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Bachelor of Professional Studies B.P.S.

**Jenifer Giroux, Vice President of Corporate Relations & Professional Studies**

**BPS Degree Liaisons:**

Marianne Raimondo, Dean, School of Business

Stefan Battle, Professor, School of Social Work

Quenby Hughes, Dean of Faculty of Arts & Sciences

Carol Cummings, Interim Dean of the Feinstein School of Education & Human Development

**Program Director:  TBD**

Students are registered for courses designated specifically as BPS sections (listed with a B at the end of the prefix); other courses with approval of their advisor.

**General Information**

The Bachelor of Professional Studies (BPS) degree is an online adult degree completion program delivered primarily as a cohort-based model using a split semester plan (two eight-week sessions per semester). The program is limited to adults 25 years and older with a minimum of 24 earned college credits and a minimum of five years of full-time documented comprehensive work experience and/or military training.

The BPS is offered in four concentrations: organizational leadership, social services, strategic communication and educational foundations. Each concentration is designed to provide knowledge and skills required for career advancement, delivered in an efficient way to support working adults with considerable workplace experience. There is also an emphasis on diversity and ethics. Students in the cohort model will be registered for their courses each semester.

Students in the BPS program will earn a Certificate of Undergraduate Study (C.U.S.) as part of their concentration requirements.  
C.U.S. in Workplace Diversity (Organizational Leadership)  
C.U.S. in Nonprofit Studies (Social Services)  
C.U.S. in Conflict & Crisis Communication (Strategic Communcation)  
C.U.S. in Equity & Literacy (Educational Foundations)

The Bachelor of Professional Studies also includes a prior learning assessment (PLA) component, with the development of a PLA portfolio in BPS 100 Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Portfolio Development (https://www.ric.edu/academics/prior-learning-assessment/portfolio), a first course in the program, which also includes an orientation and onboarding to Rhode Island College.

Under the guidance of their BPS 100 instructor, students will document and validate knowledge, skills and competencies earned outside the traditional classroom via workplace learning, employer or armed service-sponsored training, experiential learning, organization and industry certifications, on-the-job-training, professional development, microcredentials, digital badging, continuing education units, self-education, etc. Students will submit a completed portfolio at the end of the course. The portfolio will be initially evaluated by the instructor for the number of prior learning credits (PLA) to be awarded. The instructor will forward their recommendation to the appropriate BPS Liaison for a final decision on the credit award. Students may earn up to 32 credits for prior learning documented in their portfolio.

Any student who decides to pursue a major other than the B.P.S. must then complete all requirements of that degree including the college’s standard General Education program. The Bachelor of Professional Studies is intended to be a first bachelor’s degree and may not be taken as a second degree program.

**Admission Requirements for the Bachelor of Professional Studies B.P.S. Program**

1. Program admission is restricted to adults 25 years and older at the time of application.

2. Minimum of five years of documented comprehensive work experience and/or military training.

3. 24 minimum earned college credits at the time of application (from a regionally accredited college or university). Applicants who have fewer than 24 credits but have an earned certificate from Rhode Island College (15 or or more credits) may be considered for conditional admission to the BPS.

4. A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale in undergraduate course work.

**Retention Requirements**

A minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale is required for the degree and graduation.

Bachelor of Professional Studies

CHOOSE Concentration A, B C or D below:

Course Requirements

A. Organizational Leadership

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BPS 460 | Seminar in Organizational Leadership | 4 | F, Sp |
| COMM 333 | Intercultural Communication | 4 | As needed |
| COMM 454 | Organizational Communication | 4 | Annually |
| ECON 200 | Introduction to Economics | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| MGT 201W | Foundations of Management | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| MGT 306 | Managing a Diverse Workforce | 4 | F, Sp |
| MGT 320 | Human Resource Management | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| MGT 322 | Organizational Behavior | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| MGT 341W | Business, Government, and Society | 4 | F, Sp, Su |

Subtotal: 36

B. Social Services

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BPS 461 | Seminar in Social Services | 4 | F, Sp |
| COMM 333 | Intercultural Communication | 4 | As needed |
| HPE 410 | Managing Stress and Mental/Emotional Health | 3 | F, Sp |
| NPST 300 | Institute in Nonprofit Studies | 4 | F |
| NPST 301 | Financial Management for Nonprofits | 3 | Sp |
| NPST 402 | Staff and Volunteer Management for Nonprofits | 3 | F |
| NPST 404 | Communications and Resource Development for Nonprofits | 3 | Sp |
| SWRK 325 | Diversity and Oppression II | 4 | F, Sp |
| SWRK 326W | Generalist Social Work Practice | 4 | F, Sp |
| SPED 461/SPED 561 | Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders | 3 | F |

Subtotal: 35

C. Strategic Communication

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BPS 462 | Seminar in Strategic Communication | 4 | Sp |
| COMM 208 | Public Presentations | 4 | F, Sp |
| COMM 256 | Social Media and Society | 4 | Sp, Su |
| COMM 312W | Advanced Writing for Strategic Communication | 4 | Sp |
| COMM 328 | Case Studies in Public Relations | 4 | F |
|  |  |  |  |
| COMM 351 | Persuasion | 4 | F, Sp |
|  | -Or- |  |  |
| COMM 357 | Public Opinion and Propaganda | 4 | F, Su |
|  |  |  |  |
| COMM 352 | Conflict Resolution | 4 | As needed |
| COMM 439 | Crisis Communication | 4 | F |
| COMM 454 | Organizational Communication | 4 | Annually |

Subtotal: 36

D. Educational Foundations

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BPS 463 | Seminar in Educational Foundations | 4 | F, Sp |
| CEP 215 | Introduction to Educational Psychology | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| ECED 232 | Building Family, School and Community Partnerships | 3 | Sp |
| ELED 400 | Curriculum and Assessment with Instructional Technology | 3 | F, Sp |
| ELED 480 | Topics in Literacy Foundations | 3 | Sp |
| FNED 246 | Schooling for Social Justice | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| SED 201 | Introduction to Lesson Planning | 2 | F, Sp, Su |
| SED 202 | Introduction to Assessment | 2 | F, Sp, Su |
| SPED 211 | Supporting Students with Communication Needs | 3 | F, Sp |
| SPED 333 | Introduction to Special Education: Policies/Practices | 3 | F, Sp |
| TESL 401 | Introduction to Teaching Emergent Bilinguals | 4 | F, Sp |
| TESL 402 | Applications of Second Language Acquisition | 3 | F, Sp |

Subtotal: 39

General Education Requirements

The college has a 40-credit General Education program which is required for all undergraduate programs. The Bachelor of Professional Studies is the only degree program with an approved alternate general education program. It includes several courses BPS students may have completed in prior college work and will not need to repeat. Other courses have been selected that will satisfy General Education outcomes as well as program requirements in both concentrations.

Introduction to BPS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BPS 100 | Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Portfolio Development | 2 | F, Sp, Su |

Subtotal: 2

Professional Writing

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| FYW 100 | Introduction to Academic Writing | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | -And- |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| ENGL 230W | Workplace Writing | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
|  | -Or- |  |  |
| ENGL 231W | Multimodal Writing | 4 | Alternate years |
|  | -Or- |  |  |
| ENGL 232W | Public and Community Writing | 4 | Alternate years |
|  | -Or- |  |  |
|  | Any 200-level or higher writing course (WID) related to the specific BPS concentration. |  |  |

Subtotal: 8

Quantitative Skills

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MATH 139 | Math, Data, and the Contemporary Citizen | 4 | F, Sp, Su |

Subtotal: 4

Or any mathematics course numbered 139 or higher.

Arts and Humanities

PHIL 206 plus one 100-level or higher course in art, dance, film, English (literature), history, modern languages, music or theatre.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| PHIL 206 | Ethics | 3 | F, Sp |

Subtotal: 6-7

Science/AQSR

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| PSCI 250 | Topic: Science as a Way of Knowing | 4 | As needed |

Subtotal: 4

Or any science course from BIOL, CHEM, PSCI, or PHYS.

Social & Behavioral Sciences

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SOC 208 | The Sociology of Race and Ethnicity | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| SOC 306 | Work and Organizations | 4 | As needed |

Subtotal: 8

NOTE: Each concentration includes a course which students may count towards four of the remaining general education credits. Organizational Leadership students may count ECON 200. Social Sciences students may count SWRK 325. and students in Strategic Communication may count COMM 256. Strategic Communication students may count COMM 256. Educational Foundations students may count CEP 215.

A total of 40 credits is required to complete the BPS General Education requirement, the same total as for traditional RIC students. Students will need additional general education credits (usually 1-2 courses) which meet the college's general education learning outcomes and may come from prior earned college credit or from additional credits taken prior to graduation at RIC.

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