



RHODE  
ISLAND  
COLLEGE

# 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 both the completion of one 3-4 credit course in each of nine categories (three Core courses and six Distribution courses) AND the completion of at least 40 total credits of General Education courses.

### 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, with sections on a wide variety of topics taught by professors from departments across the college, is required in the first year. Students are encouraged to choose a topic that interests them. Each section is discussion-based, and focused on developing skills in critical thinking, oral communication, research fluency, and written communication. FYS 100 is offered only in the fall and spring semesters. Students who enter the College with 24 or more transfer credits are not considered first-year students and are exempt from this requirement. Courses are limited to twenty students.

### Representative First-Year Seminars

Music and the Social World  
Raid the Collections: Making Discoveries in RIC Collections  
Shock Therapy: Drama as Action  
Global Perspectives on Health  
Cultures Collide: Indians and Europeans in Early North America  
Language and Gender  
Performance in the First Person: This is ME!  
Food and Medicine of East Asia  
Sex Rights, Sex Wrongs

Mountains of Power and Culture  
You, Inc.: The Business of You  
Global Imagination of Korean Media: Meanings and Significance  
Languages in U.S. Education: Whose Matter?  
Self, Mind, Heart in Eastern Philosophies  
'Tattoos aren't just for sailors anymore': Men, women, & bodies  
Talkies and more: The sociology of cinema through Hollywood  
From Europe to the States: humor, friendship, and love through film remakes  
Leadership Study Through the Biography  
Native American Arts

## Connections (C)

Courses in the Connections category are courses on topics that emphasize comparative perspectives, such as across disciplines, across time, and across cultures. Students must complete the FYS and FYW courses before taking a Connections course.

AFRI 262	Cultural Issues in Africana Studies	HIST 268	Civil Rights and National Liberation Movements
ANTH 261	The Complexities of Global Health	HIST 269	Jazz and Civil Rights: Freedom Sounds
ANTH 262	Indigenous Rights and the Global Environment	HIST 272	Globalization 15th Century to the Present
ANTH 265	Anthropological Perspectives on Childhood	HIST 273	Latin America and Globalization, 1492-Present
ANTH 266	Anthropological and Indigenous Perspectives on Place	HIST 274	History of the Dominican Republic
ART 261	Art and Money	HIST 275	Russia from Beginning to End
ART 262	Encounters with Global Arts	HONR 264	Seminar in Cross-Cultural and Interdisciplinary Issues
BIOL 261	The World's Forests	MUS 261	Music and Multimedia
COMM 261	Issues in Free Speech	NURS 262	Substance Abuse as a Global Issue
COMM 262	Dialect – What we Speak	NURS 264	Status of the World's Children
COMM 263	East Asian Media and Popular Culture	NURS 266	Health and Cultural Diversity
ENGL 261	Arctic Encounters	PHIL 262	Freedom and Responsibility
ENGL 262	Women, Crime, and Representation	PHIL 263	The Idea of God
ENGL 263	Zen - East and West	PHIL 265	Philosophical Issues of Gender and Sex
ENGL 265	Women's Stories Across Cultures	PHIL 266	Asian Philosophies: Theory and Practice
ENGL 267	Books That Changed American Culture	POL 262	Power and Community
ENST 261	Climate Change and YOU	POL 266	Investing in the Next Global Economy
FILM 262	Cross-Cultural Projections: Exploring Cinematic Representation	POL 267	Immigration, Citizenship, and National Identity
GEND 261	Resisting Authority: Girls of Fictional Futures	PSCI 262	Space: The Final Frontier
GEND 262	Lights, Camera, Gender!: Gender in Film	SOC 264	Sex and Power: Global Gender Inequality
GEOG 261	Globalization, Cities and Sustainability	SOC 267	Comparative Perspectives on Higher Education
HIST 263	Christianity	SOC 268	Genocide, Atrocity, and Prevention
HIST 265	Post-1945 Conflicts in Africa and Globally	SUST 261	Exploring Nature through Art, Science, Technology
HIST 267	Europe and Beyond: Historical Reminiscences	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 six areas:

### Arts – Visual and Performing

ART 101	Drawing I: General Drawing	FILM 116	Introduction to Film
ART 104	Design I: Two Dimensional Design	MUS 167	Music Cultures of Non-Western Worlds
ART 201	Introduction to Visual Arts	MUS 201	Survey of Music
ART 210	Nurturing Artistic & Musical Development	MUS 203	Elementary Music Theory
ART 231	Prehistoric to Renaissance Art	MUS 222	Opera
ART 232	Renaissance to Contemporary Art	MUS 223	American Popular Music
COMM 220	Digital Audio Production I	MUS 225	History of Jazz
COMM 241	Introduction to Cinema and Video	PHIL 230	Aesthetics
COMM 244	Digital Media Lab	THTR 240	Appreciation & Enjoyment of the Theatre
DANC 215	Contemporary Dance & Culture	THTR 242	Acting for Non-Majors
ENGL 113	Approaches to Drama		

### History or Philosophy

HIST 101	Multiple Voices: Africa in the World	HIST 107	Multiple Voices: The United States in the World
HIST 102	Multiple Voices: Asia in the World	HIST 108	History of Science and Medicine
HIST 103	Multiple Voices: Europe in the World to 1600	HIST 110	Global History to 1000
HIST 104	Multiple Voices: Europe in the World since 1600	HIST 111	Global History Since 1000
HIST 105	Multiple Voices: Latin America in the World	PHIL 100	Introduction to Philosophy
HIST 106	Multiple Voices: Muslim Peoples in the World	PHIL 206	Ethics

### Literature or Language

ASL 102	Elemen. American Sign Language II	ITAL 102	Elementary Italian II
ENGL 120	Studies in Literature and Identity	ITAL 113	Intermediate Italian I
ENGL 121	Studies in Literature and Nation	ITAL 115	Literature of Italy
ENGL 122	Studies in Literature and the Canon	PORT 102	Elementary Portuguese II
ENGL 123	Studies in Literature and Genre	PORT 113	Intermediate Portuguese I
FREN 102	Elementary French II	PORT 114	Intermediate Portuguese II
FREN 113	Intermediate French I	PORT 115	Literature of the Portuguese Speaking World
FREN 115	Lit of the French Speaking World	SPAN 102	Elementary Spanish II
		SPAN 113	Intermediate Spanish I
		SPAN 115	Literature of the Spanish Speaking World

### Mathematics

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

*Note: In most cases, students are encouraged to complete the Mathematics category in their first year. Completion of the Mathematics category of General Education does not satisfy the College Mathematics Competency. In addition, students in the elementary education curriculum who complete MATH 144 (and its prerequisite, MATH 143) shall be considered to have fulfilled the Mathematics category of General Education.*

### Natural Science

BIOL 100	Fundamental Concepts of Biology	PHYS 101	Physics for Science and Mathematics
BIOL 108	Basic Principles of Biology	PHYS 110	Introductory Physics
BIOL 111	Introductory Biology	PSCI 103	Physical Sciences
BIOL 112	Introductory Biology II	PSCI 211	Intro to Astronomy
BIOL 201&202	Anatomy & Physiology I	PSCI 212	Introduction to Geology
CHEM 103	General Chemistry I	PSCI 217	Introduction to Oceanography
CHEM 105	General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry I		

## **Social and Behavioral Sciences**

AFRI 200	Introduction to Africana Studies	POL 102	American Government
ANTH 101	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	POL 103	Global Politics
ANTH 102	Introduction to Archaeology	POL 104	Introduction to Political Thought
ANTH 104	Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology	POL 201	Development of American Dem.
CEP 215	Introduction to Educational Psychology	PSYC 110	Introduction to Psychology
COMM 240	Mass Media and Society	PSYC 215	Social Psychology
COMM 245	Social Media Communication	SOC 200	Introduction to Sociology
COMM 256	Social Media and Society	SOC 202	The Family
ECON 200	Introduction to Economics	SOC 204	Urban Sociology
ECON 235	Economics of Race, Gender, and	SOC 207	Crime and Criminal Justice
GEND 100	Gender in Society	SOC 208	Minority Group Relations
GEOG 100	Introduction to Environmental Studies	SOC 217	Sociology of Aging
GEOG 101	Introduction to Geography		
GEOG 200	World Regional Geography		
GEOG 206	Disaster Management		

## **Additional General Education Electives**

*These courses have also been approved as General Education courses, and along with any additional courses in the categories above, may be used to meet the requirement of achieving at least 40 credits of General Education courses. Please note that some of these courses may require prerequisites.*

ASL 101	Elementary American Sign Language	MATH 241	Statistical Methods II
ANTH 237	Measuring Injustice, Analyzing Inequality	MATH 248	Business Statistics I
ANTH 306	Primate Ecology and Social Behavior	MATH 324	College Geometry
ANTH 307	Human Nature: Evolution, Ecology and Behavior	MGT 249	Business Statistics II
ANTH 235	Bones and Stones: How Archaeologists Know	PORT 101	Elementary Portuguese I
BIOL 314	Genetics	PHIL 220	Logic and Probability in Scientific Reasoning
BIOL 335	Human Physiology	PHYS 102	Physics for Science and Mathematics II
CHEM 104	General Chemistry II	PHYS 120	The Extraordinary Physics of Ordinary Things
CHEM 106	General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry II	PHYS 309	Nanoscience and Nanotechnology
CSCI 423	Analysis of Algorithms	PSCI 204	Understanding the Physical Universe
DATA 245	Principles of Data Science	PSCI 208	Forensics
ENGL 220	Introduction to Creative Writing	PSCI 214	Introduction to Meteorology
FREN 101	Elementary French I	POL 300	Methodology in Political Science
GEOG 201	Mapping our Changing World	SOC 302	Social Research Methods I
GEOG 205	Earth's Physical Environments	SOC 404	Social Research Methods II
HIST 207	History through Numbers	SPAN 101	Elementary Spanish I
HSCI 232	Human Genetics	SWRK 303	Social Work Research Methods II
ITAL 101	Elementary Italian I	TECH 306	Automation and Control Systems
MATH 213	Calculus II		
MATH 239	Contemporary Topics in Mathematics II		

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