# General Information - Undergraduate

## Academic Policies and Requirements - Undergraduate

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

The following requirements must be completed by undergraduate degree candidates at Rhode Island College in order to graduate:

1. The General Education requirements.

2. The College Writing Requirement.

3. The College Mathematics Competency.

4. The major requirements listed under each program, and, if applicable, requirements in the minor.

5. Experiential Learning Requirement.

6. A minimum of 120 credit hours, with a minimum of 45 credit hours taken at RIC. Of the 45 credit hours, a minimum of 15 credit hours must be in the major (12 of which must be at the 300- or 400-level).

7. A minimum of a 2.0 G.P.A. in the major.

8. A minimum overall G.P.A. of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

**MAJORS**

All students must complete an approved major/program. Requirements are listed under each major and can be found in the catalog by school or online at <http://www.ric.edu/academics/Pages/majors_programs.aspx>. For some majors or programs, including pre-professional programs in education, nursing and social work, there is a secondary admission process. Students must first begin as intended majors and meet certain requirements in order to apply for formal acceptance into the major/program. Majors and programs may also include cognates, a group of related courses that support the requirements of the major. Students must earn a minimum cumulative grade point average of a 2.00 in their major in order to graduate. Please note that some individual majors may have higher GPAs or specific grade requirements, and this will be stated where the major is outlined the catalog.

**Declaring a Major**

Entering freshmen who are unsure of a choice of major may select one of five Exploring Majors: Arts, Business, Humanities, Science/Math and Social & Behavioral Sciences. Each provides a three-semester plan or RhodeMap to help keep students on track to on time graduation. All undergraduate degree students must declare a major by the time they have earned 45 credits (includes all earned course and test credits). Students who fail to declare a major will have a registration hold placed.

**Changing Majors**

Students who wish to change their major or add a second major, should contact the department chair of the new or additional major. Students who have a double major and wish to drop one of them should contact the records office.

**Student-Designed Majors**

Students may develop individualized majors to accommodate special needs and interests. These majors may focus on an area of study not covered in regular departmental offerings or may be interdisciplinary in nature. Student-designed majors are open to undergraduate degree candidates who have earned at least 40 credit hours and who have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50. Proposals from students with more than 75 credit hours are normally not accepted. A completed proposal must be submitted to the Committee on Student-Designed Majors no later than October 1 or March 1 for action that same semester. Further information about this program and application materials may be obtained from the offices of the academic deans.

**MINORS**

Minors, while not required at the college, can enhance and broaden a student’s educational experience and add value for employment or graduate school. Minors require a minimum of 18 credits and most range from 18-24 credits. Minors are open to students in any major, not just a minor in the school of the student’s major. At least two courses in the minor must be completed at the college. Students must earn a minimum cumulative grade point average of a 2.00 in their minor.

## Honors and Awards - Undergraduate

Rhode Island College recognizes intellectual and creative excellence in four primary ways: (1) through the publication each semester of the Dean’s List, (2) through honors programs, (3) through graduation honors and (4) through awards.

### The 3.5 Society

Full-time freshmen who earn a minimum GPA of 3.5 in their first semester or by the end of their first year will automatically become members of The 3.5 Society in recognition of their scholastic achievement.

### Cap and Gown Awards

Rhode Island College recognizes academic excellence and outstanding achievement through the annual presentation of special awards. These are sponsored by alumni, faculty and friends of Rhode Island College, as well as by the families and friends of those for whom they are named. Most funds for endowed awards are deposited with the Rhode Island College Foundation. The awards are given to graduating seniors at the annual Cap and Gown Convocation.

Listed below are awards offered at Rhode Island College. Contact the sponsoring department or organization for full descriptions of awards.

Accounting and Computer Information Systems, Department of

Outstanding Student Award (Accounting)

Outstanding Student Award (Computer Information Systems)

Anthropology, Department of

James Houston Award in Anthropology

Art, Department of

Mary Ball Howkins Art History Award

Studio Art Award

Biology, Department of

W. Christina Carlson Award

Theodore Lemeshka Award

College Honors Program

Eleanor M. McMahon Award

Communication, Department of

Communication Achievement Award (Mass Media)

Communication Achievement Award (Public and Professional)

Communication Achievement Award (Public Relations)

Communication Achievement Award (Speech, Language and Hearing Science)

Economics and Finance, Department of

Outstanding Student Award

Educational Studies, Department of

Mary Alice Grellner Educational Studies Senior Award

Katherine Murray Prize

Elementary Education, Department of

Elementary Education Award

English, Department of

Jennifer S. Cook Award in English and Educational Studies

Jean Garrigue Award

Spencer and Marguerite Hall Award

.

## Special Programs - Undergraduate

### Assessment of Prior Learning

Rhode Island College makes every effort to acknowledge college-level learning that has taken place outside of formal college classrooms.

The college has instituted a procedure for granting undergraduate credit for prior college-level learning achieved through experience, such as employer-sponsored or armed service-sponsored training, community service, self-education, relevant work assignments or artistic development. Limited credit will be granted only for documented learning that is clearly germane to the student’s degree program, not for experience per se. The basis for granting credit will be a portfolio of documentation prepared by the student with the guidance of the college.

The college accepts the results of the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) and armed services testing programs (DANTES) and makes use of the guide prepared by the American Council on Education (ACE) and other sources that contain evaluations of a wide variety of training opportunities sponsored by the armed services, business, industry and labor communities.

Returning adult students, especially those who have been in the armed services, who have participated in apprenticeship or other extensive training programs, or who have held positions of responsibility, are encouraged to apply for assessment of their prior learning. Applications are available in the offices of the academic deans.

### Certificate of Undergraduate Study (C.U.S.)

Certificate programs of undergraduate study are offered in the following areas:

• College and Career Attainment (p. 52)

• Gerontology (p. 52)

• International Nongovernmental Organizations Studies (p. 52)

• Long-Term Care Administration (p. 53)

• Nonprofit Studies (p. 53)

• Public History (p. 53)

• Social and Human Service Assistance (p. 53)

### Continuing Education

Rhode Island College offers a wide range of continuing education options in cooperation with campus and community partners. Programs serve adult students; children, families and community members; working professionals in the private and public sectors and candidates for undergraduate and graduate CE degrees and certificates.

Workforce development programs are available through Outreach Programs and the Office of Professional Studies and Continuing Education offers credit and non-credit academic and enrichment courses and programs.

The continuing education offices provide partners with assistance to develop and deliver programs and with identifying college resources that support personal enrichment and professional development activities. Rhode Island College has a long history of providing such assistance to business and industry and of assisting public and private schools and agencies. For more information, contact the director of professional studies and continuing education.

For returning adult students, a schedule of college course offerings, which includes information on registration and fees, is available online at www.ric.edu. For formal admission to an undergraduate program and for information on possible transfer credit, applicants should contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Applicants interested in pursuing graduate work should contact the appropriate dean. Individuals with teacher certification questions or those seeking to complete professional teaching requirements should contact the dean of the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development.

### Endorsement in English as a Second Language

Refer to Teaching English as a Second Language (p. 171).

### Endorsement in Middle School Education (Elementary and Secondary)

Refer to Elementary Education Middle School Endorsement (p. 153) and Secondary Education Middle School Endorsement (p. 164).

### National Student Exchange Program

The National Student Exchange Program enables undergraduate students to study for up to one academic year at one of up to 200 colleges or universities in another part of the United States. In addition to the academic opportunities made possible by studying on another campus, the program offers social and cultural experiences to further self-exploration and the enrichment of educational objectives.

In order to qualify for participation, a student should (1) be a full-time student at Rhode Island College, (2) be in their sophomore or junior year during the exchange, and (3) have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 at the time their application is submitted.

### ROTC

Participation in the Army Reserve Officer’s Training Corps (ROTC) program is available to Rhode Island College students through the ROTC program at Providence College. For more information and a complete program description, contact the program director at Providence College, (401) 865-2471.

### Specialization in Adapted Physical Education

See Physical Education (p. 157).

### Study Abroad

Rhode Island College students, no matter what their majors, may study abroad for course credit at institutions in other countries. They may study for a semester, an academic year, the summer or during the early spring term.

While studying abroad, students do not pay RIC tuition and may apply their financial aid to program costs, including tuition, at the host institution and toward travel expenses.

The choice of program and specific location depend upon the student’s interests. The Study Abroad Office provides information about the study abroad process, assists students with their applications and facilitates transfer of credits.

Rhode Island College is affiliated with six study abroad program providers that offer discounted tuition for RIC students: Academic Programs International, the American Institute for Foreign Study, the Center for International Studies, the Education Abroad Network, CAPA International Education and SIT Study Abroad. All of these providers can be found on the Web. However, students are not limited to these affiliates and may study with many other programs and universities around the world. Also, individual faculty members may lead RIC courses abroad from time to time.

Students interested in studying abroad are encouraged to review the information available on the RIC Study Abroad website at ric.edu/studyabroad and to meet with the director of Study Abroad.