



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 the completion of ten 4-credit General Education courses: three Core courses and seven Distribution courses. Students who enter as freshmen must also complete RIC 100 and 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, 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 Rhode Island College Collections
Shock Therapy: Drama as Action
Global Perspectives on Health
Cultures Collide: Indians and Europeans in Early North America
Not for Political Junkies Only: Making Sense of the 2020 Presidential Campaign
Language and Gender
Performance in the First Person: This is ME!
Food and Medicine of East Asia
Sex Rights, Sex Wrongs
Philosophy of Mind and Mental Disorder

Mountains of Power and Culture
The Rhetoric of the 2020 Election
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: humour, friendship, and love through film remakes
Leadership Study Through the Biography
Native American Arts

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.

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| 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 262 | Sociology of Money |
| GEOG 261 | Globalization, Cities and Sustainability | SOC 264 | Sex and Power: Global Gender Inequality |
| HIST 263 | Christianity | SOC 267 | Comparative Perspectives on Higher Education |
| HIST 265 | Post-1945 Conflicts in Africa and Globally | SOC 268 | Genocide, Atrocity, and Prevention |
| HIST 267 | Europe and Beyond: Historical Reminiscences | 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

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

History

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| HIST 101 | Multiple Voices: Africa in the World | HIST 105 | Multiple Voices: Latin America in the World |
| HIST 102 | Multiple Voices: Asia in the World | HIST 106 | Multiple Voices: Muslim Peoples in the World |
| HIST 103 | Multiple Voices: Europe in the World to 1600 | HIST 107 | Multiple Voices: The United States in the World |
| HIST 104 | Multiple Voices: Europe in the World since 1600 | HIST 108 | History of Science and Medicine |

Literature

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

Mathematics

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| 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: 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 (lab required)

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| BIOL 100 | Fundamental Concepts of Biology (Formerly BIOL 109) | PHYS 101 | Physics for Science and Mathematics I |
| 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 | Introduction to Astronomy |
| CHEM 103 | General Chemistry I | PSCI 212 | Introduction to Geology |
| CHEM 105 | General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry I | PSCI 217 | Introduction to Oceanography |

Social and Behavioral Sciences

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| AFRI 200 | Introduction to Africana Studies | POL 202 | American Government |
| ANTH 101 | Introduction to Cultural Anthropology | POL 203 | Global Politics |
| ANTH 102 | Introduction to Archaeology | POL 204 | Introduction to Political Thought |
| ANTH 104 | Introduction to Anthropological Linguistics | PSYC 110 | Introduction to Psychology |
| CEP 215 | Introduction to Educational Psychology | PSYC 215 | Social Psychology |
| COMM 240 | Mass Media and Society | SOC 200 | Introduction to Sociology |
| ECON 200 | Introduction to Economics | SOC 202 | The Family |
| GEND 200 | Gender in Society | SOC 204 | Urban Sociology |
| GEOG 100 | Introduction to Environmental Studies | SOC 207 | Crime and Criminal Justice |
| GEOG 101 | Introduction to Geography | SOC 208 | The Sociology of Race and Ethnicity |
| GEOG 200 | World Regional Geography | SOC 217 | Sociology of Aging |
| GEOG 206 | Disaster Management | | |

Advanced Quantitative/Scientific Reasoning

Prerequisites are in parentheses following the course title. "Math GE" means "Any Mathematics General Education Course; "NS GE" mean "Any Natural Science General Education Course."

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| ANTH 237 | Measuring Injustice, Analyzing Inequality (Math GE) | MATH 248 | Business Statistics I (MATH 177) |
| ANTH 306 | Primate Ecology and Social Behavior (BIOL 100 or BIOL 108 or BIOL 111) | MATH 324 | College Geometry (MATH 212) |
| ANTH 307 | Human Nature: Evolution, Ecology and Behavior (BIOL 100 or BIOL 108 or BIOL 111) | MGT 249 | Business Statistics II |
| ANTH 235 | Bones and Stones: How Archaeologists Know (Math GE or NS GE) | PHIL 220 | Logic and Probability in Scientific Reasoning (Math GE or NS GE) |
| BIOL 314 | Genetics (BIOL 111/BIOL 112) | PHYS 102 | Physics for Science and Mathematics II (PHYS 101) |
| BIOL 335 | Human Physiology (BIOL 111 and BIOL 112, or BIOL 108 and BIOL 231) | PHYS 120 | The Extraordinary Physics of Ordinary Things (Math GE) |
| CHEM 104 | General Chemistry II (CHEM 103) | PHYS 309 | Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (NS GE) |
| CHEM 106 | General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry II (CHEM 105) | PSCI 204 | Understanding the Physical Universe (BIOL 100 and MATH 144) |
| CSCI 423 | Analysis of Algorithms (CSCI 315, MATH 212 and MATH 436) | PSCI 208 | Forensics (Math GE or NS GE) |
| GEOG 201 | Mapping our Changing World (Math GE) | PSCI 214 | Introduction to Meteorology (Math GE or NS GE) |
| GEOG 205 | Earth's Physical Environments World (Math GE) | POL 300 | Methodology in Political Science (POL 202 and Math GE) |
| HIST 207 | History through Numbers (Math GE and the History Distribution Requirement) | SOC 302 | Social Research Methods (Any 200-level sociology course and Math GE) |
| HSCI 232 | Human Genetics (BIOL 100, 108, or 111) | SOC 404 | Social Data Analysis (Any 200-level sociology course, POL 300 or SOC 302, and Math GE) |
| MATH 213 | Calculus II (MATH 212) | SWRK 303 | Social Work Research Methods II (Math GE; SWRK 240 or permission of instructor) |
| MATH 239 | Contemporary Topics in Mathematics II (MATH 139 or consent of department chair) | TECH 306 | Automation and Control Systems (Math GE or NS GE) |
| MATH 241 | Statistical Methods II (MATH 240) | | |

RIC 100 Requirement

The Introduction to RIC (RIC 100) course is designed to support the transition of first year students into college life in general and into the Rhode Island College community in particular, connecting each student with both an instructor and a peer mentor. The course covers such topics as the skills needed for academic success, getting the most out of working with your advisor, and taking care of yourself. The one-credit course meets for one hour weekly and is graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory. Students whose programs include COLL 101, COLL 150, or HONR 150 are exempt from the RIC 100 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.

- 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. 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) also satisfies the Second Language Requirement.
2. Through transfer credit for a language course equivalent to 102 or higher 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.