

 Prairie State College

MILITARY STUDENT AFFAIRS *Handbook*

2022-2023



Office of Military Student Affairs

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.

Georges Sanon
(708) 709-3567 | gsanon@prairiestate.edu

Office Hours: Monday - Friday | 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Main Campus | Atrium, Room 1240
202 S. Halsted Street | Chicago Heights, IL 60411

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Website:

<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?q=prairie+state+college&s=all&id=148007#service>

QUESTIONS ABOUT BENEFITS

GI Bill®: (888) 442-4551 | Website: Gibill.va.gov

GI BILL® COMPARISON TOOL

Website: <https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool/>

ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION

Ch. 30 (MGIB-AD) and Ch. 1606 (MGIB-SR) Users

There are two ways to certify enrollment: either call (877) 823-2378

– or –

visit online by going to the

Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) website –

GiBill.va.gov/wave/index.do

Ch. 33 (Post 9/11) users:

Beginning Dec. 17, 2021, the VA will require all Post 9/11 GI Bill® recipients to verify their enrollment monthly. Visit the VA Verification of Enrollment webpage for information about what the new requirement means for you! Options will include Opt-in for text verification or call 1-888-442-4551 to verify.

PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE MILITARY STUDENT AFFAIRS CENTER

Mission Statement

PSC Military Student Affairs Center is committed to ensuring military affiliated students a smooth transition to college and a successful educational experience.

Students are assisted with the following resources:

- Providing support in regards to military educational benefits
- Resource referral services for other veterans' resources
- Credit for military experience
- Priority registration



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GETTING STARTED STEPS USING MILITARY BENEFITS

Go to – <https://prairiestate.edu/future-students/index.aspx> and follow the easy steps to get started at PSC

1. ENROLLMENT FORM

New and transfer students may complete an application online at prairiestate.edu/enroll or in person in Enrollment Services. Returning/continuing students should visit Enrollment Services to ensure your contact and program information is up to date.

2. ACADEMIC ADVISING

All students using military educational benefits are required to meet with an Academic Advisor to obtain an academic plan. This is a mandatory one-on-one academic advising appointment to map out your educational program. **A copy of this signed plan must be turned into the school certifying official prior to registering for the second term, to certifying you for benefits.** Email advising@prairiestate.edu to ask for an appointment with your assigned advisor.

- **Academic Transcripts** – You are required to turn in all transcripts from prior schools. No exceptions.
- **Military Transcripts** –
 - Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard – <https://jst.doded.mil>

Transcripts will be sent to PSC Enrollment Office electronically

- Air Force – go to: AirUniversity.af.mil/Barnes/CCAF

Bring the unopened, official copy of your college transcripts to the PSC Enrollment Office or have your prior schools directly mail your transcripts to the PSC enrollment office.

3. APPLY FOR BENEFITS

- Federal VA Education Benefits (Chapters 30, 31, 33, 35, 1606): all active duty military, veterans, spouse, and/or dependents eligible to receive federal VA benefits must apply online at – va.gov. Provide the School Certifying Official with a copy of your Certificate of Eligibility. Review page 6 – for a brief description of types of benefits.
 - Transfer students who have used their benefits at other institutions must submit a Change of Program/Place of Training Form. Go online to: va.gov.
- Tuition Assistance (TA) –This is a Department of Defense (DoD) program. TA rules will vary between military branches. Students using TA benefits must submit their approved, semester-specific TA form to the Office of Military Student Affairs, located in room 1420 (or email it to gsonon@prairiestate.edu) prior to the start of the semester. For online readers – click your branch on page 7 to find out information about tuition assistance; otherwise refer to page 7 for the web address:
 - Army (to include National Guard and Reserves)
 - Air Force (to include National Guard and Reserves)
 - Navy and Marines (to include activated Reservists)

- State Educational Benefits –

For more information on the following benefits, refer to page 8:

- Illinois Veterans Grant (IVG) – This program is available through the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). Benefits may only be used at Illinois public colleges or community colleges. This grant pays for tuition, activity fees, service fees, registration fees, and technology fees. It does not pay for lab fees, Internet fees, or books.
- Illinois National Guard Grant (ING) – Eligible students must be currently active in the Illinois National Guard. You must apply every academic year.
- Illinois MIA/POW State Grant – The program is available through the Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs (IDVA). This grant pays for tuition and some fees. Once you have been approved by IDVA, you must turn in your letter of eligibility to the PSC Military Student Affairs Center Office. GETTING STARTED STEPS USING MILITARY BENEFITS (continued)

4. APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

In addition to using your military benefits, you can also apply for financial aid by going online to: [Fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov). The school code for Prairie State College is 001640. Once you have submitted your information, the PSC Financial Aid Office will contact you with your next steps.

5. VA PENDING PAYMENT COMPLIANCE

Prairie State College will not take any of the four following actions toward any student using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post 9/11 G.I. Bill® (Ch. 33) or Veterans Readiness & Employment (Ch. 31) benefits, while their payment from the United States Department of VA is pending to the educational institution:

- Prevent their enrollment;
- Assess a late penalty fee to;
- Require they secure alternative or additional funding;
- Deny their access to any resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills to the institution.

However, to qualify for this provision, such students may be required to:

- Produce the VA's Certificate of Eligibility by the first day of class;
- Provide written request to be certified;
- Provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as described in other institutional policies (see our VA School Certifying Official for all requirements).

GETTING STARTED STEPS USING MILITARY BENEFITS (cont'd.)

6. MILITARY STUDENT AFFAIRS INTAKE FORM (MSAI)

This form must be turned into the School Certifying Official for each semester you wish to use your benefits. Failure to turn in this form could result in your classes being dropped for non-payment. Forms can be found at the Military Student Affairs Center, located in room 1240, on the northeast side of the Atrium, in the Main Building.

- New students: Turn in the MSAI along with all copies of your Certificate(s) of Eligibility (COE) or approval letters.
- Continuing Students: Turn in your MSAI (reminder if using National Guard you must update your letter of eligibility each year); Tuition Assistance (TA) approvals have to be submitted every semester.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

LETTERS OF ELIGIBILITY

If you have the Illinois Veteran Grant, the Illinois National Guard Grant, or the MIA-POW Grant, you must present your letter of eligibility to our office before your grant will be activated.

IMPORTANT: You must fill out a Military Student Affairs Intake (MSAI) form every semester once you have registered for classes. Turning in this signed form authorizes the Office of Military Student Affairs to process your benefits and to apply these benefits towards your bill. Failure to turn in this form could result in your classes being dropped for non-payment.

STANDARDS OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Students must be in good academic standing to use their state and federal grants. PSC follows the same standards and academic procedures for all students. This is explained in Prairie State College financial aid website: <https://prairiestate.edu/apply-reg-pay/financial-aid/index.aspx>. Students with unsatisfactory academic progress will be ineligible to use their state and/or federal benefits.

DROP WITH A REFUND

Every semester, the last day to drop for a refund (registration fees and some lab fees may not be included) depends on your withdrawal date. You may not be charged tuition and student fees. Please refer to your syllabus or contact the Enrollment office at 708-709-3516. However, please note that it is your responsibility to notify the School Certifying Official.

WITHDRAWING FROM CLASSES

It is your responsibility to notify the School Certifying Official immediately should you make any adjustments to your class schedule. If you need to withdraw from your classes, contact the Enrollment Office at enrollment@prairiestate.edu or complete the online add drop form located at this link: <https://prairiestate.edu/apply-reg-pay/how-to-enroll/#forms>.

SNAPSHOT OF BENEFITS – FEDERAL

Montgomery GI Bill® – Chapter 30

- Must have completed initial obligation period of active duty
- Honorably discharged
- If eligible you would receive up to 36 months of eligibility
- Eligibility of benefits lasts 10 years from date of discharge
- To apply go to: va.gov

Montgomery GI Bill® – Chapter 1606 – Selected Reserve/National Guard

- Must have enlisted, reenlisted, or extended an enlistment in the Selected Reserve or National Guard after July 1, 1985 so there is an obligation to serve for a period of not less than six years
- If eligible you would receive up to 36 months of eligibility
- To apply go to: va.gov

Post 9/11 GI Bill® - Veterans Education Assistance – Chapter 33

- Served at least 90 days of active duty after September 10, 2001 (9/10/01)
- If eligible, entitled to 36 months of eligibility
- NEW – If your last discharge or release from active duty is on or after January 1, 2013 there is no time limitation
- Pays tuition and fees to the school (based on eligibility rating)
- Monthly Housing Allowance paid to the student (must be enrolled more than half-time to qualify)
- Pays up to \$1,000/year book stipend to the student
- To apply go to: va.gov

– Transfer of Entitlement

- Service members have the option to transfer benefits to a spouse or dependents. To learn more about this benefit, go to: Benefits.VA.gov/gibill/post911_transfer.asp

– Fry Scholarship

- Benefit is available to the children and surviving spouses of services members who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001
- If eligible, entitled to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level
- To learn more about this benefit or to apply, go to: va.gov

Survivors & Dependents Educational Assistance Program – Chapter 35

- Spouses and dependent children (age 18 to 26 years) of deceased veterans or 100% disabled veterans are eligible. The veteran's death or injury must be service connected
- NEW – if approved for this benefit on or after August 1, 2018, entitlement is for 36 months
- To apply go to: va.gov and fill out VA Form 22-5490

SNAPSHOT OF BENEFITS – FEDERAL (continued)

Veterans Readiness and Employment (VR&E) – Chapter 31

- Must be entitled to receive compensation for a service-connected disability at a rating of 10% or greater for veterans, 20% or more for active duty service members.
- Must have been discharged from active duty under condition other than dishonorable.
- Counselors in the VR&E program are in the Chicago office.
- Complete a Military Student Affairs Intake Form of enrollment every semester.
- To apply for benefits or get more information go to: va.gov

Tuition Assistance (TA)

Tuition Assistance (TA) is a Department of Defense (DoD) program. TA rules will vary between military branches. Service members are able to use a Federal VA Education benefit and Federal Student Aid in combination with TA. All qualified Selected Reserve Service members are authorized concurrent TA and MGIB-SR benefits when enrolled in a program of education that is half-time or greater. Concurrent use is not authorized when enrolled less than half-time. Students using TA benefits must submit their approved, semester-specific TA form to the Office of Military Student Affairs, located in the Atrium (Room 1240) prior to the start of the semester.

- **Army** (to include National Guard and Reserves):
<https://www.armyignited.com/app/>
- **Air Force** (to include National Guard and Reserve):
[My.af.mil/gcss-af/USAF/ep/home.do](https://my.af.mil/gcss-af/USAF/ep/home.do)
- **Navy and Marines** (to include reserves):
<https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/index.htm>

For Students using Chapters 30, 33, & 1606 – Once you have been approved for benefits, turned in all required documents, **AND** completed your Military Student Affairs Intake (MSAI) form with the School Certifying Official. Ch. 30 and 1606 students must remember to certify your enrollment status with the VA at the **end** of every month in order to receive your monthly benefits. Chapter 33 students (starting Dec 2021) opt in for text verification or call 1-888-422-4551 to verify. Refer to page 2, “Enrollment Verification”.

For Further information on Federal Educational Benefits, go to: va.gov.

SNAPSHOT OF BENEFITS – STATE

Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)

This program is available through the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). Benefits may only be used at Illinois public colleges or community colleges. This grant pays for tuition, activity fees, service fees, registration fees, and technology fees. It does not pay for lab fees, Internet fees, or books. For more information: <https://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/grants/IVG-program.html>

- Must have entered the service from the state of Illinois.
- Served at least one full year of active duty. (Note: length of service not regarded if veteran was assigned to active duty in a foreign country in a time of hostilities in that country)
- Returned to Illinois within six (6) months after discharge.
- Received an Honorable discharge.
- Reside in Illinois at the time of application and at the time of receiving benefits for enrollment and, at some point after leaving federal active duty service, have been a resident of Illinois for at least 15 consecutive years.
- Grant pays tuition cost and mandatory fees to the school.
- Application available at: [ISAC.org](https://www.isac.org)

Illinois National Guard Grant (ING)

Eligible students must be currently active in the Illinois National Guard. You must apply **EVERY** academic year. For more information: <https://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/grants/ING-grant-program.html>

- Must have been participating in an Illinois National Guard unit for at least one year.
- Grant pays tuition and **some** fees to the school.
- Must apply **EVERY** academic year at: <https://StudentPortal.ISAC.org>



Website: [ISAC.org](https://www.isac.org)

For further Information:

Scholarships &
Specialized Grants D-3A

1755 Lake Cook Road
Deerfield, IL 60015-5209

1-800-899-ISAC(4722)
(Spanish-speaking counselors are available.)
Fax: 847.831.8549

HEARING IMPAIRED –
Voice: 800.526.0857
TDD: 800.526.0844

Open: 8 am - 5 pm CT

Email:
isac.studentservices@isac.illinois.gov

SNAPSHOT OF BENEFITS – STATE (continued)

Illinois MIA-POW State Grant

The program is available through the Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs (IDVA). This grant pays for tuition and some fees. Once you have been approved by IDVA, you must turn in your letter of eligibility to the RVC Veterans Services office. For more information: <https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/benefits/Pages/education.aspx>

- Dependents of a service member who was a resident of Illinois upon entering the service, and whose status is or has been that of a prisoner of war/missing in action, killed while in the service, died or is 100% disabled as a result of a service-connected disability.
- If applicable, proof of 15 consecutive years of Illinois residency after leaving active duty and date of this application.
- Grant pays tuition and **some** fees to the school.
- Information: (217) 782-3564
- <https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/Pages/default.aspx>

CALLED UP TO ACTIVE DUTY

PSC will not deny readmission to a person who is a member of, applies to be a member of, performs, has performed, applies to perform, or has an obligation to perform, service in the uniformed services on the basis of that membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation to perform service.

Students who perform military service under Federal authority for a period of more than 30 consecutive days must provide written notification of military service to the Prairie State College Military Student Affairs Center Office, via written military orders. Notifications of intent to return must be provided by the student in written form within three (3) years after the completion of the period of service.

Readmission requirements do not apply to a service member's absence from class to attend training.

READMISSION REQUIREMENTS

I. Statement

PSC will not deny readmission to a person who is a member of, applies to be a member of, performs, has performed, applies to perform, or has an obligation to perform, service in the uniformed services on the basis of that membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation to perform service.

II. Requirements of Student

Students who perform military service under Federal authority for a period of more than 30 consecutive days must provide written notification of military service to the Prairie State College Military Student Affairs Coordinator, via written military orders.

Notifications of intent to return must be provided by the student in written form within three (3) years after the completion of the period of service.

Re-admission requirements do not apply to a service member's absence from class to attend training.

III. Termination of readmission eligibility.

(i) A student's eligibility for readmission to an institution under this section by reason of such student's service in the uniformed services terminates upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

(ii) A separation of such person from the Armed Forces (including the National Guard and Reserves) with a dishonorable or bad conduct discharge.

(iii) A dismissal of a commissioned officer permitted under section 1161(a) of title 10, United States Code by sentence of a general court-martial; in commutation of a sentence of a general court-martial; or, in time of war, by order of the President.

(iv) A dropping of a commissioned officer from the rolls pursuant to section 1161(b) of title 10, United States Code due to absence without authority for at least three months; separation by reason of a sentence to confinement adjudged by a court-martial; or, a sentence to confinement in a Federal or State penitentiary or correctional institution.

IV. Requirements of Prairie State College

Prairie State College will promptly readmit eligible students with the same academic status as the student had when the student last attended. Important: Contact the Military Student Affairs Office at (708) 709-3567 or email Georges Sanon at gsanon@prairiestate.edu to review policy regarding eligibility for readmittance.

READMISSION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

V. Tuition and Fees

Prairie State College will not assess any more than the tuition and fee charges that other students in the program are assessed for that academic year if the student is admitted to a different program, and for subsequent academic years for student admitted to same program. However, if a student is utilizing VA, State, or DOD benefits in which there will be no additional cost to the student, PSC will charge tuition based on the existing tuition and fees associated with the current Academic Year.

- VI. Programs with limited admission requirements AND/OR requirements associated with the specific program itself will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If you are called up for active duty, or need more information on readmission/limited admission requirements, contact the Military Student Affairs Center at (708) 709-3567 or email Georges Sanon at GSanon@PrairieState.edu.

ENROLLMENT STATUS

Fall & Spring semesters:

Full-time	12 credit hours or more
Three-quarter time	9, 10, 11 credit hours
Half-time	6, 7, 8 credit hours
Less than one-half	5 or less credit hours

IMPORTANT:
VA payments may vary
based on length of course.

Summer semesters:

Full-time	6 credit hours or more (Summer Session II)
Three-quarter time	5 credit hours
Half-time	3 credit hours
Less than one-half	1, 2 credit hours

(Summer semester sessions are reported according to the dates of enrollment – Summer I & II)

HOW TO GET INVOLVED – STUDENT VETERANS CLUB

The Student Veterans Club at Prairie State College is a chapter member of the Student Veterans of America National Organization. The club meets once a month for fellowship and to plan outreach programs that support student veterans and active duty members and their survivors, but also the local community.

To know more about the club check out their link at:

<https://prairiestate.edu/student-life/student-clubs/student-veterans-club.aspx>



MILITARY & VETERAN STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

ON CAMPUS – DEPARTMENTS

PSC Academic Advising Center – (708) 709-3516

Main building, 1st floor, room 1190, adjacent to library

prairiestate.edu/student-services/academic-advising-center

Whether you want to spend the first two years at PSC and transfer to a four-year college or university to pursue a bachelor's degree, or you want to enroll in one of our career programs and gain training for immediate employment, our advisors are here to assist you.

PSC Career Services Center – (708) 709-3678

Student Career Development Center

Main bldg., 1st floor, room 1202 in Academic Advising Center

prairiestate.edu/student-services/academic-advising-center/career-services

We are a link between job seeker and our business community, offering a variety of tools to assist individuals in attaining their career and employment goals as well as providing assistance for employer needs.

PSC Office of Disability Services – (708) 709-3755

Main building, 1st floor, room 1180 in the Equity and Inclusion Offices

prairiestate.edu/student-services/disability-services

The Office of Disability Services provides reasonable accommodations and support for enrolled or admitted students with documented disabilities in accordance with Sect. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

MILITARY & VETERAN STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES (cont'd.)

PSC Personal Counseling – (708) 709-3511

Main Building, 2nd Floor, room 2262

prairiestate.edu/student-services/counseling/personal-counseling

Students will be provided assistance with feelings of anxiety, depression, inadequacy, loneliness, or any personal concern students may be struggling with. The Personal counselor will offer short term counseling and will provide community resources if long term counseling is the better solution for the student.

PSC Testing Center - (708) 709-3507

Main Building, 2nd Floor, Student Success Center, room 2645

prairiestate.edu/student-services/testing-services

Various Testing Resources are available at this location.

PSC Trio Student Support Services - (708) 709-7945

Main Building, 1st Floor, Learning Achievement Center, room 1140

prairiestate.edu/student-services/academic-advising-center/trio-student-support-services

TRiO goals are to assist, retain, and graduate participants each year. Check out their webpage to see if you qualify for this program.

PSC Tutoring Center - (708) 709-3663

Main Building, 2nd floor, Student Success Center, room 2643

prairiestate.edu/student-services/student-success-center/tutoring

We offer assistance in mathematics, writing, reading, and science, and other college subjects.

PSC Writing Center - (708) 709-3521

Main Building, 2nd floor, Student Success Center, room 2637

prairiestate.edu/student-services/student-success-center/tutoring/writing-center

Our goal is not just to help you with specific assignments but to help you become a better writer. MILITARY & VETERAN STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES (continued)

ON CAMPUS – RESOURCES

• Emergency Community Services – (708) 709-3511

Personal Counselor,

prairiestate.edu/student-services/emergency-community-services

This list of service providers is offered for those who need to seek resources quickly. It is not meant to replace the one-to-one help of a licensed counseling professional, and it is not all-inclusive.

• PSC Student Veterans Club

Our purpose is to fulfill the needs of veterans and to create an environment dedicated to veteran support. Though our main focus is our veterans, we also realize how essential everyone is in terms of support.

MILITARY & VETERAN STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES (cont'd.)

OFF CAMPUS

- **Chicago Heights VA Clinic and other surrounding VA medical resources**
va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=781
- **Chicago Heights Vet Center** – (708) 754-0340
1010 Dixie Hwy, Suite 200, Chicago Heights, IL
For assistance after hours, weekend, & holidays call:
1-877-WAR-VETS (1-877-927-8387)
- **South Suburban PADS**– (708) 332-7700
414 W. Lincoln Highway, Chicago Heights, IL 60411
sspads.org
- **Veterans Crisis Line** – 1-800-273-8255, press 1
VeteransCrisisLine.net
- **Cook County Veterans Affairs**
- **Veterans Assistance Commission- Cook County**
- **Veterans Assistance Commission - Will County**
- **Jesse Brown Veterans Hospital**
- **Edward Hines, Jr. Veterans Hospital**

CAREERS

- **Feds Hire Vets:** FedsHireVets.gov
Site that houses federal employment information for transitioning service members and their families, veterans, and federal hiring officials.
- **Prairie State College Career Services:**
prairiestate.edu/student-services/academic-advising-center/career-services
Career Development Center provides a variety of career related resources to current students, alumni, and employers
- **ACP:** <https://www.acp-usa.org/>. **American Corporate Partners (ACP)** is a national nonprofit organization focused on helping returning veterans and active duty spouses find their next careers through one-on-one mentoring, networking and online career advice.
- **USAjobs.gov**
This website was created to help individuals connect with federal employment all over the world.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs – [Illinois.gov/Veterans](https://illinois.gov/Veterans)

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Illinois – [Vfwil.org](https://vfwil.org)

Provide service to veterans and to our communities.

American Legion Department of Illinois – illegion.org

Committed to advocating patriotism and honor, and continued devotion to our fellow servicemembers and veterans.

Cook County Department of Veteran Affairs –

cookcountyil.gov/agency/veterans-affairs

Resource clearinghouse to assist veterans, dependents and survivors with veteran assistance, health benefits, educational benefits, retirement benefits, housing assistance and home loans

Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County –

willcountyillinois.com/County-Offices/Special-Services/Veterans-Assistance-Commission

The VACWC works closely with ALL Veterans Organizations, utility companies, landlords, local, state and Federal agencies to insure the rights and benefits to which each veteran is entitled has been granted.

College resources for Military Service Members –

GiJobs.com –or– BestColleges.com/Resources

Financial Aid Resources

- FAFSA.gov – The free application for federal student aid.
- College Scorecard – CollegeScorecard.ed.gov
Helps students using veterans' educational benefits evaluate options in choosing a school.
- College Navigator – <https://NCES.ed.gov/CollegeNavigator> Provides demographic, financial, retention, graduation rates, and more for all schools.
- Paying for College – ConsumerFinance.gov/paying-for-college Students can enter information for up to three (3) schools and receive detailed financial information.

Ask a Question – <https://GIBill.CustHelp.va.gov>

Get answers to general questions such as, "How do I get a copy of my DD214/military records?" –or– Do I have to file taxes on my military education benefits?"

GI Bill® comparison tool – va.gov

Find out which GI Bill® is right choice for you.

Department of Veterans Affairs – va.gov

The official website for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Get information on Health Care, Benefits, Burials and Memorials, and various other resources.

USEFUL RESOURCES (continued)

You have questions. VA has answers.

Call VA today.

1-800-MyVA411

(1-800-698-2411)

The number to call when you don't know who to call.

You only need to remember **one number** for information on VA care, benefits, and services or to speak to a live agent for assistance!



Military.com

Visit this site for the latest military news, information on benefits, military life, jobs, and even discounts.

Illinois Joining Forces – [IllinoisJoiningForces.org](https://illinoisjoiningforces.org)

A database created to assist veterans and family members with all of the available resources in the State of Illinois. Resource information ranges from housing and employment to legal services and volunteerism.

Student Veterans of America (SVA) – [StudentVeterans.org](https://studentveterans.org)

This is a national organization consisting of student-veteran groups. SVA strives to ensure that veterans across the globe are informed about the veterans educational benefits and about opportunities for employment. They have a strong presence in Washington, DC and their voice carries weight. Prairie State College is one of the over 1,300 schools that is a chapter member.

Illinois Department of Employment Security – [IDES.illinois.gov](https://ides.illinois.gov)

Find out information about local job fairs, job openings, and use the comprehensive database for your job searches. Search for the closest office in your city. Most offices have a dedicated veterans representative.

Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) – [Benefits.VA.gov](https://benefits.va.gov)

This act explains the various legal protections afforded to active duty servicemembers, reservists, and members of the National Guard who get called up for active duty.

Military Transcripts

• Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard

To request military transcripts go to: <https://jst.doded.mil>.

When you log on to this website, you will need to indicate that you want your transcripts to be sent to Prairie State College electronically.

• Air Force

To request military transcripts go to: [AU.AF.Mil/AU/Barnes/CCAF/Transcripts.asp](https://au.af.mil/au/Barnes/CCAF/Transcripts.asp)

and request an official copy of your transcripts. Bring the unopened copy of your transcripts to the Records Office, located on the second floor of the Student Center.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Prairie State College recognizes the diversity of students, faculty, staff, and community as integral to lifelong learning. We are committed to building an inclusive, accessible, and supportive environment on campus.

Discrimination is prohibited on the basis of race, religion, color, age, gender, disability, ancestry, marital status, military discharge status, national origin, veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, and other non-merit factors in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies.

Inquiries regarding compliance with state or federal nondiscrimination requirements may be directed to the:

Dr. Jermaine Morales
Title IX Coordinator
Prairie State College
202 S. Halsted St.
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
or
(708) 709-7936 | jmorales10@prairiestate.edu

DISCLAIMER

The information in this PSC Military Student Affairs Handbook is subject to change without prior notice or obligation.

VETERANS STUDENT HANDBOOK ACRONYMS

VFW	Veterans of Foreign Wars
COE	Certificate of Eligibility
IDES	Illinois Department of Employment Security
ISAC	Illinois Student Assistance Commission
IVG	Illinois Veteran Grant
MIA	Missing In Action
NOBE	Notice Of Basic Eligibility
POW	Prisoner Of War
VA	Veterans Affairs
VACBC	Veterans Assistance Commission of Boone County
VCR	Veterans Certification Request
VR&E	Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment
WAVE	Web Automated Verification of Enrollment



Prairie State College

202 S. Halsted Street
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prairiestate.edu/student-services/veterans-services

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