

# Early College Initiative



Give Students  
a Head Start  
on Their  
College Career >>

 **Prairie State College**



# The Opportunity >>

By partnering with Prairie State College (PSC) in the Early College Initiative (ECI), district high schools give their high-performing seniors the opportunity to participate in college-level course curricula, which meet the minimum standards for high school graduation. In most cases, these students will graduate with two semesters of college credit on their transcript\* – all before receiving their high school diploma.

*\*(credit eligibility is determined by receiving postsecondary institution where credit will be transferred, if not PSC).*

Students can take anywhere from six to 14 credits per semester, depending on each school's agreement.

Courses are taught on the PSC campus by PSC instructors (both full-time and adjunct), giving high school seniors a true college experience, and preparing them for what to expect after graduation.

# Sampling of classes >>

- Biology 100
- Biology 107
- Communication 101
- Economics 201
- English 101
- English 102
- Humanities 101
- Information Technology Applications 101
- Math 171
- Math 172
- Psychology 101
- Philosophy 101

## Questions & Answers >>

**Q: Do students in ECI have to attend PSC after graduation?**

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A: No. Completion of an ECI course signifies the student has earned college credit at PSC and has an official college transcript reflecting the credit that can be sent to other institutions.

**Q: How is ECI different from Advanced Placement (AP) or dual credit courses?**

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A: ECI is a separate program that allows students to take courses at PSC from full-time or adjunct PSC faculty members. Dual-credit courses are taught by college-qualified teachers at the high school. Also, as with dual credit courses, students earn the college credit immediately upon successful completion of the ECI course. AP courses require a national exam and a certain score to receive college credit.

**Q: What if the course has a prerequisite?**

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A: All prerequisites must be met before the student can take the ECI course.

# Students in the program say >>

“Becoming a part of the ECI provided me with two free semesters of college, which not only saved me a lot of money, but also a lot of time. The general education courses taken under this program are requirements for nearly every major. Being able to get those out of the way while also letting me get my first taste of college life while still in high school was an amazing experience that I would strongly recommend for any student, college bound or not.”

**Tierney Johnson**

*PSC student who participated in the ECI program  
as a student at Crete-Monee High School*



# High school administrators say >>

“This program is an outstanding opportunity for our students to earn college credits while still in high school. Students gain a better understanding of the college experience and often times graduate from high school with one full year of college credits! The course offerings at PSC are plentiful and Crete-Monee High School is proud of this first-rate program and partnership we have forged together.”

Jennifer Hannagan

*Assistant Principal of Curriculum & Instruction  
Crete-Monee High School*



## PSC faculty teaching in the program say >>

“Having the ECI students in class is a mutually beneficial experience for all in the course. The students bring enthusiasm and excitement that remains consistently high throughout the semester. The ECI students are often the most focused and diligent students I have in class.”

**Dr. Cynthia Cornejo**

*PSC Associate Professor of Psychology who teaches students in the ECI program*

# 2014-2015 Student Savings >>

## Crete Monee School District 201

- Students earned 1380 transferrable college credits
- \$194,000 in total student savings
- Average individual student savings: \$3200

## Bloom Township School District 206

- Students earned 648 transferrable college credits
- \$91,000 in total student savings
- Average individual student savings: \$1600

## Rich Township School District 227

- Academy for Student Excellence in Science and Math
- Students earned 336 transferrable college credits in STEM courses

## For More Information >>

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