

# UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION

The Office of Admission strives each year to enroll a diverse undergraduate class of freshman and transfer students from the state of Rhode Island, as well as from other states and countries. We seek to enroll students who are prepared to be successful at the University, who possess a variety of talents and strengths, who are committed to becoming contributing members of the community, and who will be stimulated and challenged by doing undergraduate work in an environment that includes scholarly research and graduate study.

Students are selected for enrollment on the basis of a holistic review of all application materials; without regard to race, sex, religion, age, color, creed, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation; and without discrimination against veterans. The University has been authorized under federal law to enroll nonimmigrant foreign students.

## Prior to Admission

*Information Sessions.* The Admission staff offers information sessions and campus tours for prospective students and their families. Reservations are **not** required. Most of the academic colleges also offer information sessions. For details, check the Web site, [uri.edu/admission/visiting](http://uri.edu/admission/visiting).

*Campus Tours.* Student tour guides conduct walking tours of the campus for visitors Monday through Friday and most Saturdays while classes are in session. Group tours for high schools and other organizations may also be arranged. For more information, call 401.874.7100 or refer to [uri.edu/admission](http://uri.edu/admission). There is a tour/information session calendar and instructions for a self-guided tour on the Web site at [uri.edu/admission/visiting](http://uri.edu/admission/visiting). Tours of the Narragansett Bay Campus and the Graduate School of Oceanography may also be arranged. Call 401.874.6211 for details.

## Freshman Admission Requirements

Admission to the University of Rhode Island is competitive. Each applicant is given individual consideration. In the evaluation process we consider the rigor of the high school curriculum, academic performance, standardized test scores, extracurricular activities, employment, community service, and unique talents. The students offered admission for the fall of 2011 had an average GPA of 3.38/4.00, with SAT Math, Critical Reading, and Writing combined scores of 1,670 or an ACT composite score of 25.

A few programs at URI are highly selective due to limited enrollment capacity. In general, a minimum of 18 units of college preparatory classes in high school are expected as follows: 4 in English, 3 in algebra and plane geometry, 2 in a physical or natural science, 2 in history or social science, 2 in the same foreign language, and 5 additional units to total 18.

All students are encouraged to select their additional units from the arts, humanities, foreign languages, mathematics, social sciences, or laboratory sciences. The strongest applicants take the most rigorous secondary school curricula available to them.



The following are additional requirements related to specific colleges and majors.

- We recommend that applicants to Engineering, Business, Chemistry, Computer Science, and Physics complete 4 units of mathematics (including precalculus or trigonometry).
- Engineering applicants must also complete chemistry and should complete physics.
- Nursing and Pharmacy applicants are strongly encouraged to apply by the December 1 Early Action deadline (the Admission Committee makes every effort to notify pharmacy applicants of their admission status by February 3). Nursing applicants who have demonstrated strength in math and science will be given preference.
- Applicants to the Bachelor of Music degree program must audition and should contact the Department of Music at 401.874.2431 for audition dates and requirements.

Applications are not reviewed until all materials are received by the Office of Admission. These materials include:

- A completed Common Application and URI Supplement (preferably online)
- Application fee of \$65
- Official high school transcript (sent by the school)
- List of senior courses (admission is contingent upon successful completion of all senior course work)
- Official SAT or ACT Scores (MUST be sent electronically by the testing service: the URI ID code is 3919 for SAT and 3818 for ACT)
- Essay (pharmacy applicants must include an additional paragraph explaining their choice of major)
- At least one letter of recommendation (please limit to two); pharmacy applicants are required to provide two letters of recommendation (one from a science or math teacher and one from a guidance counselor or a teacher from another subject area)

The Common Application sends an email confirming that a student's application has been submitted to the University of Rhode Island. URI then sends a letter acknowledging receipt of the application with instructions on how applicants must check the status of their application online (e-Campus). It may take up to three weeks for paper and electronic documents to be attached to each applicant's individual record. Once they are attached, each item will reflect the actual date that it was received. It is recommended that applicants check their status regularly to see whether any additional materials are requested, such as mid-year grades.

**Standardized Tests.** All candidates for freshman admission must take the SAT or ACT. Applicants who have been away from formal studies for three or more years should contact the Admission Office about entrance requirements or refer to the "Providence Campus" section of this catalog.

Applicants are encouraged to take the SAT or ACT as early as possible in their senior year; taking the test after January reduces the likelihood of a timely deci-

sion. Students are required to have their test scores submitted electronically to the University by the testing service. Full information concerning these tests may be obtained from local high schools and is available online at [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com) or [actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org). *Applicants who choose to use the College Board's "Score Choice" option must be aware that choosing to view scores prior to sending them to URI may result in missing the December 1 Early Action/Merit Scholarship deadline. URI will always consider the applicant's highest score on each section of the exam, regardless of test date, so there is no penalty for sending all test results.*

Domestic students whose first language is not English are encouraged to submit their official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) results or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) results to supplement their SAT scores.

All international applicants whose first language is not English or for whom English has not been the language of instruction must score minimum TOEFL results of 79 on the Internet (iBT) version, or 213 on the computer version, or 550 on the paper-based version. Required minimum results for the IELTS are 6.5. For more information about the TOEFL, visit [ets.org](http://ets.org). For more information about the IELTS, visit [ielts.org](http://ielts.org).

**Application Procedures.** Students should discuss their plans for study at the University with their guidance counselors as early as possible to establish realistic goals and program selections. The University is a member of The Common Application group. URI admission counselors will be glad to answer applicants' questions. Requests for information should be sent to [admission@uri.edu](mailto:admission@uri.edu). You may also call 401.874.7100, or visit the Admission Web page at [uri.edu/admission](http://uri.edu/admission).

Students may enroll at the beginning of the fall semester in September and at the beginning of the spring semester in January. *Not all programs enroll new students in January.* High school seniors are urged to submit applications, including first quarter grades, early in the academic year. Early Action applicants will receive a decision on February 3. All other applicants will hear by March 31. The deadline for submitting

fall term freshman applications is February 1. Transfer applications are due by June 1. The deadline for spring term applications is November 1. Enrollment deposits are due by May 1.

**Early Action and Merit Scholarships.** No separate application is required for our merit-based scholarships, but all students who would like to be considered for any merit award must apply by the December 1 Early Action Deadline (all required application materials must be received by this date). These scholarships are awarded to students who live anywhere in the U.S., as well as to international students. Preference for our highest-level awards will be given to students with:

- A challenging curriculum
- GPA of 3.40/4.00
- Class rank of top 25%
- Combined SAT score (critical reading and math) of 1200 or ACT of 26
- Involvement and leadership in their schools and/or communities

Satisfaction of the minimum criteria listed here does not guarantee a scholarship; the overall applicant pool determines the degree of competition for these awards. Depending upon available funding, other scholarships may be awarded to students with a strong record of academic achievement who fall slightly below these criteria.

The latest date that applicants can take the SAT and meet the December 1 deadline is the November test date, and the October test is the latest date for the ACT. *If you use the College Board's "Score Choice" option and wait to view your November scores before sending them to URI, you will miss the December 1 deadline and not be considered for a scholarship.* Scores from later test dates will not be considered. Most Early Action applicants receive their admission decision by February 3. Early Action is non-binding. Merit scholarships are four-year awards, renewable each semester as long as you maintain continuous full-time enrollment (12 credits per semester) and a minimum GPA of 3.00. If a scholarship recipient's tuition classification changes, the award amount will also change to reflect the amount for the new tuition category.

**Early Enrollment/Admission.** Students who have completed their junior year of high school with *superior* records are eligible for early admission. A part-time study program may be arranged for students wishing to begin college study in their senior year while continuing their high school work. A full-time program may be arranged for those recommended for college admission without completion of the standard preparatory program.

Early admission students will normally have completed three years of English, three of mathematics, two of foreign language, two to three of social studies or history, and two of natural or physical science. Students must be academically competitive within their high school class, have corresponding scores on the SAT or ACT, and have the endorsement of their high school counselor or principal. Those interested should plan with their high school counselor early in their junior year, and direct further inquiries to the Admission Office. An interview may be required.

**Advanced Placement.** Advanced standing for freshmen is granted to students who have completed college-level courses in a high school participating in the Advanced Placement Program and who have passed (with a score of 3 or better on most examinations) the CEEB Advanced Placement Examination in the following subject areas: art history; art studio (drawing and design); biology; chemistry; Chinese (language and culture); computer science (A); economics (micro and macro); English (language and composition, literature and composition); environmental science; French (language and culture); German (language); geography: human; government and politics (comparative and U.S.); history (European, U.S., world); Italian (language and culture); Japanese (language and culture); Latin (Virgil); mathematics (calculus AB and BC); music theory; physics B (mechanics) and C (electricity and magnetism); psychology; and Spanish (language and literature). For more information about Advanced Placement credit, please refer to URI's Web site at [uri.edu/admission/advancedplace](http://uri.edu/admission/advancedplace).

**Advanced Standing.** In addition, students can take proficiency examinations administered by University departments to be granted advanced standing. Entrance with advanced standing can accelerate the completion of degree requirements or enrich the undergraduate program by allowing for additional elective or advanced courses.

**International Baccalaureate Degree Program.** URI awards credit for most higher level examinations taken in high school and passed with a score of 5, 6, or 7. Course credit is awarded at the discretion of individual departments. No credit is awarded for standard level examinations. Refer to URI's Web site [uri.edu/admission/advancedplace](http://uri.edu/admission/advancedplace).

### Home-Schooled Applicants

For those students who have been home-schooled, the requirements are the same as for students who have a traditional schooling profile. Those students who have had an established working relationship with a home-schooling agency which supplies curriculum outlines and reviews and grades work completed can submit a transcript from that agency for review. We consider the following information when making an admission decision for a home-schooled applicant:

- Comparative competencies of content through the completion of 18 prescribed units of work displayed on an official transcript (*see Freshman Admission Requirements, previous section*)
- Standardized testing (SAT or ACT) that supports the content competencies (URI will require SAT Subject exams if specific course content is unclear)
- Earned Grade Point Average

Students who have not worked with a home-schooling agency can submit the results of SAT subject exams in the following subjects to demonstrate competencies:

- Writing
- American History or World History
- Math Level C
- Biology, Chemistry, or Physics (select 2)
- Any foreign language

Home-schooled students are required, as are all applicants to the University, to submit official SAT or ACT scores as well. Other options for demonstrating course competency include submission of college courses covering the subject areas previously listed, results of Advanced Placement exams in those same subjects, or CLEP exam results. Home-schooled applicants are required to complete the Home-School Supplement of the Common Application.

### International Applicants

International applicants must meet all admission requirements previously listed, with the exception of the SAT or ACT, which is optional. After students have been admitted, they must demonstrate that they possess funds for their first year and that funds for subsequent years will be available. If government or reserve bank permission is required to transfer funds from the student's country to the United States, a notarized copy of the permission is required. No financial aid is available to international students, although they are eligible for consideration for merit scholarships. Inquiries from international students concerning nonimmigrant visas, transfers, funding, etc., should be sent to URI's Office of International Students and Scholars at [issoff@etal.uri.edu](mailto:issoff@etal.uri.edu).

**English Proficiency Requirements.** Applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit the official results of the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), the IELTS (International English Language Testing System), or the Pearson Test of English. Minimum requirements for the TOEFL are iBt score of 79, computer-based 213, or paper-based 550. Minimum requirement for the IELTS is a 6.5, and the minimum score for the Pearson Test is 53.

Most students will be required to take the TOEFL or IELTS. Applicants who have attended a secondary school or post-secondary school where the language of instruction is English may be exempt from submitting TOEFL or IELTS results, depending upon their English grades and

their Critical Reading SAT score. This will be determined on an individual basis.

**Financial Documents.** All admitted international students are required to submit a completed Certificate of Financial Responsibility. Please note that this is not a required part of the application process. After an international student receives a letter of acceptance, the student must then show that s/he possesses funds for the first year at the University. Information about these documents can be found at URI's Web site at [uri.edu/iss/forms/\\_index.php](http://uri.edu/iss/forms/_index.php).

**Document Evaluation.** International transfer applicants must have transcripts and other application materials formally evaluated by a credential evaluation agency. Please request a course-by-course evaluation and have an official report (translated into English) sent directly to URI. A list of approved document evaluation agencies can be found at <http://www.uri.edu/admission/InternationalHome.html>.

## Talent Development

URI encourages the application of minority and disadvantaged individuals from Rhode Island. In 1968, the URI Talent Development (TD) program was established to recruit and retain minority and disadvantaged applicants. TD provides an opportunity for admission to URI, a summer program in residence in Kingston, and consistent academic support throughout a student's undergraduate program. Financial aid is available for students accepted to TD; need is determined by the filing of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. For more information, please visit [uri.edu/admission/talentdevelopment](http://uri.edu/admission/talentdevelopment). Interested students must apply by December 15 of their senior year in high school.

## Transfer Admission Requirements

Transfer students are those who have completed 24 or more hours of transferable college course work. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 is required, but most successful applicants have much higher GPAs. Certain programs may require a

higher GPA or specific prerequisite courses. Candidates accepted with transfer credit are classified as freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors according to the number of credits accepted for transfer. The transfer of general education credits is described at the end of "General Education Requirements." Students may apply to URI teacher education programs only after acceptance by an academic department. Some programs restrict enrollment of new transfer students to the fall semester only.

Transfer applicants must submit transcripts directly to URI from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not they expect or desire credit for such work. High school records must also be submitted. Transfer candidates must be in good standing and eligible to return to the institutions they attended previously. Credit is not awarded for course work taken prior to admission to URI and disclosed after acceptance. Credit is given for courses in which the student earned a final grade of C or better.

Credit transferred from other schools is limited by the following restrictions: 1) no more than half of the credits URI requires for graduation can be transferred from two-year institutions; 2) students must earn at URI at least one-half of the credits required for a major, at least one-half of the credits required for a minor, and at least one-fourth of the credits required for graduation; 3) only grades earned for course work at URI are included in the calculation of a student's grade point average. Additional requirements exist for numerous majors. Refer to the Web site at [uri.edu/admission/transferacademics](http://uri.edu/admission/transferacademics).

**Joint Admission.** The Joint Admission Agreement (JAA) is available to Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) students who, prior to earning 30 credits, matriculate into one of the recognized JAA transition plans. Each transition plan specifies at least 32 credits that transfer to URI in fulfillment of general education requirements. Although some additional general education courses may be required, the following core requirements ensure that transferring and continuing students have common knowl-

edge across a broad spectrum of the liberal arts and sciences: Writing/Communications (3 credits), Literature (3), Fine Arts (3), Mathematics (3), Science (8), Social Science (9), and an additional general education course (3). Since the requirements of specific degree programs vary, students should consult with their JAA advisor regarding course selection.

To aid students and their advisors in making appropriate selections, JAA transition plans are available on the *RI Transfers* Web site ([ribghe.org/ritransfers.htm](http://ribghe.org/ritransfers.htm)) and in the *Transfer Guide for Students* available at the same site. Only programs specified in these publications and sites as JAA programs with transition plans are included in this agreement.

**Proficiency Examinations.** Students showing evidence of advanced knowledge or who have taken "enriched" programs in high school may be exempt from certain courses and requirements if they take departmental proficiency exams. A student who successfully passes such an exam earns credits as well as exemption from the course. However, students who, by successfully passing proficiency examinations, have the general education requirements waived in writing, mathematics, and/or foreign languages or culture, must still complete the specified number of credits for their degree programs. Students interested in taking these exams should contact their academic dean. New students may obtain further information during orientation from their University College advisor.

**College Level Examination Program (CLEP).** Students who have been away from formal studies for three or more years may take CLEP General Examinations to demonstrate academically measurable learning acquired in nontraditional ways. URI students must secure prior approval from their academic dean to take the exams for credit, and the exams must be taken during the first semester of enrollment. Transfer students may receive credit from CLEP General Examinations taken prior to enrollment at URI, provided that their scores meet URI standards and their academic dean judges

that the CLEP credit does not duplicate other transfer credit.

Academic departments may use CLEP Subject Examinations as proficiency exams to test students' mastery of the subjects taught by the department. A department that judges a CLEP Subject Examination to be a satisfactory proficiency exam decides what credit should be awarded within the department to students passing the exam, establishes the minimum score for credit, decides whether students must answer the optional essay questions supplied by CLEP, and decides whether students must pass a supplementary department test, such as a lab exam.

For more information, visit [ribghe.org/transferguide.htm](http://ribghe.org/transferguide.htm), choose the document for the correct academic year, and scroll down to section 2. Choose College Level Exam Program from the drop-down menu.

## New England Regional Student Program

Through a cooperative plan sponsored by the New England Board of Higher Education, students from other New England states may enroll in a small number of selected programs at URI which are not offered in their own states. Certain programs at other New England state universities are open to Rhode Islanders on a reciprocal basis. Students in approved regional programs will be charged tuition at a discounted rate. If at any time a student transfers out of the New England Regional Student Program, out-of-state fees will apply. Details are available from the New England Board of Higher Education, 45 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111 ([nebhe.org](http://nebhe.org)), or high school guidance offices. The Office of Registration and Records provides information pertaining to this program for students already enrolled at URI.

Continuing or returning students claim eligibility by submitting a formal request to Registration and Records prior to the end of the add period of the semester in which regional status is to be effective. Visit [uri.edu/admission/newenglandprog](http://uri.edu/admission/newenglandprog) to see which majors from each New England state apply.

## Health Questionnaire

Once students are admitted to the University, Health Services sends a new student packet including information about a secure Web site for an "online student health" module. The module is available once the student has registered for classes. Each student is asked to promptly complete and enter a health questionnaire which provides basic background information for the URI Electronic Medical Record prior to arrival on campus. Each entering student must also provide a certificate signed by a licensed health care provider giving the dates of immunizations to protect against rubella (German measles), rubeola (measles), and mumps, hepatitis B, and varicella (chicken pox), in addition to a tetanus-diphtheria (Td) booster within ten years (per Section 23-1-18(9) of the general laws of Rhode Island). This certificate is included in the mailing to new students, or can be downloaded from [uri.edu.health](http://uri.edu.health) under "new student packet." Students failing to comply with this requirement will face sanctions and will be unable to register for classes.

## Providence Campus

At the University's Feinstein Providence campus, students will discover several options:

- For the high school senior seeking an urban education, the URI "Admission Option."
- For those interested in a fast track to a career in biotechnology, the Biotechnology Manufacturing Program.
- For the adult student, the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Continuing Education (ASFCCE).

Applicants to ASFCCE are admitted under "performance-based admission" (PBA). For URI applicants without recent evidence of academic success, but with the potential to successfully complete college-level work, this represents an opportunity to pursue a college degree. PBA is available to applicants whose last formal, full-time educational experience occurred at least

three years ago, and who have graduated from high school or earned an equivalency diploma. PBA is limited to students applying to ASFCCE for undergraduate degree programs. For more information, contact an academic advisor at the University's Providence campus, Room 245, 401.277.5160. See "Feinstein Providence Campus" for more information about offerings through ASFCCE. Students intending to transfer from Providence to programs at the Kingston campus should be aware of all requirements and discuss them with their advisor.

The "Admission Option" offers graduating high school seniors the option to enroll at the Feinstein Providence campus as commuter students, a good choice for students who want a high quality URI education but prefer a nonresidential campus in the state's urban center. Because it is smaller and nonresidential, the Providence campus has a reduced fee structure that gives commuter students a greater value for their tuition dollars. There are currently three majors for which traditional age students (18–22 year olds) can complete their courses of study entirely in Providence: psychology, communication studies, and human development and family studies. Other majors may require students to register for some or all of their upper-level courses in Kingston. Even if they have not yet decided on a major, students may elect to begin their studies at the Providence campus immediately after they have graduated from high school. Application for this option is made directly through the URI Admission Office at [uri.edu/admission](http://uri.edu/admission). The Biotechnology Manufacturing Program is a Bachelor of Science degree offered in an intensive format that culminates in accelerated industry-based employment opportunities. See "Biotechnology Manufacturing Option" for more information or call 401.277.5050. Visit us at [uri.edu/prov](http://uri.edu/prov).