

Reasons to Attend Prairie State College

- Fully accredited
- Credits that transfer
- Small class sizes
- Great career programs
- Dedicated professors
- Convenient scheduling
- Free tutoring and open computer labs

Admissions

Prairie State College offers “open admission” that encourages diversity and admits all high school graduates or the equivalent.

Here’s how to start your college career at PSC:

- Provide a high school diploma or GED.
- Take the COMPASS Placement Test or submit a copy of ACT scores.
- Meet with an advisor from Counseling and Advising to select courses. For questions, contact an academic advisor at (708) 709-3506.



Financial Aid

Prairie State College’s tuition is affordable, and financial aid is available through a variety of sources. More than 50 percent of our students receive financial aid.

The first and most important step in applying for financial aid is filing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). A FAFSA is required whether you receive federal or state financial aid, loans, grants, or scholarships.

Forms of financial assistance include:

- Pell Grant
- MAP Grant
- Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant
- Subsidized Stafford Student Loans
- PLUS Loans
- Work Study
- Scholarships
- Veterans Benefits

PSC Financial Aid Opportunities:

- PSC Board of Trustees Scholarships cover tuition and fees for two years.
- The PSC Foundation awards more than \$75,000 in scholarships annually to students who are not fully funded through any other source. Find out more at prairiestate.edu, go to choose a link, and click on scholarships.

For more information about how to obtain financial aid, call (708) 709-3562 or e-mail Alice Garcia at agarcia@prairiestate.edu.

Child & Family Studies/Early Childhood Education



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 **Prairie State College**

202 South Halsted Street | Chicago Heights, IL 60411
(708) 709-3500 | prairiestate.edu

Start *near*. Go *far*.

 **Prairie State College**
prairiestate.edu

Child and Family Studies/Early Childhood Education

The Program

For students interested in working with young children, Prairie State College offers two different academic programs, and students need to be careful to choose the one that matches their long term career goals – whether it is teaching in the public schools or working in a child care center.

The A.A.S. degree

The A.A.S. degree in child and family studies prepares students for jobs in child care centers, preschools, and family child care homes.

Career Opportunities

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment of preschool and child care workers is projected to increase through the year 2014. Demand is due in large part to families in which both parents work, resulting in a continued increase in public and private spending on child care. Program graduates teach and nurture preschoolers in child care centers, preschools, and family child care homes. Widespread recognition of the importance of good early childhood education means that workers in this field play a valuable role.

For More Information

Alison Drake, coordinator of the A.A.S. program in early childhood education, at (708) 709-3627, or e-mail adrake@prairiestate.edu.

The A.A. transfer degree

The A.A. transfer degree in education prepares students to teach preschool or kindergarten through third grade in the public schools. These students complete the first two years of a teacher education program at PSC and then transfer to a four-year college or university to complete their bachelor's degree and become certified.

The A.A. degree includes a larger proportion of general education transfer courses while the A.A.S. program includes more practical, hands-on methods courses. Students who believe they will eventually want a bachelor's degree should consider pursuing the A.A. degree.

Degrees & Certificates

- Child and Family Studies—
Associate in Applied Science
- Transfer Degree in Education—
Associate in Arts
- Early Childhood Teacher Basic—Certificate
- Early Childhood Director—Certificate

About the Curriculum

The child and family studies associate in applied science degree is designed for people who want to work directly with young children and their families in early care and education programs. The program provides both theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

The child and family studies program offers a certificate as a child care assistant (33 credit hours). Students who have already completed 60 hours of college work may take additional courses in the program to earn additional certificates.

Early childhood students have the opportunity to learn from teachers at the college's state-of-the-art Children's Learning Center. The center is a licensed facility that provides quality child care and education for children from 15 months to age 12. Students sitting in the center's one-way observation laboratory are able to observe children's classes without being seen. During internships at the center, students practice their new skills by participating as a member of a teaching team.

To view the curriculum for this program, visit prairiestate.edu/worksheets/worksheetmain.html.

