

# Overview



The landing page for Rhode Island College at <http://ric.edu> is the main source of information for existing students, as well as the first viewpoint for students looking to apply. On the website, you can see college statistics, start your application, and view details on campus resources. The following wireframes is our revamp of Rhode Island College's website to make it more usable and visually appealing for users.

Two wireframe diagrams side-by-side. The left wireframe represents the current website structure, showing a complex layout with multiple columns and placeholder text ('Lorem ipsum...'). The right wireframe represents the proposed design, which is more simplified and organized into distinct sections: 'Explore RIC' and 'Apply Now' at the top, followed by 'Our Campus', 'Come Visit', and 'RIC News' in a grid format, each with its own descriptive text and arrows pointing to external links.

**Wireframe 1: Home Page**

The wireframe shows the main home page of Rhode Island College. It features a header with the college name and navigation links for ACADEMICS, ADMISSIONS, and ATHLETICS & RECREATION. Below the header is a large central area with a large 'X' placeholder. At the bottom, there is a footer with links to Admission Requirements, RIC Facts, Academic Opportunities, Tuition & Fees, Admission FAQ, Contact Us, Campus Map, Faculty Directory, and social media icons.

**Wireframe 2: News Page**

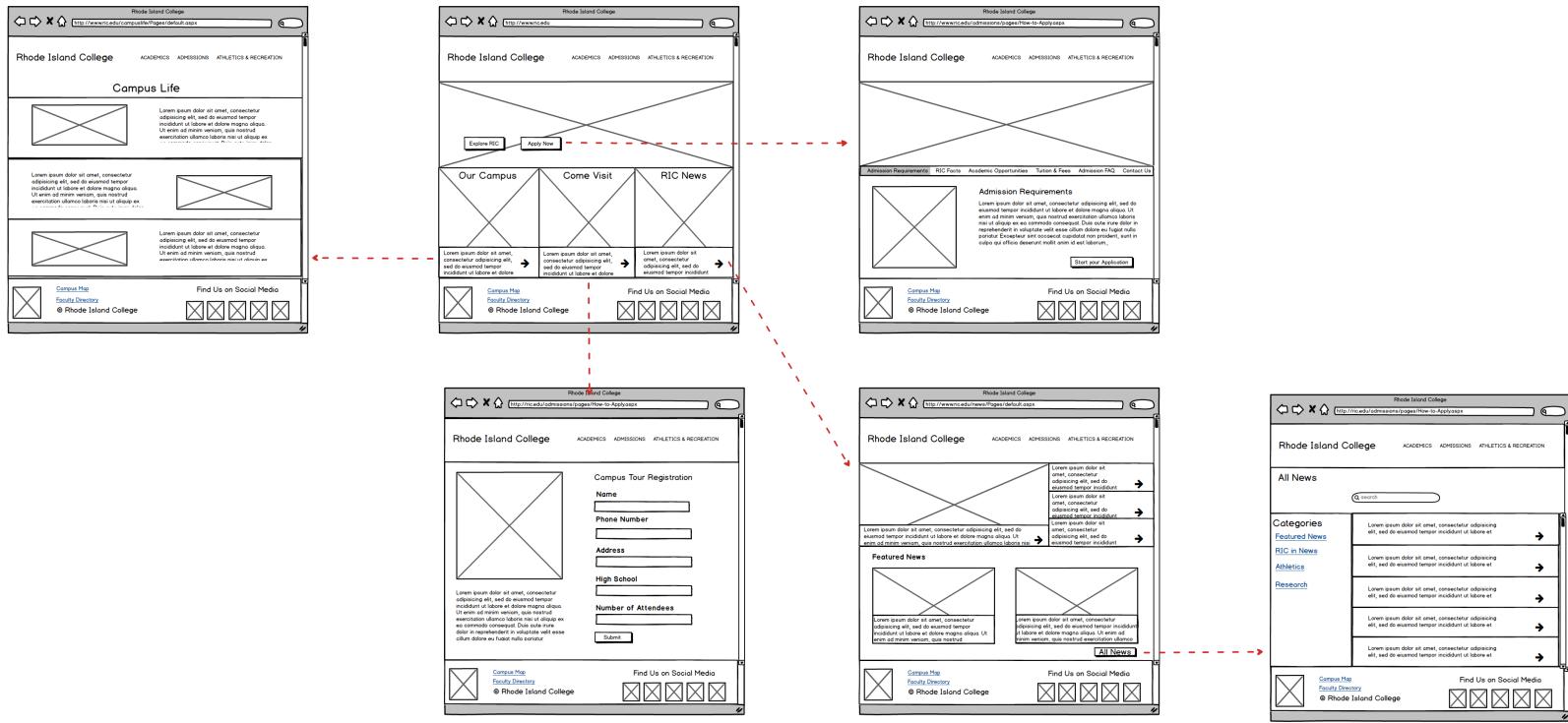
This wireframe shows a news section on the website. It includes a header, a sidebar with news items (each with a large 'X' placeholder), a 'Featured News' section with two placeholder boxes, and a footer with social media links.

**Wireframe 3: All News Page**

This wireframe shows a search interface for news. It includes a header, a sidebar with categories like Categories, Featured News, RIC in News, Athletics, and Research, and a main content area with a search bar and news items (each with a large 'X' placeholder). The footer is identical to the first wireframe.

**Wireframe 4: Application Form**

This wireframe shows a form for campus tour registration. It includes a header, a large central area with a large 'X' placeholder, a sidebar with fields for Name, Phone Number, Address, High School, and Number of Attendees, and a 'Submit' button. The footer is identical to the first wireframe.



## Explanation

Our redesign aimed to improve the overall usability of the interface in the areas of Intuitive Design, Ease of Learning, Efficiency of Use, and Memorability. The following table summarizes how our redesigned interface compares to the old one.

	Original Interface	Redesigned Interface
Intuitive Design	The architecture is smooth for getting to the main pages for campus life, news, etc.. However, it gets explosively more complicated, as each main page then includes over ten links to more specific pieces of information.	The redesigned interface keeps the easy access to the main College subjects like campus life from the home page. However, it simplifies each individual main page by providing direct access to only the most important information, making the architecture more intuitive.
Ease of Learning	A user can accomplish basic tasks easily on the original interface, though it will require clicking through multiple pages to get to the correct page.	The redesigned interface makes it easier to accomplish basic tasks by displaying the basic tasks with large corresponding images/text on the main College pages. It also hides more specific information that would only distract a new user.
Efficiency of Use	The original interface offers so many links to specific information that an experienced user will be able to accomplish both easy and difficult tasks quickly.	The redesigned interface removes the multitude of links in order to achieve better ease of learning. However, experienced users can still accomplish difficult tasks quickly by using the added search functionality. For example, in the News portion, the new interface's News-specific search will allow experienced users to accomplish difficult News-related tasks faster than the original interface.
Memorability	The original interface has bad memorability, as each main page is mainly filled with bodies of text without any diagrams or images to associate the information with. Additionally, with the multitude of links, it's difficult for users to memorize every single option available on a page.	The new interface achieves better memorability for each page by reducing the amount of information, so users will be able to better memorize the most important parts of the website navigation. It also includes multiple images corresponding with each piece of information, giving users another way to remember the functionality of a certain page.

# Visual Redesign



Rhode Island College

Academics Admissions Recreation & Life



Providing Higher Education in Rhode Island  
since 1854.

Explore RIC

Apply Now



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Rhode  
Island  
College

Contact Us  
Accessibility  
Campus Map

Varsity Athletics  
Faculty Directory  
Student Directory

Find us on Social media





Rhode Island College

Academics Admissions Recreation & Life



Admission Requirements

RIC Facts

Academic Opportunities

Tuition & Fees

Admission FAQ

Contact Us



### Undergraduate Admission

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**14:1**

Student-to-Faculty Ratio

**7,080**

Undergraduates

**20**

Average Class Size

**32%**

Students of Color



**Rhode  
Island  
College**

Contact Us

Accessibility

Campus Map

Varsity Athletics

Faculty Directory

Student Directory

Find us on Social media



## Visual Redesign Explanation

The visual design of the two pages has reduced the number of individual objects and instead focus on two or three grid columns, so that new users can immediately understand how to get to the most important information. Important text and underlining now uses the same color as the RIC logo color, which helps keep the overall visual style consistent compared to having only black plaintext through a white background.

The visual design also added a new page-specific navigation bar in the middle of the admissions page, which places more visual importance on it. Users will thus be able to immediately understand how to navigate through the different fields, compared the original website just having a box containing hyperlinks on the side.

## Annotated Mockups

We can see that the interface of the website will adjust according to the screen size that it is opened in- a small phone in portrait orientation, a tablet in portrait orientation, an a 4K widescreen desktop monitor.

### Annotated Mockup 1

Small phone- Bigger lines of text such as "Providing Higher Education in Rhode Island Since 1854" and Lorem Ipsum text, will wrap around to make space for other items and to fit everything but the bottom bar on the page that has to be scrolled through to get to. The buttons and images would shrink a little, however the buttons will still be big enough for the user to click easily without accidentally clicking a different option. The white navigation bar on top will show up as a *collapsed menu* (also known as a Hamburger Button) that the user can click to see an *expanded vertical menu* with further options.

Tablet- Longer text such as Lorem Ipsum wraps around like the first case, but less so given greater width of the device. Similar to a smaller phone screen in portrait orientation, a tablet is not as wide as a laptop or desktop and although images might be slightly shrunk/smaller, the buttons need to be big enough for users to *conveniently* place their finger on the option that they are trying to select. The navigation bar on top appears still appears like a condensed menu when the website is opened on a tablet in portrait orientation since most tablets on an average are 7-8 inches wide, which is *not significantly* more than the width of average smartphones-around 4.7-6 inches.

4K widescreen desktop monitor- Average width ranges from 27-34 inches. This means that the screen is big enough for text and pictures to appear more clearly with *sharper, well-defined pixels and colors*. Buttons appear slightly bigger than they do in the first two cases, making it easier for the user to click on them with a cursor compared to tapping them with a finger in the first two cases. The navigation bar on top appears the standard way as a white bar with all different options laid out *succinctly in a horizontal manner* for the user to pick from.

### Annotated Mockup 2

Small Phone- Similar to the mockup described above, the Lorem Ipsum text roles over and wraps around to the next line. This webpage also has *more menu options* for the user to pick from and thus, the grey bar with options "Admission Requirements, RIC Facts ...." should appear as a *sliding menu* that users can scroll through on their phone to avoid accidentally pressing the wrong option with their finger due to a smaller screen

size. The navigation bar on top appears as a *condensed menu*, while the bar at the bottom doesn't show up unless the user vertically scrolls down the page.

Tablet- Given limited width of the device, the text wraps around to the next line. Pictures appear bigger than they do on the phone but smaller than they do on a desktop. Different numbers and statistics presented between the 2 red bars appear in a slightly *smaller font* than they do on the desktop.

Desktop- The webpage appears with *full navigation bars* on top and bottom with all options *clearly visible* and *clickable*. Longer text still wraps around but much less so than before due to *greater width of the screen*. The number and statistics are more distinctly visible in a slightly greater font.

## Techniques Used

Some of the techniques that helped us reach the above results included using a CSS Grid Container. Using the *CSS Grid Container*, we divided the entire webpage into sections (grids) based on rows and columns such that different fractions could be allotted to different parts of the *interface* and the webpage itself would look like a *comprehensive and functional unit*. We used the *start* and *end* properties of grid rows and columns to distribute where an image or a navigation bar should start and end. In addition, we used properties such as top, left, relative/absolute, padding, border, border-radius to determine the appropriate place for and relative location of buttons. Something we could've used, as talked about in the *Layout lecture*, is a *strut* that is a *non-compressible, non-stretchable component* of a given size that can be inserted between two other components to prevent them from overlapping each other. We could have used this technique to ensure sufficient spacing between buttons and labels, etc for *clarity and consistency*.