# http://www.ric.edu/webcommunications/images/SealWithText_Small_Black.pngUNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE (UCC)PROPOSAL FORM

## **Cover page** scroll over blue text to see further important [instructions](#instructions): [if not working select “COMMents on rollover” in your Word preferences under view] **please read these.**

**N.B. ALL numbered categories in section (A) must be completed. Please do not use highlight to select choices within a category but simply delete the options that do not apply to your proposal (e.g. in A.2 if this is a course revision proposal, just delete the creation and deletion options and the various program ones, so it reads “course revision”) Do not delete any of the numbered categories—if they do not apply leave them blank. If there are no resources impacted, please put “none” in each A. 7 category.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A.1. [Course or program](#Proposal) | **Rhode Island college General education program revision****ALL CURRENT CONNECTIONS COURSES (revised prerequisites)** |  |
| [Replacing](#Ifapplicable)  | **current general education program** |
| A. 1b. Academic unit | **General Education** |  |
| A.2. [Proposal type](#type) | **Program: |** [**revision**](#revision)**|** **Course: Revision** |  |
| A.3. [Originator](#Originator) | **Suchandra Basu** | [Home department](#home_dept) | **Committee on General Education** |
| A.4. [Context and Rationale](#Rationale) Must include additional information listed in smart tip for all [new programs](#type). If **online** course or program, you need to explain what mode(s) you plan to use and why you need that specific delivery.  | The Committee on General Education is requesting a revision to the college’s general education program. The General Education Program provides a foundation for deeper study in a wide range of academic disciplines. Through the program, students develop the skills and habits of mind necessary for full participation in an increasingly complex world. 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. The college’s General Education Program was last revised in 2012 and it is time for an update to provide more flexibility and choice for students. **Program Changes**The Committee on General Education is specifically requesting the following revisions to be effective from Fall 24:* General Education courses may now be either three or four credits, as long as 40 credits of General Education course work are completed. Students can take any additional courses from any category other than FYS and FYW to get to 40 credits.
* Students cannot count more than 2 courses from a course code for the Gen Ed program.
* RIC 100 is no longer a Gen Ed requirement but a college or graduation requirement. This change allows specific schools to augment the curriculum with content that is tailored to the needs of their graduates.
* Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity, and Access are central concepts to RIC students and as such will be central to the Gen Ed program at RIC. This emphasis will be addressed in all revised Learning Outcomes through the development of individual student learning objectives directed to these concepts.
* The HIST category will now become HIST/PHIL and include Philosophy courses. This provides Philosophy a more visible place in the Gen Ed program and students the opportunity to more explicitly consider larger philosophical and ethical questions that are critical for shaping personal and social responsibility. Some courses will be able to be added if approved before the close of the academic year.
* The LIT category will now become LIT/LANG and relevant Modern Language courses at the 102 level and higher will be eligible for inclusion. Modern Language courses at the 101 level will be eligible for inclusion in the new Elective category. Some courses will be able to be added if approved before the close of the academic year.
* The second language requirement will cease to exist; instead, students can choose one course from the merged LIT/LANG category to fulfill that distribution requirement that still allows them to gain knowledge of human cultures through literature and language. Some courses will be able to be added if approved before the close of the academic year.
* The lab requirement for the Natural Science category will become optional.
* The Math category will begin to be treated as part of First Year Experience by suggesting students take this category in their first year, reflecting the value and significance of mathematics in many RIC majors and programs. The Math Department will work with departments across the college to develop courses to reflect this new first year model.
* The AQSR category will cease to exist, replaced by a new Elective category.
* The Elective category will allow students to take any additional course approved as a Gen Ed course except for FYS or FYW, as well as any course from a list of COGE-approved General Education courses that may not fit into a Distribution category. Some courses will be able to be added if approved before the close of the academic year.
* Elective courses must be open to students from all majors provided pre-requisites (if any) are met.
* Elective courses outside of a distribution category must meet at least one and no more than three of the existing Gen Ed Learning Outcomes.
* All current AQSR courses will remain in the Elective category.
* Connections as a signature RIC Gen Ed category remains in place for now, however,
* **The 45-credit required prerequisite will be removed**, leaving the completion of FYS and FYW in place.
* Connections courses will now be able to be counted in a major or minor.
* Only FT faculty will continue to teach FYS and Connections courses while both PT and FT will teach courses in remaining categories of the General Education Program.

*\* Note: Students completing General Education Honors can also take Honors level Connections courses after completing Honors FYS and Honors FYW.***Program Implementation**COGE is proposing the following implementation plan for the Gen Ed revision. * All students will be transitioned to this program in Fall 2024, unless the new program disadvantages them, in which case they may choose to follow the pre-Fall 2024 program.
* All courses currently in the categories will remain in the program as approved courses in the category; however, if the Learning Outcomes are changed or updated through the process below, all courses currently addressing the related Learning Outcomes will need to be re-approved.
* Beginning in Spring 2024, COGE will seek interested faculty volunteers from across the College to participate in the following committees.
* There will be a committee of interested “expert” faculty for each of the nine Learning Outcome proposed by the Gen Ed Task Force. Each Learning Outcome committee will be tasked with creating student learning objectives for each Outcome, and an assessment plan for each Outcome. The Learning Outcomes, student learning objectives, and assessment plans must be approved by COGE before implementation. When the new Learning Outcomes are implemented, all courses addressing them must be re-approved to meet the revised Outcomes.
* There will also be a committee which will explore the potential changes to update RIC’s signature General Education course, currently Connections. This committee will explore the pros and cons of this move and if they propose a new model, will identify criteria for courses in that category. Their report will be presented to the faculty for their consideration and approval.
* Apart from this current process, any addition or removal of learning outcomes to the general education program, including the switch from current Learning Outcomes to the proposed Outcomes, or any changes to the mapping of learning outcomes to categories, would require COGE approval.
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| A.5. [Student impact](#student_impact)Must include to explain why this change is being made? | **The above changes are expected to make the General Education program 1) more flexible for students starting at RIC as well as for transfer students, 2) provide more choice across distribution and elective categories, 3) reduce time to graduation and 4) provide more opportunities for collaborative majors and major/minor combinations across disciplines.**  |
| A.6. [Impact on other programs](#impact)  | **None** |
| A.7. [Resource impact](#Resource) | [*Faculty PT & FT*](#faculty):  | **No change.** |
| [*Library*:](#library) | **Inclusion of new courses in the Elective category that can choose any current learning outcome including research fluency may require additional library support.**  |
| *Technology (for in person delivery)*The VP of Information Services should be consulted prior to submission and their acknowledgement signature included. | **None****General Education requirements for in-person or hybrid delivery remains unchanged.** |
| *Technology: (for online delivery. Must be RIC supported)*The VP of Information Services should be consulted prior to submission and their approval signature included. | **None****General Education requirements for online or hybrid delivery remains unchanged.** |
| [*Facilities*](#facilities): | **None** |
| A.8. [Semester effective](#Semester_effective) | **Fall 2024.** | A.9. [Rationale if sooner than next Fall](#Semester_effective) |  |
| A.10. INSTRUCTIONS FOR CATALOG COPY: Use the Word copy versions of the catalog sections found on the UCC Forms and Information page. Cut and paste into a single file **ALL the relevant pages from the college catalog that need to be changed.** Use tracked changes feature to show how the catalog will be revised as you type in the revisions. If totally new copy, indicate where it should go in the catalog. If making related proposals a single catalog copy that includes all changes is preferred. Send catalog copy as a separate single Word file along with this form. |
| A.11. List here (with the relevant urls), any RIC website pages that will need to be updated (to which your department does not have access) if this proposal is approved, with an explanation as to what needs to be revised: |
| A. 12 **Check to see if your proposal will impact any of our** [**transfer** **agreements,**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CSAbbotson%5CDocuments%5CCurriculum%5CManualandWebsite%5Ctransfer%20agreements) **and if it does explain in what way. Please indicate clearly what will need to be updated, including any changes in prefix numbers/titles for TES.****This change is expected to positively impact transfer students as more courses can potentially be transferred in leading to quicker degree progression.** |
| A. 13 Check the section that lists “Possible NECHE considerations” on the UCC Forms and Information page and if any apply, indicate what that might be here and contact Institutional Research for further guidance.**The revised General Education program meets current NECHE standards.** |

### **E.** [**Program Proposals**](#program_proposals) **For IN-Person or mixed modalities (for fully online programs: see section F):**

### **Complete only what is relevant to your proposal. Delete section E. if not needed. PLease add in the 2020 CIP number for MAJOR revisions or new programs in E 2; these can be found at** [**https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/browse.aspx?y=56**](https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/browse.aspx?y=56) **consult with Institutional research to be sure you select the correct one.**

|  | [Old (for revisions only)](#old_program) | New/revised |
| --- | --- | --- |
| E.1. [Enrollments](#enrollments) Must be completed. |  | **Affects all undergraduate students who start at RIC and transfers who have not completed the General Education program** |
| E. 2. [2020 CIP number](#CIPnumber" \o "THESE CAN BE FOUND AT HTTPS://NCES.ED.GOV/IPEDS/CIPCODE/BROWSE.ASPX?Y=56 CONSULT WITH INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH TO BE SURE YOU SELECT THE CORRECT ONE.) |  |  |
| E.3. [Admission requirements](#admissions) | **None** | **None** |
| E.4. [Retention requirements](#retention) | **None** | **None** |
| E.5. [Course requirements](#course_reqs) for each program option. Show the course requirements for the whole program here. | **Current General Education Program** *RIC 100**Second Language Requirement**First Year Experience:* • FYS • FYW *Distribution Categories:* Distribution courses emphasize ways of thinking and methods of inquiry within various disciplines. Students would be required to take one course in each of the following six areas. 1. Arts - Visual and Performing 2. History 3. Literature 4. Mathematics5. Natural Science (with lab) 6. Social and Behavioral Sciences 7. AQSR*Connections:* Courses in the Connections category are upper-level courses on topics that emphasize comparative perspectives, such as across disciplines, across time, and across cultures. ***Required after FYS and FYW and at least 45 credits total. Cannot count towards a major or minor.*** | **Revised General Education Program** *Students are required to take one course in each of the following categories: FYS, FYW, Mathematics, Arts – Visual and Performing, History/Philosophy, Literature/Language, Natural Science, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Elective, and Connections.  Students must complete 40 credits of general education courses and if necessary can take any additional general education courses from any category other than FYS and FYW to meet the 40 credit minimum.  No more than two courses used to meet general education requirements may be from the same course code (HIST, ENGL, BIOL, SOC, etc.)**First Year Experience:* • FYS • FYW • Mathematics*Distribution Categories:* Distribution courses emphasize ways of thinking and methods of inquiry within various disciplines. 1. Arts - Visual and Performing 2. History/Philosophy 3. Literature/Language 4. Natural Science (lab requirement optional.) 5. Social and Behavioral Sciences 6. Elective*Connections:* Courses in the Connections category are on topics that emphasize comparative perspectives, such as across disciplines, across time, and across cultures. ***Required after FYS and FYW. Offered by any department. Connections courses may be included in a major or minor.*** |
| E.6. [Credit count](#credit_count) for each program option | **Up to 49 credits with RIC 100 and the second language requirement.** | **40 required General Education credits with the removal of RIC 100 and the second language requirement.**  |
| E.7. Note any needs for program accreditation (if relevant).  | **None** | **None** |
| E.8 Program modality. Online percentage of delivery; calculate % within required hybrids and the total for the program cannot go over 49%  | **Fully in-person****Mixed course types (Up to 49% online)** | **Fully in-person****Mixed course types (Up to 49 % online)** |
| E.9 Will any classes be offered at sites other than RIC campus or the RI Nursing Ed. Center?\* | **NO** | **NO** |
| E. 10. Do these revisions reflect more than 25% change to the [program?\*](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csabbotson%5CDocuments%5CCurriculum%5CProgram%20goals)  |  | **NO** |
| E.11. [Program goals](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csabbotson%5CDocuments%5CCurriculum%5CProgram%20goals)Needed for all new programs |  |  |
| E.12. Other changes if any |  | **Note: the courses in the new Electives category may get some additions before the close of this year; they were also not in the correct alphabetical order which has been fixed.**  |

\* If answered YES to either of these questions will need to inform Institutional Research and get their acknowledgement on the signature page.

## **G. Signatures**

* **Changes that affect General Education in any way MUST be approved by ALL Deans and COGE Chair**.
* Changes that directly impact more than one department/program MUST have the signatures of all relevant department chairs, program directors, and their relevant dean (e.g. when creating/revising a program using courses from other departments/programs). Check UCC manual 4.2 for further guidelines on whether the signatures need to be approval or acknowledgement.
* Proposals that do not have appropriate approval signatures will not be considered.
* Type in name of person signing and their position/affiliation.
* Send electronic files of this proposal and accompanying catalog copy to curriculum@ric.edu to the current Chair of UCC. Check UCC website for due dates. **Do NOT convert to a .pdf.**

##### G.1. Approvals: required from programs/departments/deans who originate the proposal. THESE may include multiple departments, e.g., for joint/interdisciplinary proposals.

| Name | Position/affiliation | [Signature](#_Signature" \o "Insert electronic signature, if available, in this column) | Date |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dr. Suchandra Basu | Chair of COGE | Suchandra Basu | 4/5/2024 |
| Dr. Quenby Hughes | Dean of Arts and Sciences | \*Approved by email | 4/17/2024 |
| Dr. Marianne Raimondo | Dean of School of Business | \*Approved by email | 4/18/2024 |
| Dr. Carol Cummings | Dean of the School of Education | \*Approved by email | 4/18/2024 |
| Dr. Justin Dilibero | Dean of the School of Nursing | \*Approved by email | 4/18/2024 |
| Dr. Sheila Flemming-Hunter | Dean of the School of Social Work | \*Approved by email | 4/17/2024 |