

START *here.*



 **Prairie State College**
Start near. Go far.

WELCOME TO PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE (PSC)

We are glad you are here! Now that you are on campus, there are a few things you need to know to help you get started and on a path to success.

No matter what your educational goals, PSC can help. Please take a moment to read through this important information about the college, including various student services, information about campus life, and additional resources that can help you make the most of your time at PSC.

137

ACRE CAMPUS

30

MILES SOUTH OF
DOWNTOWN CHICAGO

FOUNDED IN

1957

COLLEGE CONTACT INFORMATION

Main Campus

(708) 709-3500

Matteson Area Center

(708) 709-3750

Bookstore

(708) 709-3587

Business Office

(708) 709-3577

Police Department

(708) 709-7777

Children's Learning Center

(708) 709-3725

Counseling and Academic Advising

(708) 709-3506

Disability Services

(708) 709-3603

Welcome Center

(708) 709-3500

For office locations and hours, visit prairiestate.edu/general-information.

Emergency Closing Information

Check emergencyclosings.com.

Call PSC at (708) 709-3500 or check prairiestate.edu.

Register for PSC Alert. Visit prairiestate.edu/PSCAlert.

Enrollment Services

(708) 709-3516

Financial Aid

Financial Aid Advisor

Student last name	Contact
A-M	(708) 709-7888
N-Z	(708) 709-7942

Loan Information

(708) 709-3520

Veterans Information

(708) 709-3567

ITR Help Desk

(708) 709-7999

Library

(708) 709-3552

Student Success Center

(708) 709-3663

Student Success Center Computer Lab

(708) 709-7792

ITR Help Desk

The ITR Help Desk provides students, faculty, and staff assistance with PSC equipment or software. Please have your Student ID number when you call or come by our office, located just off the atrium on the main campus. For more information, call (708) 709-7999.

Maps and Directions

Visit prairiestate.edu, and click on Maps and Directions.

Student IDs

The Police Department issues identification cards to all students. There is no charge for the first card, and replacement cards are \$5. The ID card must be carried at all times. For more information, call (708) 709-7777.

Vehicle Assistance

The Police Department offers motorist assistance services, including jump starts, lockouts, or motorist emergency notifications. For more information, call (708) 709-7777.

Parking

All vehicles parked on campus property have to register with the Police Department. A parking decal is issued for each vehicle and must be displayed while parked in lots A or C. Lot D is for Conference Center events and visitor parking. There is no student parking in the Children's Learning Center lot. Designated green parking is available at the college's main entrance for EV, hybrid, and low emission vehicles with vehicle registration. Parking applications are available to registered students in the Police Department. Failure to display a PSC parking decal while parked in the restricted lots will result in a parking citation with a \$25 fine. For more information, call (708) 709-7777.

STUDENT SERVICES



New Directions for Returning Adult Students

PSC understands that starting or returning to college as an adult can be overwhelming. Learn more about available services by calling (708) 709-3603 or visit prairiestate.edu/returning.

Services for Students with Disabilities

PSC is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for enrolled or admitted students with documented disabilities, under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). The office seeks to maintain academic standards while providing equal access and support services to students who are able to benefit from college-level course work, have the commitment to succeed, and have a documented disability.

A variety of reasonable accommodations are available on a case-by-case basis to students with disabilities. Special parking privileges and elevator service also are available. For more information, call (708) 709-3603.

Counseling and Academic Advising

Services available include:

- **Pre-Enrollment Counseling**
- **Academic Advising**
- **Personal Counseling**
- **Transfer Advising**

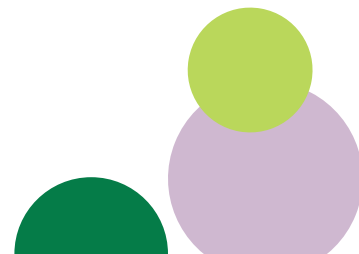
For more information call (708) 709-3506.

Student Career Development Center

Services include:

- **Career Counseling**
- **College Central Network**
- **Job Fairs**
- **One-on-One Consultation**
- **Day and Evening Workshops**

For more information call (708) 709-3755.



STUDENT SERVICES

Student Success Center (SSC)

The SSC provides academic support to students and faculty. For more information, call (708) 709-3663. Services are free to PSC students and include:

Free Tutoring: Students need a PSC ID to check in.

Open Computer Lab: Students need a PSC ID to use the lab. There is an additional cost for printing.

Writing Center

All students are welcome to use the Writing Center for help with any writing in any class. The center is not limited to students who are struggling in their writing, but also a place for students to discuss ideas at any time during the writing process. Sessions are one-on-one, and last approximately 30 minutes. Appointment times are available, and walk-ins are welcome. For more information, visit prairiestate.edu/ss/writingcenter.html.

Bookstore

Visit prairie.bncollege.com for more information. Neither PSC nor the bookstore is responsible for books purchased outside the bookstore in the event of a book change.

Cafeteria

The Pioneer Café is located on the first floor of the main building.



LIBRARY

The PSC library connects students to credible, free, and fast information. Located on the first floor of the main campus, the library offers space for quiet studying, technology equipped rooms for group study, printer/scanner/copy machines, and a computer lab. The library provides students with online, audiovisual, and print resources to meet their educational, recreational, and lifelong learning goals. Additionally, librarians provide students both with in-class and personal instruction.

Librarians are always accessible to assist students with their research and information needs during library hours. For additional information or to set up an appointment with a librarian, call (708) 709-3552, or visit the library website at: library.prairiestate.edu.

STUDENT LIFE AND RESOURCES

Student Life

The Department of Student Life encompasses several areas that contribute to student development and student leadership. Students are encouraged to take advantage of PSC's rich extracurricular programs and activities.

Student Government Association (SGA)

The SGA is the governing body of PSC students and student organizations. The SGA develops a governance structure, a fiscal policy, and rules and regulations governing campus clubs. For more information, visit room 1260/1261.

Student Activities

The Student Leadership Center, located in Room 1260, serves as the hub for the student newspaper and clubs. For a full list of clubs, visit prairiestate.edu/student-life/student-clubs. For more information about getting involved, contact Helen Manley at (708) 709-3910 or hmanley@prairiestate.edu.

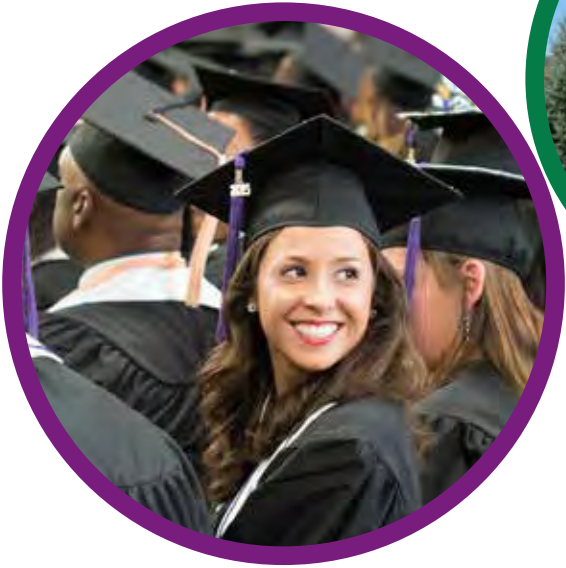


ATHLETICS

PSC offers sports for both men and women. For more information, visit prairiestate.edu/athletics or call (708) 709-3950.



STUDENT LIFE AND RESOURCES



TRiO (SSS)

TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) assists those students who are low-income, first-generation, and/or disabled. This program provides mentoring, builds academic and social networks, and facilitates the transfer process to four-year colleges and universities. SSS is grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education at \$202,031 annually and provides services to 160 eligible PSC students each academic year.

TRiO SSS provides academic assistance and facilitates workshops on career exploration, study skills, computer technology, and financial/economic literacy. The program's goal is to retain and graduate program participants, and operates under the practice of providing each student with individualized, personalized services designed to help them be successful. For more information, visit the Counseling and Academic Advising Center or call (708) 709-7933.

Learning Achievement Center (LAC)

The LAC, located in Room 1140, offers services for all students, including 18 state-of-the-art PCs (6 computers with HAWKES software), laptop and scientific calculator loans, a small library, and headphone rental.

Health Promotion Programming

Health Promotion Programming strives to create a campus culture in which everyone makes informed and responsible decisions about personal and community health. For more information, call (708) 709-7988 or email ddieudonne@prairiestate.edu.

Bilingual Advising

PSC helps Spanish speaking students and their families select their academic programs. For more information, call (708) 709-3510.

Male Success Initiative

Program participants benefit from personalized academic advising, on-and off-campus seminars, workshops, conferences, college trips, networking, and mentoring opportunities. For more information, call (708) 709-2946 or email wberkley@prairiestate.edu.

Hispanic Outreach

For a list of events and programs, visit prairiestate.edu/studentlife/hispanicoutreach.html. For more information, call (708) 709-3510 or email jrodriguez2216@prairiestate.edu.

Cultural Events and Programs

For a list of events and programs, select Multicultural Student Services from the Student Life dropdown menu on the PSC homepage.

STUDENT LIFE AND RESOURCES

Learning Communities (LC)

LC courses provide fun, active opportunities for students and professors to learn together. Each community combines at least two courses—the typical courses that students need to graduate. The difference is the connections in the community that lead to student success! For more information, contact Dianne DeSousa at (708) 709-3652 or ddesousa@prairiestate.edu or Dr. Loretta Kucharczyk at (708) 709-3622 or lkucharczyk@prairiestate.edu, or visit prairiestate.edu/lc.

Service Learning

Service learning is a method of teaching and learning that combines classroom instruction with hands-on experience in the community. There are several service learning opportunities available each semester. For more information, contact the Office of Student Life at (708) 709-3503.

Study Abroad

In association with the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs (ICISP), PSC is able to provide students with opportunities to study abroad and experience different cultures. ICISP is a consortium of 40 community colleges and small liberal arts colleges that offers summer or semester-long study abroad programs in several countries.

Note: Students do not have to be enrolled in Spanish to participate in the Study Abroad program. For more information, contact Teresa McCann at (708) 709-3643 or tmccann@prairiestate.edu.

Tuition Free Course for High School Seniors

Learn more by selecting Free Class for High School Seniors from the A-Z index.

Tuition for Senior Citizens

Learn more at prairiestate.edu/apply-reg-pay.

Recycling Statement

In compliance with Illinois Public Act 86-1363, the Board of Trustees supports a waste reduction program at PSC, which includes source reduction, recycling, and the purchasing of products with recycled content. Faculty, staff, and students of the college are expected to comply with this program.



TRANSFER INFORMATION

The Counseling and Academic Advising team is your connection to making a successful transfer to a four-year college or university to earn your bachelor's degree. Be sure to take advantage of the workshops, college fairs, admission visits, and resources to assure a successful transfer. Online resources are available at: prairiestate.edu/counselingAdvising/transferstudents.

PSC is a participant in the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI), a statewide agreement among the more than 100 Illinois colleges, universities, and community colleges. Participating schools agree to accept a "package" of IAI general education courses instead of their comparable lower-division general education requirements. For more information, visit the IAI Web site at itransfer.org, or call the Counseling and Academic Advising Center at (708) 709-3506. The following IAI codes identify qualifying courses:



IAI Baccalaureate Major Course Codes:

IAI:AG Agriculture
IAI: BIO Biology
IAI: BUS Business
IAI: CHM Chemistry
IAI: CS Computer Science
IAI: CRJ Criminal Justice
IAI: EGL English
IAI: EGR Engineering
IAI: HST History
IAI: IND Industrial Technology
IAI: MC Mass Communication
IAI: MTH Mathematics
IAI: PHY Physics
IAI: PLS Political Science
IAI: PSY Psychology
IAI: SOC Sociology
IAI:TA Theatre Arts

IAI General Education Course Codes:

IAI: C Communications
IAI: F Fine Arts
IAI: H Humanities
IAI: HF Humanities/Fine Arts
IAI: L Life Sciences
IAI: LP Life/Physical Sciences
IAI: M Mathematics
IAI: P Physical Sciences
IAI: S Social/Behavioral Sciences

For a complete listing of the degrees and certificate programs offered at PSC, visit prairiestate.edu/academics.



Prepare to Transfer for your Bachelor's Degree

Semester One

- Choose your major
- Attend PSC college fairs
- Choose your top 3-4 colleges for transfer

Semester Two

- Visit the colleges you are considering
- Begin searching for scholarships

Semester Three

- Apply for admission to the colleges you are considering
- Apply for scholarships and financial aid

Semester Four

- Confirm acceptance with next college
- Apply for graduation from PSC
- Request an official evaluation of transfer credits

TYPES OF AID AVAILABLE

For those who qualify, there are several types of financial assistance available to help fund college expenses.

Grants

Grants are forms of financial assistance that do not have to be repaid. They are provided for students from limited-income families.

Pell Grant

Federal Pell Grants are available from the federal government and are based upon calculated financial need.

MAP Grant

Available to Illinois residents who will attend approved Illinois colleges and demonstrate financial need based on the information provided on the FAFSA.

Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) program is for undergraduates with exceptional financial need. Pell Grant recipients with the lowest expected family contributions (EFCs) will be considered first for a FSEOG. Just like Pell Grants, the FSEOG does not have to be repaid.

Withdrawals and Attendance:

Title IV funds are awarded under the assumption that the student will attend school for the entire period for which the assistance is awarded. When a student withdraws, he/she may no longer be eligible for the full amount of Title IV funds.



Student Loans

Loans are federally or privately funded sources of assistance that must be repaid with interest. Student loans can be a useful tool in funding your education, but use them wisely. You should be aware of the responsibility of borrowing money to finance your education. Per the Federal Default Management Guidelines, students requesting to borrow student loans must have a completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file and make an appointment for a loan Entrance Interview with the loan advisor in the Financial Aid Office.

Any refusal to originate a Direct Loan or reduction in the amount of an individual borrower's eligibility for a Direct Loan will be made on a case-by-case basis. The decision to limit Direct Loan availability will be provided to the student or parent borrower in writing and that documentation supporting the determination will be retained in the student's file at the school.

Students who have earned a bachelor's degree or professional degree are not eligible for grants.

Schedule a loan appointment online.

Federal Stafford Loan Programs

These loans are low-interest loans to help you pay for your college education. There are two kinds of federal Stafford loans, Subsidized and Unsubsidized.

Subsidized

The subsidized loan is based on need, and the government pays the interest while the student is enrolled on at least a half-time basis.

Unsubsidized

The unsubsidized loan is a non-need-based loan for educational expenses. The student is responsible for the interest upon disbursement.

Federal PLUS Loan Program

The Federal PLUS Loan is a non-need-based federal program. Parents of a dependent student may borrow up to the cost of attendance minus any financial aid to help finance their student's undergraduate education. The loan interest rate is fixed at 8.5 percent.

TYPES OF AID AVAILABLE

Employment

Work Study

The Federal Work Study program provides on-campus and nonprofit off-campus employment for students while they attend college. The number of hours worked weekly is determined by the amount of work-study dollars awarded and financial need.

Students who receive Federal Work Study funds must:

- Demonstrate need to be eligible for work-study funds.
- Be paid at least federal minimum wage.
- Perform work-study employment from 5-20 hours per week.

Scholarships

Scholarships are available both through the Prairie State College Foundation as well as several outside sources. Scholarships are a form of financial assistance that does not need to be repaid.

PSC Foundation Scholarships

The PSC Foundation awards more than \$75,000 in scholarships annually to students who are not fully funded through any other source.

How to Apply

Step 1: Register for classes.

Foundation awards are not to hold a class. Foundation scholarships are for partial costs, pending available funds.

Step 2: File a FAFSA

The PSC Foundation assists those who are not eligible for federal or state aid, but every applicant must have filed FAFSA.

Step 3: Sign up and complete the PSC Foundation scholarship application online at prairiestate.edu/foundation.



Picture *yourself* at PSC!



 **Prairie State College**

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