The Paraprofessional Educator AAS Degree program is designed to prepare students to assist teachers in a variety of classroom settings, and to meet the standards for paraprofessional educators developed in response to the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). This curriculum is based on professional standards developed by the American Federation of Teachers, as well as the Paraprofessional Task Force convened by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). For further information about paraprofessional (teacher aide) certification in Illinois visit the Illinois State Board of Education website at www.isbe.state.il.us/certification/html/paraprofessional.htm

THIS PROGRAM IS NOT INTENDED FOR STUDENTS PLANNING TO BECOME REGULARLY CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS! Students interested in becoming certified teachers in Illinois should enroll in an Associate in Arts degree program. Consult an advisor for further information.

**GENERAL EDUCATION CORE (22 credits)**

| Area A: Communication (9 credits) |
| --- | --- |
| _____ ENG 101 | 3 cr | Composition I - grade of C or better *(Prereq. English Placement Test or ENG 099 with C or better)* |
| _____ ENG 102 | 3 cr | Composition II - with a grade of C or better *(Prereq. ENG 102 with C or better)* |
| _____ COMM 101 | 3 cr | Principles of Communication *(Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)* |

| Area B: Humanities and Fine Arts (3 credits) |
| --- | --- |
| _____ | 3 cr | Select one courses from the following strongly recommended courses: ART 131; ENG 215; HUMAN 101. Other course choices include: ART 121, 122, 126, 129; ENG 211, 212, 221, 231, 232, 240, 243, 252, 256, 261, 262, 271; HIST 240; HUMAN 102, 201, 202, 203; MUSIC 130, 132; PHILO 101, 202, 203, 204, 205; SPAN 202; THTRE 101. |

| Area C: Mathematics (demonstrated competence)* |
| --- | --- |
| _____ | 0 cr | Competence in math is demonstrated by successful completion of EDU 111 which is listed in the Program Requirements section of this degree.* |

| Area D: Physical and Life Sciences (4 credits) |
| --- | --- |
| _____ | 4 cr | Select one laboratory science course from: ASTRO 104; BIOL 100, 106, 111, 112; CHEM 105, 110; GEOLO 101; PHYSI 111, 112; PHYSI 101, 120, 210. |

| Area E: Social and Behavioral Science (6 credits) |
| --- | --- |
| _____ PSYCH 101 | 3 cr | Introduction to Psychology *(Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)* |
| _____ | 3 cr | Select one course from the following strongly recommended courses: ANTHR 222; HIST 112, 115, 116, 140, 201, 202; POLS 140; SOCIO 220. Other course choices include: ANTHR 215; ECON 201, 202; GEOG 101; HIST 111, 151, 152; POLS 101, 152, 230, 240; PSYCH 102, 215; SOCIO 101, 111, 210, 215. |

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (28 credits)**

*(Please Note: Previous Prairie State College coursework, for courses with prefixes of CD or EDUC, taken prior to 1997, cannot be used toward credit in this program. For further information, consult with the Transcript Evaluator in the Office of Enrollment Services)*

| _____ ECED 103 | 3 cr | Health, Safety and Nutrition *(Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)* |
| _____ ED 100 | 3 cr | Foundations of American Public Education *(Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)* |
| _____ ED 101 | 3 cr | Child Growth and Development *(Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)* |
| _____ ED 160 | 3 cr | Technology for Teachers *(Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)* |
| _____ ED 212 | 3 cr | Exceptional Child *(Prereq. ED 101)* |
| _____ ED 220 | 3 cr | Children’s Literature *(Prereq. ENG 101 with C or better)* *(Cross-listed as ENG 220)* |
| _____ EDU 111* | 3 cr | Mathematics for Paraprofessionals* *(Prereq. MATH 085 with C or better or placement into MATH 090)* *(Cross-listed as MATH 111)* |
| _____ EDU 221 | 1 cr | Clinical Experience *(Prereq. Consent of Program Coordinator. Note: Students currently employed as teacher aides may be eligible for proficiency credit)* |

**Select ONE cultural awareness course from the following:**

| EDU 120 (3) Child, Family and Community *(Cross-listed as ECED 120)* |
| EDU 213 (3) Multicultural Education *(Prereq. ED 101)* *(Cross-listed as ECED 213)* |
Select ONE teaching strategies course from the following:
- ECED 105 (3) Creative Activities for Children (Prereq. Placement into ENG 099 or above)
- EDU 205 (3) Language Arts for Children (Prereq. Placement into ENG 099 or above)

[Cross-listed as ECED 205]

*MATHEMATICS COURSE NOTE: Although not required in this program, evolving professional standards may soon require students to complete one of the following mathematics courses. Students may substitute one of the following courses for EDU/MATH 111.

Students interested in elementary or early childhood education must choose BOTH courses:
- MATH 200 (4) Mathematics for Elementary Teaching I (Prereq. MATH 095 & 096 with C or better OR MATH 095 and high school geometry, both with C or better OR qualifying score on Math Placement Test) AND
- MATH 206 (4) Mathematics for Elementary Teaching II (Prereq. MATH 206)

Students interested in working in the secondary or special education setting may choose from:
- MATH 112 (3) General Education Mathematics (Prereq. MATH 095 & 096 with C or better OR MATH 095 and high school geometry, both with C or better OR qualifying score on Math Placement Test) OR
- MATH 115 (3) General Education Statistics (Prereq. MATH 095 & 096 with C or better OR MATH 095 and high school geometry, both with C or better OR qualifying score on Math Placement Test)

ELECTIVES (12 credits)
Select FOUR additional courses from this list (if not already selected above):
- CJ 204 (3) Juvenile Justice (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
- ECED 104 (3) Introduction to Early Childhood Education (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
- EDU 130 (3) Guidance and Classroom Management (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
- PSYCH 202 (3) Educational Psychology (Prereq. PSYCH 101)
- PSYCH 203 (3) Abnormal Psychology (Prereq. PSYCH 101)
- SOCIO 210 (3) Marriage & the Family (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
- EDU 120 (3) Child, Family and Community (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above) OR
- EDU 213 (3) Multicultural Education (Prereq. ED 101)
- Any additional Social/Behavior Science course with a non-Western or diversity emphasis from: ANTHR 215, 222; GEOG 101; HIST 111, 115, 116, 140; POLSC 240; SOCIO 220.
- Any of the following courses required for teacher certification:
  - HIST 201(3) U.S. History: 1492-1877 (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
  - HIST 202 (3) U.S. History: 1877 to Present (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
  - POLSC 140 (3) Introduction to Government & Politics (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
- Other courses related to content specialization. Consult Coordinator.

PROGRAM TOTAL (62 credits)
Successfully completed at least 15 semester hours of credit at PSC (excluding proficiency credits).
Attained a minimum GPA of 2.0 in all PSC courses. Current cumulative GPA: ____________
Filed appropriate evidence of high school graduation or GED certificate with the Office of Enrollment Services.
Filed a Graduation Petition Form with the Office of Enrollment Services.
Deadline for filing: October 1 for Winter, March 1 for Spring, July 1 for Summer. (December, May & August candidates may choose to participate in the annual May Commencement Ceremony. Deadline to apply for ceremony is March 1st).

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<th>Required</th>
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<th>Needed</th>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Core:</td>
<td>22 credits</td>
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<td>Program Requirements:</td>
<td>28 credits</td>
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<td>Electives:</td>
<td>12 credits</td>
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<td>TOTAL CREDITS:</td>
<td>62 credits</td>
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Advised By: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

SIGNATURE: Counselor or Advisor or Faculty Advisor

This is an UNOFFICIAL evaluation. Official Evaluations must be requested in the Office of Enrollment Services.
IMPORTANT PSC GRADUATION POLICIES
1. If the degree or certificate requirements are changed during your continuous attendance, you may elect to satisfy either the new requirements or the ones in force when you enrolled.
2. If you withdraw from Prairie State College for either a fall or spring semester, you must satisfy requirements in force at the time you re-enroll.
3. Requests for COURSE SUBSTITUTIONS in the program must be directed to the Program Coordinator. A Course Substitution Form must be signed by the Program Coordinator and submitted to the Office of Enrollment Services at least one semester prior to graduation.
4. Petitions for alteration of other graduation requirements must be submitted on a Student Appeal Form at least one semester prior to graduation.

DIVISION OF ARTS & SCIENCES
Program Coord: Chris Fogarty Room 2167 (708) 709-3628 cfogarty@prairiestate.edu
Dept. Chair: Chris Fogarty Room 2167 (708) 709-3628 cfogarty@prairiestate.edu
Division Dean: Eligie Wilson Room 2120 (708) 709-7767 ewilson@prairiestate.edu

CAREER PLANNING/PLACEMENT INFORMATION:
Employment opportunities: www.collegecentral.com/prairiestate

For further information about paraprofessional (teacher aide) certification in Illinois visit the Illinois State Board of Education website at www.isbe.state.il.us/certification/html/paraprofessional.htm

State Requirements for Paraprofessional Approval
(Effective June 1, 2004)
Except for designated special education paraprofessionals, all paraprofessionals (teacher aids) must have a statement of approval from the Illinois State Board of Education based on one of the following:
1. Completed 30 semester hours of college credit from a regionally accredited institution of higher education. Evidence is an official transcript, or
2. Completed a paraprofessional training program approved by ISBE or ICCB. Evidence is an Illinois Community College Board transcript or certificate of completion, or
3. Passed the ETS Parapro Assessment, with 460 as the minimum passing score. Evidence is an official score report, or
4. Passed the applicable ACT WorkKeys assessments (Applied Mathematics – 4, Reading for Information – 4, Writing – 3) and provided verification of satisfactory local performance assessment. Evidence is the ACT “WorkKeys Proficiency Certificate for Teacher Assistants” and verification of satisfactory local performance assessment.

Because paraprofessionals providing instructional support for students with disabilities were not previously required to have State approval, a transition period has been provided for such individuals. Paraprofessionals first employed in programs for students with disabilities on or before June 30, 2005, have until July 1, 2007 to meet the State requirement. These individuals do not have to fill out an application for state approval until they meet the requirements. Paraprofessionals first employed in special education programs after June 30, 2005 must meet state requirements at the time of employment. Beginning July 1, 2007, all paraprofessionals must have State approval. (NOTE: This extended timeline for state approval does NOT change the Federal timeline for paraprofessionals providing instructional support in a program supported with Title 1, Part A funds.)

Requirements for Paraprofessional Approval for Persons Employed in Programs Supported with Title I Funds
Meet one of the following four options:
1. Completed 60 semester hours of college credit at a regionally accredited institution of higher education. Evidence is an official transcript, or
2. Obtained an associate’s degree (or higher) at a regionally accredited institution of higher education. Evidence is an official transcript, or
3. Met a formal State assessment by one of the following means:
   • Passed the ETS Parapro Assessment, with 460 as the minimum passing score. Evidence is an official score report, or
   • Passed the applicable ACT WorkKeys assessment (Applied Mathematics – 4, Reading for Information – 4, Writing – 3) and provide verification of satisfactory local performance assessment. Evidence is the ACT “Proficiency Certificate for Teacher Assistants,” or
   • Met State paraprofessional approval plus 300 Professional Training Points (PTPs). The PTPs may be accrued as follows:
- Paraprofessional work experience (public or private): 1 year = 30 PTPs (maximum 150).
  Evidence is an official letter signed by the chief administrator or other designated official of the
  employing school or district.
- College credit beyond the 30 semester hour state requirement: 1 semester hour = 15 PTPs.
  Evidence is an official transcript.
- Complete ISBE/ICCB Paraprofessional Test Preparation Curriculum training = 15 PTPs.
  Evidence is a certificate of completion.
- Professional development activity related to assisting in the instruction of reading/language arts, writing,
  and/or mathematics: 1 hour participation = 1 PTP
  Evidence before July 1, 2004, is a written description of the activity, which includes the subject,
  date, location, and name of the provider. If available, provide a program, outline, or provider
  completion form.
  Evidence beginning July 1, 2004, is a provider completion form (ISBE Form 77-21) which
  includes subject, date, and location. If available, provide a program or outline.

4. Met a rigorous State-approved local academic assessment that conforms to federal guidelines.