

Assessment #2

This assessment addresses NSTA standard 1a) Know and understand the major concepts and principles of the teaching discipline(s) as defined by state and national standards of the science community.

At Rhode Island College, all secondary science education students have to complete a major in their course of study, in addition to their education classes. This includes 56-68 credit hours when required science classes and cognates are totaled. During this process, we use the candidate's grade point average to help determine their knowledge of content. In the teacher candidate's science classes, they need to maintain a GPA of 2.5. In education classes, the teacher candidates need a 3.0 or better in each class. Details about these plans of study are included within the attached NCATE content analysis form.

Year	content GPA (2.5 minimum)	education GPA (3.0 minimum)
2007-2008		
biology (3)	3.20	3.72
chemistry (1,2)*	2.70*	3.62
physics	-	-
general (9)	2.83	3.81
2008-2009		
biology (2)	2.86	3.78
chemistry (1)	3.78	4.00
physics (2)	3.34	3.66
general	-	-
2009-2010		
biology (5)	2.64	3.89
chemistry (1)	3.0	3.91
physics	-	-
general	-	-

* RITE students, who have already earned a Bachelor's degree, may not need additional content classes

From this data, it is clear that Rhode Island College's students meet and exceed our expectations. Additionally, the students above are sorted by their declared major. While this correctly shows the number of program graduates, it underreports the number of certifications earned by our graduates. Most of our students apply to the state department of education for certification in a second area, and occasionally a third area.