

What students say

Here are excerpts from recent Honors Program student surveys:

"I like feeling more involved. In Honors, it seems easier to participate. Discussions are great. I learn more from hearing everyone's opinion."

"The smaller class size is great. Everyone seems to know everyone else—it has a warmer atmosphere."

"It encourages me to speak and voice my opinions, adding tremendously to my learning experience."

"Interactions are key; I've made friends in Honors classes."

"I value the community we've created, the level of respect."

"The research papers have allowed me to get back into the swing of writing for school, and my speeches have benefitted overall."

"I found the field trip to be valuable. I like the lab activities."

Are you eligible?

To begin taking honors courses, students must have *either* 12 hours of college-level PSC coursework with a minimum GPA of 3.5, *or* any one of the following composite scores: ACT 25, COMPASS 220, SAT 1140, with college-level scores in reading and English. To continue taking Honors courses, students should maintain at least a 3.5 GPA.

National Affiliation

Prairie State College is a member of several nationally recognized organizations, including the National Collegiate Honors Council, the Upper Midwest Honors Council and the Honors Council of the Illinois Region.

PSC also is home to a five-star chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the national community college honor society, in which many Honors students participate.



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 covers 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.

Honors Program



Comm 04/11

 **Prairie State College**

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Start *near*. Go *far*.

 **Prairie State College**
prairiestate.edu

Honors Program

An enriched environment

PSC Honors courses are designed to help students get the most out of their education—rewarding higher achievement with enhanced learning and transfer options. Honors classes are not more difficult, just different. The smaller class size means more emphasis is placed on lively discussions and special projects and less on lectures and test-taking. In this creative environment instructors are open to student input and willing to try new ideas appropriate to a student's level of interest.

Earn benefits

The benefits of taking Honors classes don't end once the class does. Because the Honors notation appears on transcripts, Honors classes enhance students' opportunities to transfer to four-year colleges and universities and receive scholarships.

Honors program students also have the added benefit of registering before all other Prairie State students, allowing them first pick of the classes they want and need. Consult with an enrollment advisor for more information.



For More Information

**Sarah Hein, counselor/transfer coordinator, (708) 709-3508
or e-mail shein@prairiestate.edu.**

**Dr. Loretta Kucharczyk, coordinator, intentional advising services, (708) 709-3622
or e-mail lkucharczyk@prairiestate.edu.**

**Professor Maurine Stein, Honors Program coordinator, (708) 709-3771
or e-mail mstein@prairiestate.edu**

Consider the facts

How are Honors classes the same as other classes?

- An Honors class fits the same official course outline as other sections of the course.
- An Honors class earns the same number of credit hours.
- An Honors class is not more difficult. Honors students are graded according to the same standard used for other sections, though not necessarily by using the same methods of evaluation.
- Honors classes are designed to have about the same amount of homework as other sections of the course.

How are Honors classes different from other classes?

- An Honors class offers a different learning experience, typically (but not necessarily) stressing depth of coverage, discussion over lecture, and projects or creative work over test taking. These differences are explained at the start of each Honors course.
- Honors classes are limited to 18 students; the small class size allows for more discussion and more individual attention from the instructor.
- Honors students get to know each other because of the small class sizes, group projects, and seeing some classmates in more than one Honors class.
- An Honors class will include at least one field trip or guest speaker. The Honors Program offers these “extras” to make each course an even more memorable experience.
- At graduation, students who have successfully completed nine hours or more of Honors classes wear a special white cord.



Unique Opportunities

All Honors classes fulfill general education requirements. Students may enroll in several or in just one. PSC offers Honors classes in the fall and spring terms in Art, English (Composition and Literature), History, Humanities, Natural Sciences, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, and Social Sciences. Some Honors classes are offered together as Learning Communities. This double course format enriches the Honors experience and allows some individual assignments to be counted for credit in both courses.