

In Pursuit of Excellence



- Rice believes Honors courses play a critical role in challenging students. This philosophy is consistent with our mission of inspiring students to love learning.
- Rice is committed to offering opportunities for students to challenge themselves academically throughout their academic career. We offer 15 Honors and 12 Advanced Placement Courses. Honors courses are offered across all subject areas including new courses this year in Religion (Honors Religion) STEM (AP Computer Science), foreign language (Honors French V) and the [AP Capstone Diploma](#) program.
- The speed and course material in Honors classes prepare students for Advanced Placement courses junior and senior year, and when they matriculate to college. This rigor incorporates in-class discussion, research, writing, group projects and regular homework.
- Rice clearly delineates Honors and College Preparatory courses with carefully articulated expectations at both levels. This allows for a balanced and individualized approach to each student's course load -one that meets their academic and personal goals.
- The Rice master schedule is entirely student-centered. Students submit their course requests in the spring of the prior academic year and the master schedule is created around those interests. This often means students get the classes they want/need to meet their academic goals.
- Rice pays careful attention to the sequencing of courses. By offering the appropriate Honors courses freshman and sophomore year, interest in subsequent Honors courses remains strong.
- Rice does not practice proficiency-based learning in our classrooms or use a proficiency-based grading system.
- Rice is the only school in Chittenden County to offer the prestigious Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma. This program fosters the critical thinking and research skills that [colleges](#) seek in their students.
- Rice students develop discipline through academic rigor: 97.2% of Rice students surveyed stated they are receiving a good education.
- Rice believes that the pursuit of academic excellence and equity are not mutually exclusive goals; both occur simultaneously everyday at Rice.

- Rice believes an expectation of academic excellence is the most equitable position a school can take, positioning every student for the opportunity of success in life.
- Rice recognizes and rewards individual academic growth and achievement.

Flexibility

- Rice understands that teenagers intellectually mature at different rates. As such, flexibility exists for students to move between Honors and non-Honors courses on a year to year basis.

Diligence

- With a student body of 354 students and a student:teacher ratio of 11:1, Rice teachers, administrators, and guidance counselors have the time to carefully evaluate students. Sometimes a student has Honors trajectory potential and may not realize it; at other times Honors may frustrate a student and hinder the learning process. Our goal is to meet each student's individual needs and avoid having anyone "slip through the cracks."

Other Opportunities to Grow

- Rice students are grounded in the Rice mission of serving others. Every student must complete over 83 hours of service before they graduate, teaching the importance *and* reward of being engaged members of their communities.
- Consistent with our mission of guiding students toward their God-given potential, Rice students are encouraged to be involved members of their school community. Nearly 90 percent of Rice students participate in one or more of our 18 sports teams. Almost the entire student body is represented on stage at our annual Stunt Nite. And, a significant percentage of students join one or more of our extracurricular clubs and travel opportunities.