor

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<b>SEMESTER 4</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>SEMESTER 4 CHECKPOINTS ✓</b>
POL 308 Current Political Controversy (WID)* or POL 300 Methodology in Political Science*	4	<input type="checkbox"/> Prereqs. for POL 308: POL 202 and 30 credits <input type="checkbox"/> Prereqs. for POL 300 are POL 202 and Gen Ed Math (M) <input type="checkbox"/> POL 300 satisfies Advanced Quantitative/Scientific Reasoning (GE-AQSR)*
POL 300 level or above* (POL 208 may be substituted once)	3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 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		<input type="checkbox"/> Aim for minimum of 60 earned credits <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum of 2.0 GPA <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum GPA of 2.0 in major
# CREDITS EARNED	13-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Make appointment with advisor in Feb. to discuss your schedule for next semester

<b>SEMESTER 5</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>SEMESTER 5 CHECKPOINTS ✓</b>
POL 308 Current Political Controversy (WID)* or POL 300 Methodology in Political Science*	4	<input type="checkbox"/> POL 300 and POL 308 completed <input type="checkbox"/> Writing in the Discipline completed
POL 300 level or above* (POL 208 may be substituted once)	3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 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		<input type="checkbox"/> Minimum of 2.0 GPA <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum GPA of 2.0 in major
# CREDITS EARNED	13-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Make appointment with advisor in Sept. to discuss your schedule for next semester

<b>SEMESTER 6</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>SEMESTER 6 CHECKPOINTS ✓</b>
Choose Connections course (GE-C)*	4	<input type="checkbox"/> Prereqs are 45 completed credits and FYW and FYS <input type="checkbox"/> Note: POL offers three options: 262, 266 and 267.
POL 300 level or above*	3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Need SIX 300 level or above POL courses (POL 208 can count)
POL 300 level or above*	3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Also, Independent Study options. Ask advisor
Gen Ed course, elective, or possible second major or minor	3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> If pursuing minor or second major make sure you have registered for this with the relevant department prior to audit
Requirements and GPA		<input type="checkbox"/> Aim for minimum of 90 earned credits <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum of 2.0 GPA <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum GPA of 2.0 in major <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for degree audit online through MyRIC
# CREDITS EARNED	13-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Make appointment with advisor to discuss your schedule for next semester in Feb.

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<b>SEMESTER 7</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>SEMESTER 7 CHECKPOINTS ✓</b>
POL 300 level or above*	3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Choose one with "Writing Emphasis"
Elective or course in another major or minor	3-4	
Gen Ed course, elective or course in another major or minor	3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> If elective courses are 3 credits, need one additional course for full-time status (12 credits).
Requirements and GPA		<input type="checkbox"/> All ten GE courses and second lang. req. completed <input type="checkbox"/> Aim for minimum of 105 earned credits <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum of 2.0 GPA <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum GPA of 2.0 in major
# CREDITS EARNED	12	<input type="checkbox"/> Make appointment with advisor to discuss your schedule for next semester in Sept.

<b>SEMESTER 8</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>SEMESTER 8 CHECKPOINTS ✓</b>
POL 300 level or above*	4	<input type="checkbox"/> Choose one with "Writing Emphasis"
Elective or course in another major or minor	3-4	
Elective or course in another major or minor	3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> If elective courses are 3 credits, need one additional course for full-time status (12 credits).
Requirements and GPA		<input type="checkbox"/> Need minimum of 120 earned credits <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum of 2.0 GPA <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum GPA of 2.0 in major
# CREDITS EARNED	12-13	Attend Gradfest and Commencement

For more information, check the Political Science Department website:

<http://www.ric.edu/politicalScience/Pages/default.aspx>

Two of the six courses at the 300-level (may include POL 208) must be "Writing Emphasis" selections. It is recommended that you take these after you have completed both POL 300 and 308.

The minimum total credit count for the major is 40 credits (depending on choices), and 40 credits for General Education, although 4 of those may be offset against one Gen Ed. course (SB), which leaves 36 more credits of Gen Ed. and possibly 9 more depending on secondary language needs, and RIC 100, so the minimum total is 76 credits. This leaves 44 credits that may need to include two secondary language courses and RIC 100, but could also include a second major or a minor, or just taken as electives.