The need for formal education in the photographic arts has never been greater. The field demands that graduates be proficient in both traditional film and digital methods of photographic production. This program is designed to provide students with practical experience in creative and vocational applications of photography. Students will be challenged to explore and express ideas through commercial, social, and aesthetic visual problems. Students can specialize in either print or studio production. Course curriculum ranges from traditional black and white photography to advanced experience in digital color production. Cameras are provided for necessary course work in direct digital capture.

### Photography

#### A.A. Degree
This curriculum is designed for students who plan to pursue a baccalaureate program in fine arts photography, photojournalism, or professional photography. The program provides basic courses for building technical competency as well as the general education foundation needed to enhance creativity and appreciation for aesthetics. Students are encouraged to begin development of a substantial portfolio. Students should complete the Associate in Arts degree prior to transfer. Admission to baccalaureate programs is highly competitive.

#### I. General Education Core  37-38 credits

**Area A: Communication**  
ENG 101 [C1 900] Composition I - with a grade of C or better 3  
ENG 102 [C1 901R] Composition II - with a grade of C or better 3  
COMM 101 [C2 900] Principles of Communication 3

**Area B: Humanities and Fine Arts**  
ART 126 [F2 904] History of Photography 3  
ART 121 History of Western Art I 3  
or  
ART 122 History of Western Art II - recommended 3  
Select one humanities course from the list for Area B. 3

**Area C: Mathematics**  
Select one math course from:  
MATH 112 [M1 904] General Education Mathematics 3  
MATH 115 [M1 902] General Education Statistics 3

**Area D: Physical and Life Sciences**  
Select one life science course and one physical science course from the list for Area D. One course must have a lab component.

**Area E: Social and Behavioral Sciences**  
Select three courses in at least two different disciplines from the list for Area E. 9

#### II. Area of Concentration/Major Field  12 credits

ART 101 Two Dimensional Design 3  
ART 102 Three Dimensional Design 3  
PHOTO 171 Introduction to Photography 3  
PHOTO 291 Survey of Contemporary Photography 3

#### III. Electives  12-13 credits
Select any additional electives in photography or general education in consultation with an advisor. Some recommended courses include:  
PHOTO 170 Digital Camera Skills 1  
PHOTO 175 Basic Lighting Skills 3  
PHOTO 180 Digital Imaging 3  
PHOTO 285 Digital Color Production 3  
PHOTO 286 Independent Photo Project 3  
PHOTO 297 Professional Portfolio 3  
Any additional general education course from the list at the front of this section.

**Program Total**  62 credits required

#### Foreign Language Requirements:
Some universities have a foreign language requirement. Generally, four years of a single foreign language in high school or four semesters of language in college will fulfill this requirement. It is recommended that students complete the entire sequence at one institution.

### Photographic Studies
Students at Prairie State College (PSC) can earn an Associate of Arts degree, specializing in photography. The comprehensive program is one of only two such specialty programs in the state. Students learn professional techniques in a stimulating, creative atmosphere, using state-of-the-art facilities and equipment. Our studio and lab classes use cutting-edge technology and focus on both commercial and expressive applications. Whether pursuing an A.A. or A.A.S. degree or a certificate, students in the program will be exposed to the fundamentals of photographic theory and daily practice in camera, lighting, and digital imaging techniques.

**ABOUT THE CURRICULUM**

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**ADMISSIONS**

PSC 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.
Photography
Certificate
This program builds a technical and visual foundation using photographic techniques while encouraging students to become effective communicators with their cameras.

Program Requirements 19 credits
- ART 101 Two Dimensional Design 3
- PHOTO 171 Introduction to Photography 3
- PHOTO 175 Basic Lighting Skills 3
- PHOTO 180 Digital Imaging 3
- PHOTO 196 Careers in Photography 1
- PHOTO 285 Digital Color Production 3
- PHOTO 291 Survey of Contemporary Photography 3

Program Total 19 credits

Portrait Photography
Certificate
This program is designed to prepare students in specific photographic techniques of portrait photography. Participants gain substantial experience creating successful studio and location portraits while working in a professional studio/lab environment.

Program Requirements 21 credits
- PHOTO 171 Introduction to Photography 3
- PHOTO 175 Basic Lighting Skills 3
- PHOTO 180 Digital Imaging 3
- PHOTO 283 Portraiture 3
- PHOTO 285 Digital Color Production 3
- PHOTO 293 Advanced Portraiture 3
- PHOTO 297 Professional Portfolio 3

Program Total 21 credits

Financial Aid Information
PSC’s tuition is affordable, and financial aid is available through a variety of sources. Additional information at prairiestate.edu/finaid.

Find out more today by contacting
Mike Maddox
Professor, Art and Graphic Communications
(708) 709-3679
mmaddox@prairiestate.edu

Gainful Employment Disclosure
The U.S. Department of Education requires colleges with financial aid eligible programs that “prepares students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation” to disclose certain information about these programs. For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who have completed the program, and other important information related to the program, please visit our website at prairiestate.edu/ge. We hope that this information is helpful in making informed choices about your education.

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