

Committee on General Education
Meeting January 22, 2020
Comments

I. Discussion of possible program revisions

At the January 22 meeting, several concerns and bits of information were presented that led to a discussion of the potential to revise the current General Education program.

Transfer issues: the College faces pressure from CCRI and from the OPC about transferability of general education credits from CCRI. According to transfer advisors, the second language requirement is a particular hurdle for some students. In the discussion it was pointed out that the listing of the Rhode Island College GE program on the web pages does not include 2L as a specific component, and students feel blindsided when they arrive at Rhode Island College and learn of the requirement. After thorough discussion, we came to a rough consensus that transfer from CCRI should be treated separately from the structure of the RIC GE program. A sub-group comprising those who are interested in the topic and available will meet with Holly Shadoian (as provost Sue's delegate) to craft better ways of accepting CCRI general education credits and welcoming transfer students to RIC.

Size of program: the NECHE expectation for a general education program is one third of the credits, which at Rhode Island College is 40 credits. Our current program of 10 courses comprises 40 credits, but when RIC100 (1 cr), second language (4-8 cr), and (for some) additional pre-GE math (4 cr) are added, the expectation creeps up to 45, 49, or even 53 credits. While typical arts and sciences majors are 40 credits, those in the BS programs and professional fields can exceed 80 credits, which makes timely completion of a degree difficult.

A series of proposals was presented as "what-if" options. Among these were (a) modification of the second language requirement, and (b) regrouping existing courses into categories of Humanities, Science/Math, and Social/Behavioral Science, then allowing students some choices. These proposals (and variants) were met with skepticism as additional concerns of staffing, appropriate student learning, and program integrity were raised. The notion that small changes could be effected during the present semester also did not receive a great deal of support. There was a budding consensus towards the end of the meeting that a group would have to be convened to revisit the entire GE program, with the expectation that time would be needed to review research, assemble ideas, consult widely with the faculty, and bring a proposal to COGE, UCC, and the Postsecondary Commission. Such a group would be convened by the provost, with its mandate extending beyond her term.

Towards the end of the session, it was proposed informally to remove the requirement of a C grade from the second language requirement (like in most Gen Eds) or that there could be different ways of teaching the language courses that led to greater student success.

II. Course proposals

- a. [History 265](#) Connections **Approved**

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January 22, 2020

URI's General Education Program

[Program](#);
[Article](#)

CCRI [Program](#)

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