

**Committee on General Education**  
**Report to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee**  
**February 19, 2016**

1. First Year Seminar Update – FYS Director Julie Urda reported that 29 sections of FYS are scheduled for Fall, 2016, complete with rooms. The course descriptions are posted ([Spring 2016](#) [Fall 2016](#).) We noted that the FYS web page is up-to-date and has much useful information for students and for faculty. In a discussion that ensued, we recalled some of the ideas from the beginning of FYS, including
  - a. FYS will rotate among a large cohort of faculty members, not belong to a few.
  - b. In an ideal world, even for repeating faculty, topics will vary, such that Professor X doesn't teach the same FYS every semester.
  - c. We need to reiterate (mostly for students, but also for faculty) that FYS is a seminar with seminar-like assignments, discussion, group activity, and multiple low-stakes writing opportunities, not a midterm, paper, final exam format.
  - d. We need to seek out new (but not brand new) faculty members to offer FYS and to work through department Chairs to identify prospective instructors.

Julie is beginning work on Spring 2017 FYS, and will issue a call for proposals soon.

2. What's going on with Writing in the Disciplines? Mike Michaud reported that a varied group met on Lincoln's birthday in the FCTL to discuss an approach to Writing in the Discipline. A wide range of options was discussed. We propose to have two listening meetings later this semester to learn how our colleagues in the various departments see the strengths, weaknesses, and challenges of the program in their disciplines and to identify ways that the Writing Board, COGE, and the FCTL can be of assistance. The Writing Board report will contain further details.
3. Catalog Language [See a snapshot of the RICWeb](#). We began a discussion of the electronic catalog and its related web pages. See the [COGE minutes](#) for details.

COGE will be looking at the web and catalog presentation of general education with an eye to improving clarity and coherence, but also with the eye of an 18-year-old thinking about colleges. What are the strengths and distinctive features of the program? How will it improve my life/career path? UCC members and others are invited to join the critique; contributions, comments, re-writes, and wise thoughts are welcome.
4. General Education Course Enrollments [Spring 2016](#)

Spring 2016 Enrollments are similar to those of previous springs. The number of Core 3 sections continues to decline. We are past the time when we expected to eliminate the category and simply have a suitable list of courses available in the Dean's office, but the number of students needing C3 has not decreased as quickly as expected. We continue to have transfer students who began at CCRI before fall 2012. Students admitted for Fall 2017 or later are all in the new program no matter

when or where they started, so we will have a few students admitted in to the old program in 2016-2017.

See <http://www.ric.edu/faculty/organic/coge/> for the latest documents.

Respectfully submitted,

James G. Magyar

# General Education on the Rhode Island College Web pages

As we begin to think about how general education is portrayed on the Rhode Island College web, here are a few links:

<http://www.ric.edu/generaleducation/> is the “landing page,” basic content with random pictures. Links are in a sidebar, reproduced below. The notes to the right show where the links point.

Sidebar:

<b>GENERAL EDUCATION</b>	
<a href="#">The General Education Program</a>	→ <a href="http://ric.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2015-2016/Catalog/General-Education">http://ric.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2015-2016/Catalog/General-Education</a> , the general education catalog page
<a href="#">For students enrolled prior to Fall 2012</a>	→ <a href="http://www.ric.edu/generaleducation/prefall2012.php">http://www.ric.edu/generaleducation/prefall2012.php</a> Not catalog version
<a href="#">Second Language Requirement</a>	→ <a href="http://ric.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2014-2015/Catalog/General-Education/Second-Language-Requirement">http://ric.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2014-2015/Catalog/General-Education/Second-Language-Requirement</a> Catalog Version*
<a href="#">General Education Outcomes</a>	→ <a href="http://www.ric.edu/generaleducation/outcomes.php">http://www.ric.edu/generaleducation/outcomes.php</a> The Catalog has <a href="http://ric.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2015-2016/Catalog/General-Education/Outcomes-for-General-Education">http://ric.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2015-2016/Catalog/General-Education/Outcomes-for-General-Education</a> . If it's same, it should be a link.
<a href="#">Advising Guide for General Education</a>	→ <a href="http://www.ric.edu/faculty/organic/coge/Advising_Guide_for_General_Education.pdf">http://www.ric.edu/faculty/organic/coge/Advising_Guide_for_General_Education.pdf</a> This advising document, refreshed each semester, is on a faculty site.
<a href="#">Which General Education Program am I in?</a>	→ <a href="http://www.ric.edu/faculty/organic/coge/Which_General_education_program_am_I_in.pdf">http://www.ric.edu/faculty/organic/coge/Which_General_education_program_am_I_in.pdf</a> ditto
<a href="#">General Education Honors</a>	→ <a href="http://www.ric.edu/generaleducation/honors.php">http://www.ric.edu/generaleducation/honors.php</a>
<a href="#">First Year Seminars</a>	→ <a href="http://www.ric.edu/fys/">http://www.ric.edu/fys/</a> Note that the picture has no relation to FYS. Otherwise, this is a coherent site with useful information.
<a href="#">Writing in the Discipline Requirement</a>	→ <a href="http://www.ric.edu/generaleducation/writing.php">http://www.ric.edu/generaleducation/writing.php</a> All PDF files. Compare <a href="http://ric.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2015-2016/Catalog/General-Education/Writing-in-the-Discipline">http://ric.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2015-2016/Catalog/General-Education/Writing-in-the-Discipline</a> which is in html. Coherence is needed!

\* Compare ML version of Second Language Requirement <https://www.ric.edu/modernlanguages/SecondLanguage.php>. The search bar on the home page gives this version, not the catalog version. But searches in general are ...interesting.

The Advising pages lead students to the following about general education:

<http://www.ric.edu/advising/pdf/Manual%20of%20Academic%20Policies,%20Procedures%20and%20Tips%20for%20RIC%20Students%202012-08-17.pdf#page=5>

Note that this document has not been revised since 2012 and still presents the program as “brand new.”

The advising page has “General Education Program for students enrolled prior to Fall 2012” at a different link:

<http://www.ric.edu/advising/prefall2012.php>

James G. Magyar  
February 10, 2016

## General Education Course Enrollments Spring 2016

Category	Sections	Enrollment	Adjunct	Note
FYS	32	580	1	
FYS Honors	1	11	0	
FYW	29	656	25	Includes 3 Sections of FYW 100P
A	55	1015	35	
H	24	630	17	
LIT	27	647	16	
M	38	1036	12	
NS	16	815	5	Lecture and integrated
SB	59	1552	26	
AQSR	27	946	9	Lecture and integrated
Connections	34	803	11	
Residual C3	6	166	5	

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