

## General Qualifications for Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society Membership

Phi Beta Kappa is the premier liberal arts academic honorary society in the country. Founded in 1776 by students of the College of William and Mary, the Society now has 260 chapters at U.S. universities selected for their standards of academic excellence. The University of Rhode Island Chapter was founded in 1976. We initiate as new members juniors and seniors chosen from the top 10% of the student body and who qualify on the basis of a high GPA in liberal studies. Liberal studies include the humanities, social sciences, mathematics, and sciences in courses taken primarily in the College of A&S.

To be eligible, students must

- 1) earn exemplary grades in liberal studies comprising 3/4 of your total program (for example, for seniors 90 credits of liberal studies out of 120 credits; for juniors 68 liberal studies credits out of 90). While any major in any college may be eligible, 3/4 of your credits must be in liberal studies, as described on this sheet.
- 2) complete mathematics through at least the MTH 111 level.
- 3) complete foreign language requirements with a language through the 104 (302) level for B.A. students; through 102 for B.S., BFA, and Bachelor of Music students (see Univ. lang. requirements in the URI Catalog); OR approved study abroad in a non-English speaking country with the non-English language as a focus of your studies.
  - a) No culture cluster options are permitted.
  - b) No waivers are permitted.
- 4) earn a minimum of 45 GRADED credits at URI if you are a transfer student. While grades are not transferable toward your GPA, credits in liberal studies courses ARE transferable toward Phi Beta Kappa eligibility.

The following categories of courses are NOT approved for Phi Beta Kappa eligibility:

- 1) Applied or professional work courses: for example, courses intended primarily to develop skills or vocational techniques in such fields as business (and business language courses), education, engineering, food and nutrition, nursing, journalism, library science, military science, physical education, communications, pharmacy, clinical psychology/therapy, speech, secretarial studies, and applied art, music, and theater. While this is not an exhaustive list, the category should be self-explanatory.
- 2) Internships
- 3) Courses below 100 level
- 4) All service courses; for example,
  - a) All CSV courses
  - b) University of R.I. Freshman Seminar
  - c) All UYA courses
  - d) English Lang. Fellows Training Course
- 5) Independent studies
- 6) Field experience
- 7) Practicum
- 8) Courses taken after you have completed your undergraduate degree

Students do not apply for membership in the Society, and transcripts cannot be evaluated by the Society at the request of individual students. A PBK faculty committee evaluates transcripts of juniors and seniors each spring, and then qualified students are notified.

Students graduating in August and December are considered for the following academic year. The Induction Ceremony takes place each year at the end of the spring semester.