



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 must also complete 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 is required in the freshman year, with sections on a wide variety of topics. Each section is discussion-based, focused on developing critical thinking, oral communication, research fluency, and written communication. FYS 100 will not be offered in the summer or the early spring sessions. Students who enter the College as non-first year transfer students are not considered first-year students and are exempt from this requirement. Courses are limited to twenty students.

### Representative First Year Seminars

Activism and Social Movements	Music and the Social World
Aliens Save Atlantis!	Native Arts
Black Homelands: Real and Imagined Spaces and Black Identities	Performance in the First Person: This is ME!
Contributions of Individuals with Disabilities to Global Society	Philosophy of Death
Creativity in YOU	Philosophy of Mind and Mental Disorder
Cuneiform to Cyberspace	Raid the collections!: Making discoveries in Rhode Island College collections
Dynamics of Disaster	Religions
Ethics in the family: From birth to death	Self, Mind, and Heart in Asian Philosophies
Fantastical World Travel Adventures	Sex Rights, Sex Wrongs
Food, Diet and Medicine in East Asian Civilization	Shock Therapy: Drama as Protest
From the "Raja" to the "Desi" Romance: 100 years of Bollywood	So you want a revolution? Rhetoric, Culture and Politics of the 1960s
Global Perspectives on Health	Sustainability
Graffiti Punks and Photojournalists: Art, Power, and Politics	Takin' It to the Streets...
Grimm and Glitter: The Books of Our Childhood	Tattoos aren't just for sailors anymore: Men, Women, and Bodies
Health Communications: I Wonder What They Really Mean	The Fix is In: Sports Page Scandals
Immigrant Children and the Children of Immigrants: Growing Up in a New America	You, Inc.: The Business of You
Language and Gender	
Leadership Studies Through the Biography	

## 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.

AFRI 262	Cultural Issues in Africana Studies	HIST 267	Europe and Beyond: Historical Reminiscences
ANTH 262	Indigenous Rights and the Global Environment	HIST 268	Civil Rights and National Liberation Movements
ANTH 265	Anthropological Perspectives on Childhood	HIST 269	Jazz and Civil Rights: Freedom Sounds
ANTH 266	Anthropological and Indigenous Perspectives on Place	HIST 272	Globalization 15th Century to the Present
ART 261	Art and Money	HIST 273	Latin America and Globalization, 1492-Present
ART 262	Encounters with Global Arts	HIST 275	Russia from Beginning to End
BIOL 261	The World's Forests	HONR 264	Seminar in Cross-Cultural and Interdisciplinary Issues
COMM 261	Issues in Free Speech	MUS 261	Music and Multimedia
COMM 262	Dialect – What we Speak	NURS 262	Substance Abuse as a Global Issue
COMM 263	East Asian Media and Popular Culture	NURS 264	Status of the World's Children
ENGL 261	Arctic Encounters	NURS 266	Health and Cultural Diversity
ENGL 262	Women, Crime, and Representation	PHIL 262	Freedom and Responsibility
ENGL 263	Zen - East and West	PHIL 263	The Idea of God
ENGL 265	Women's Stories Across Cultures	PHIL 265	Philosophical Issues of Gender and Sex
ENGL 266	Food Matters: The Rhetoric of Eating	PHIL 266	Asian Philosophies: Theory and Practice
ENGL 267	Books That Changed American Culture	POL 262	Power and Community
FILM 262	Cross-Cultural Projections: Exploring Cinematic Representation	POL 266	Investing in the Next Global Economy
GEND 261	Resisting Authority: Girls of Fictional Futures	POL 267	Immigration, Citizenship, and National Identity
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	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

ANTH 167	Music Cultures of Non-Western Worlds	ENGL 113	Approaches to Drama
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 201	Introduction to Visual Arts ( <i>No longer offered</i> )	MUS 201	Survey of Music
ART 210	Nurturing Artistic & Musical Development	MUS 203	Elementary Music Theory
ART 231	Prehistoric to Renaissance Art	MUS 225	History of Jazz
ART 232	Renaissance Art to Modern Art	MUS 223	American Popular Music
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

### History

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		

### Literature

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

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 Requirement. 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)

BIOL 100	Fundamental Concepts of Biology ( <i>Formerly BIOL 109</i> )	PHYS 110	Introductory Physics
BIOL 108	Basic Principles of Biology	PHYS 200	Mechanics
BIOL 111	Introductory Biology	PSCI 103	Physical Sciences
CHEM 103	General Chemistry I	PSCI 211	Introduction to Astronomy
CHEM 105	General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry I	PSCI 212	Introduction to Geology
PHYS 101	General Physics I	PSCI 217	Introduction to Oceanography

### Social and Behavioral Sciences

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
COMM 240	Mass Media and Society	PSYC 215	Social Psychology
ECON 200	Introduction to Economics	SOC 200	Society and Social Behavior
GEND 200	Gender in Society	SOC 202	The Family
GEOG 100	Introduction to Environmental Studies	SOC 204	Urban Sociology
GEOG 101	Introduction to Geography	SOC 207	Crime and Criminal Justice
GEOG 200	World Regional Geography	SOC 208	Minority Group Relations
GEOG 206	Disaster Management	SOC 217	Aging and Society
POL 201	Development of American Democracy		

## 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.”

ANTH 306	Primate Ecology and Social Behavior (BIOL 100 or BIOL 108 or BIOL 111)	MATH 239	Contemporary Topics in Mathematics II (MATH 139 or consent of department chair)
ANTH 307	Human Nature: Evolution, Ecology and Behavior (BIOL 100 or BIOL 108 or BIOL 111)	MATH 241	Statistical Methods II (MATH 240)
ANTH 235	Bones and Stones: How Archaeologists Know (Math GE or NS GE)	MATH 248	Business Statistics I (MATH 177)
BIOL 221	Genetics (BIOL 111/BIOL 112)	MATH 324	College Geometry (MATH 212)
BIOL 335	Human Physiology (BIOL 111 and BIOL 112, or BIOL 108 and BIOL 231)	PHIL 220	Logic and Probability in Scientific Reasoning (Math GE or NS GE)
CHEM 104	General Chemistry II (CHEM 103)	PHYS 102	General Physics II (PHYS 101)
CHEM 106	General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry II (CHEM 105)	PHYS 120	The Extraordinary Physics of Ordinary Things (Math GE)
CSCI 423	Analysis of Algorithms (CSCI 315, MATH 212 and MATH 436)	PHYS 201	Electricity and Magnetism (MATH 213, PHYS 200)
GEOG 201	Mapping our Changing World (Math GE)	PHYS 309	Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (NS GE)
GEOG 205	Earth's Physical Environments World (Math GE)	PSCI 208	Forensics (Math GE or NS GE)
HIST 207	Quantitative History through Applied Statistics (MATH 240 or 248 and the History Distribution Requirement)	PSCI 214	Introduction to Meteorology (Math GE or NS GE)
HSCI 232	Human Genetics (BIOL 100, 108, or 111)	POL 300	Methodology in Political Science (POL 202 and Math GE)
MATH 213	Calculus II (MATH 212)	SOC 302	Social Research Methods I (Any 200-level sociology course and Math GE)
		SOC 404	Social Research Methods II (Any 200-level sociology course, POL 300 or SOC 302, and Math GE)
		SWRK 303	Social Work Research Methods II (Math GE; SWRK 240 or permission of instructor)

## 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.

Please Note:

- 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 Spanish 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 with a minimum grade of C. 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) with a minimum grade of C also satisfies the Second Language Requirement.
2. Through transfer credit 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.

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