

University of Rhode Island New Faculty FAQs 2021-2022

Welcome to URI!

Whether this is your first faculty appointment, or you come to URI with years of experience, a new faculty position means new responsibilities, new colleagues, a new student body, new policies and procedures, and a new campus culture. We want to help you hit the ground running and hope that the following FAQs will help you connect with the resources you need.

How do I get started?

The URI Information Technology Services team has created a [new faculty onboarding resource](#) to help you get started with our suite of technology resources once your hiring paperwork has been processed.

ITS Training Schedule: <https://its.uri.edu/training/>

Key Technology Services for Faculty: <https://its.uri.edu/faculty-key-services/>

Visit the [URI Office Portal](#) for access to all URI supported applications.

Where to I find teaching resources?

The [Office for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning](#) offers a wealth of resources for teaching faculty. Please visit their web page for resources on teaching, assessment, course design, syllabus design, etc.

How do I order textbooks?

Faculty can order books and specify other required materials through the [URI Bookstore](#), see the [Faculty Adoptions](#) link. Faculty are encouraged to consider textbook costs and identify low- or no-cost materials whenever possible and appropriate to the course. A list of Open Educational Resources (OER) is available [here](#).

What is e-campus?

E-campus is our institutional records system. Students use e-campus to register for classes and faculty use it to see their course schedule, retrieve class rosters, submit course grades, and see student records if they have an advising role. Enrollment Services has developed [E-campus guides for common Faculty activities](#) (scroll to bottom of page), including viewing your class roster, submitting final grades and obtaining permission numbers.

What is Brightspace?

Brightspace is the URI Learning Management System (LMS). You will use this to set up your course, communicate with your students, maintain your gradebook, etc.

Learn the basics of Brightspace through a self-paced course: <https://web.uri.edu/atl/basic-brightspace-training-course/>

Visit our [Brightspace resource page](#) for more information including a searchable knowledge base, access to the Brightspace Community, video tutorials, and more.

What is Starfish?

[Starfish](#) is URI's student success software platform. It gives students a place where they can easily connect with their success network. Learn Starfish basics through this [guide](#).

Where do I go to find resources for faculty?

Quick Links for Faculty are available on the URI web page (click on "You+" on the home page): <https://www.uri.edu/gateway/faculty/>

URI is also an institutional member of the [National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity](#) (NCFDD). This is a nationally recognized organization that provides online career development and mentoring resources. Membership is available to all URI faculty, post-docs and graduate students. To lock your membership, click [here](#), choose University of Rhode Island from the drop-down menu, and select activate membership, using your URI email.

Who do I call if I have classroom technology issues?

Visit the [ITS Virtual Service Desk](#), call them at 401 874-4357, or email them at helpdesk@uri.edu. We recommend using the virtual service desk as the fastest way to get help.

What support is available for students in my class?

The [Academic Enhancement Center](#) (for undergraduate courses) offers face-to-face and online services to undergraduate students seeking academic support. Peer tutoring is available for STEM-related courses through drop-in centers and small-group tutoring. The Writing Center peer consultants offer feedback focused on supporting undergraduate writers at any stage of a writing assignment. The UCS 160 course and one-to-one Academic Skills Consultations offer strategies for improving studying and test-taking skills. Complete details about each of these programs, up-to-date schedules, contact information, and self-service study resources are all available on the AEC website, web.uri.edu/aec/.

The ***[Graduate Writing Center](#) (for graduate courses)*** provides writing support to all URI doctoral and master's students to foster continuing development of academic and professional writing skills necessary to succeed in graduate programs and academic or professional careers.

Disability, Access and Inclusion Services for Students: Students with a Disabilities, Access and Inclusion (DAI) accommodation letter should contact you early in the semester to ensure adequate time to discuss and arrange approved academic accommodations. DAI can be reached by calling: 401-874-2098, visiting: web.uri.edu/disability, or emailing: dai@etal.uri.edu.

I have a concern about a student, who do I call?

URI has a guide to supporting our students: <https://web.uri.edu/deanofstudents/files/ANCHOR.pdf>. This identifies contacts for a wide range of concerns including academic, behavior, mental health etc.

For non-emergency mental health concerns, contact the URI Counseling Center 874-2288.

For emergencies in which a student is a threat to themselves or others, contact URI Police 874-2121 (on-campus) or 911 (off-campus).

What COVID-19 precautions are in place for the start of classes?

Information about the URI re-opening plans are available on our COVID-19 Response web site: <https://web.uri.edu/coronavirus/>.

What academic policies do I need to follow?

Each semester we send out a semester information and syllabus guidance memos with updates and information about important course-related policies. Visit the [Office of Provost News & Notes](#) page for copies of the latest memos.

The [University Manual](#) is the official repository of all academic policies. See Chapter 8 for academic regulations.

The academic calendar is available here: <https://web.uri.edu/enrollment/academic-calendars/>

Your letter of hire outlines the specific expectations associated with your position. Contact your department chair/program director if you have any questions about your responsibilities and workload.