

**COGE Report to UCC
December 15, 2017**

COGE plans to address three major topics in the Spring term, along with whatever proposals may be submitted.

Writing in the Discipline

We considered Writing in the Discipline this Fall. Michael Michaud provided a [draft](#) of a description of WID at Rhode Island College. Our objective is to craft a concise, catalog-appropriate statement that will apply across disciplines and an appropriate statement for students. The document Mike provided is a starting point. We will also work with individual departments and programs to improve both the descriptions and the implementation of writing in their disciplines.

Critical/Creative Thinking

The participants in last summer's workshops recommended that we refine our definition of Critical **and** Creative Thinking, then see how it is addressed in the curriculum. See p. 5 in the [summer report](#). We will begin a conversation to see whether we should retain the current description, adopt the proposed description, or craft a different one. If events permit, we will have an open faculty discussion on the topic.

The RIC Online Proposal

In addition to a series of campus-wide meetings, many standing committees have been asked to consider critically the proposal and to identify questions in the context of their own areas. The COGE discussion will be about curricular implications for the general education program. Here are some questions that arise immediately. There will surely be others.

1. Do we need to replicate the existing general education program online or do we address the learning outcomes and content areas in a different way?
2. Currently FYS must be taught in person. What would an online version look like? Would such a version then be available to conventional students?
3. How would the language requirement be handled?
4. Some online programs teach science with virtual labs. RIC does not currently accept such courses for transfer, but there are acceptable distance learning science courses in some disciplines that involve kits and locally available materials. How do we handle lab science?

There will be more questions in every area. COGE can come up with answers where we can and propose unresolved questions in other areas to contribute to the larger discussion.

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