
ASSOCIATE
IN
**GENERAL
STUDIES**

Associate in General Studies

Program Code: 0003

Description:

These requirements are for students whose interests and educational objectives do not fall within either a traditional transfer or occupational program. The Associate in General Studies degree allows students to explore a wide range of subject areas without concentrating on any particular one. **This degree is not designed to transfer to four-year colleges or universities or, in most cases, to prepare for career entry.**

Admission:

In general, the intentions of the AGS are to provide: 1) a liberal studies program; 2) an individualized program meeting needs not met by other programs; and 3) a capstone program for graduates of occupational certificate programs. Students requesting admission into the Associate in General Studies degree program will be required to establish a formal degree plan with an academic advisor and take the college Placement Test for appropriate course placement in English and math. This plan must be filed with Enrollment Services prior to the completion of the last 15 credits of required coursework. **Students who have earned an associate degree or are eligible for an associate degree other than the AGS will not be considered for this degree.**

Terms:

Students have six years to complete the requirements for the program they have declared. If the requirements are not completed within six years, students will be required to meet degree requirements for the program in effect at that time. However, students not enrolled for three consecutive semesters (not including summer) must meet the curriculum requirements in effect at the time of re-enrollment. Students can always choose to complete the current curriculum degree requirements.

Total Hours:

A minimum of 64 semester credits is required for this degree.

Residency:

Fifteen of the last 24 credits must be completed at Southwestern Illinois College.

GPA:

A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 is required for the degree.

Human Relations:

One of the following courses must be completed. The course that is selected may also be applied toward the Humanities or Social/Behavioral Science General Education requirement as applicable. For reference, these courses are listed in **white** print in the general education areas.

- _____ Humanities: HIST 230, LIT 117, LIT 215, LIT 216
- _____ Social Science: HIST 180, HIST 181, HIST 292, POLS 150
- _____ Behavioral Science: PSYC 265, PSYC 295, SOC 153, SOC 203, SOC 230

Math and English Course Placement:

All beginning degree-seeking students are required to be assessed and placed in the appropriate math and/or English classes. For more information, please refer to the *Math and English Course Placement* section in this catalog.

College Success Strategies:

Beginning students are encouraged to enroll in ED 101 College Success Strategies. For information regarding these courses, see the *Course Description Guide* at the back of the catalog.

Apply for Graduation:

Students must submit an application to Enrollment Services. Applications can be submitted through eSTORM or through Enrollment Services. To be considered for a specific term, applications must be received by the following dates:

<u>Term</u>	<u>Application Date</u>
Fall/December	Oct. 15
Spring/May	Feb. 15
Summer/July	June 15

Community Service, Education and Partnerships

Adult Education and Literacy

Illinois High School Equivalency
English as a Second Language/Citizenship/
Vocational Training
Literacy Services
Youth Programs
College and Career Transitions

Belleville AmeriCorps

Programs and Services for Older Persons

Educational Programs, Activities & Travel
Health and Wellness
Caregiver Counseling Programs
Volunteer Opportunities
Home Care, Intergenerational and Housing Programs
Illinois Telecommunication Access Corporation
Transportation

Adult Education and Literacy:

Illinois High School Equivalency, English as a Second Language, Vocational Training and Literacy

swic.edu/adult-education

Director Meredith Shivers, MS
Assistant Director: Cynthia Jenkins, Ed.D.
English as a Second Language Director: Leslie Wagner, MA
Literacy Coordinator: Mary J. Margarida, MA

Adult Education and Literacy provides free classes in reading, Illinois High School Equivalency Test Preparation, English as a Second Language, Citizenship, and computer skills. In cooperation with other college departments, Adult Education and Literacy offers vocational training in welding, nurse assistant, construction, security, warehousing, office skills, and health science. These classes and services are offered at the Belleville, Red Bud and Sam Wolf Granite City campuses, the East St. Louis Higher Education Center and at additional sites throughout the district. Day and evening classes are available.

Case management is an intricate component of SWIC Adult Education's enrollment and transitional services. Therefore, referral and supportive services are provided as needed to assist learners in reducing personal barriers that may affect their ability to meet their education, employment, and career goals. Supportive services range from remote services to transportation assistance.

Generally, Adult Education and Literacy serves individuals 16 years and older who lack a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent; those for whom English is a second language or people deficient in the basic educational skills needed to function effectively in society. The overall goals of the federal and state legislation for adult education are to assist adults in obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency. At Southwestern Illinois College, all adult education programs incorporate basic computer literacy, and there is a strong emphasis on transitioning students into the college's regular credit classes and programs.

High school equivalency test preparation classes provide intensive preparation for the high school equivalency test. Instruction incorporates the four subject areas of the high school equivalency test – language arts, social studies, science, and math. Classes are short in duration and focus on both the Illinois Content Standards and needed test-taking skills. An online high school equivalency test preparation course is available each semester as well as bridge courses that focus on high school equivalency preparation and readiness for college coursework in specific occupational fields (health care, manufacturing, distribution and logistics). There are frequent opportunities for self-evaluation to determine readiness to test and the opportunity to take the U.S. and Illinois Constitution test ahead of the high school equivalency testing time. Classes are available in person and remotely.

English as a Second Language classes teach non-native English speaking immigrant adults to understand, speak, read and write English. Instruction incorporates best practices from

adult learning and language acquisition theory, and all classes are highly interactive. Students at the highest levels are encouraged to transition into regular college courses. Digital Literacy, Civics, and Career and Educational readiness skills are incorporated. ESL classes are offered both days and evenings at the Belleville and Sam Wolf Granite City campuses and Fairmont City on a year-round schedule. **Citizenship classes** prepare students to take the test for naturalization.

Vocational Adult Education collaborates with other college departments to provide additional vocational training opportunities. Since space is limited, acceptance into the vocational training programs is competitive. Candidates must be adult education eligible and successfully complete an entrance process. Tuition, fees and program expenses are paid through Adult Education and Literacy for those accepted into the program. Students who enroll through Adult Education and literacy commit to efforts to find employment in the field of their training or to pursue further training. Current areas of study are:

- Construction
- Forklift
- Manufacturing
- Nurse Assistant
- Warehousing
- Welding

In addition to formal classes and programs, Adult Education and Literacy provides other education services. A **Project READ Adult Volunteer Literacy Program** provides free literacy tutoring to individuals throughout the district who need to improve their basic reading and math skills. Tutors meet with individuals at the campuses, in libraries or in other public places.

A **Youth Empowerment Support Services Program (YESS)** help low-income, out-of-school youths ages 16-24 earn their high school equivalency and transition into further education and employment. It operates out of the Belleville and the Red Bud campuses and is a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act-sponsored program. Finally, the **Education to Careers program** provides guidance and assistance to young adult dropouts in St. Clair County. Early School Leaver provides case management to youth to assist them in completing the high school equivalency certificate, find and keep employment, and explore available educational and training opportunities.

Reading and mathematics classes are designed to help students improve their reading, writing and math skills. Instruction incorporates best practices from research in adult learning. Classes are short and intensive with opportunity for frequent self-evaluation of progress. These classes use subject matter that students will need if they take the high school equivalency test. There is a technological component to many of the classes. Classes are offered both days and evenings at the Belleville and Sam Wolf Granite City campuses and East St. Louis Higher Education Center on a year-round schedule.

Adult Education and Literacy (continued)

College and Career Transition programs provide the opportunity to learn the skills necessary to a) gain entry-level employment in a variety of career fields; b) work toward obtaining an industry recognized credential; c) work toward an associate degree.

Transition programs are based on the ICAPS model (Integrated Career and Academic Preparation System) and combine adult education classes with credit-bearing, foundation courses in Office Automation and Technology, Healthcare or Computer Technology.

- The **Healthcare** transition program consists of two programs of study. In the area of high school equivalency, students may work toward passing their equivalency test while being enrolled in classes that are taught within the context of a career in a healthcare field. Students who earn their high school equivalency or already have a high school diploma/ equivalent may enroll in the Certified Nurse Assistant ICAPS program. In this program, students are co-enrolled in HRO 105 Nurse Assistant and GSBS 119 Health Career Support Skills, a support class offered by the Adult Education and Literacy department and is designed to help ensure that students pass the HRO 105 class while learning how to conduct a job search, use the internet to apply for jobs, participate in interviews and most importantly, learn effective on-the-job behaviors. Students may also elect to transition into other healthcare fields of study at SWIC.

Free Academic Classes

GSBS 52 Careers in Health Sciences I .5-3 credits

This course will assist students in developing their reading, writing and math skills using resources and materials from health sciences. Students will explore personal interests and aptitudes with the health science field and the career pathways pursued by health care professional. This course is designed for persons preparing for the GED and transitioning into college-level study in the health sciences.

Type: P

GSBS 53 Careers in Health Sciences II .5-3 credits

This course will assist students in developing their reading writing and math skills using resources and materials from the health sciences. Students will refine their career goals within health science and research specific interests. They will develop the needed personal, academic and computer skills needed for study and work in this field. This course is designed for persons preparing for the high school equivalency exam and transitioning into college-level study in the health sciences.

Type: P

GSBS 54 Careers in Health Sciences III .5-3 credits

This course will assist students in developing their reading writing and math skills using resources and materials from the health sciences. Students will explore personal interests and aptitudes within the health science field, learn the steps necessary to transition into post-secondary health care education and develop a personal plan for career development. They will develop the needed personal, academic and computer skills needed for

study and work in this field. This course is designed for persons preparing for the high school equivalency exam and transitioning into college-level study in the health sciences.

Type: P

GSBS 70 Spanish HSE Language Arts .5-3 credits

This course covers the essentials of Spanish grammar, essay writing, and reading comprehension necessary to prepare for the Language Arts component of the Spanish language version of the high school equivalency exam.

Type: P

GSBS 71 Spanish HSE Math Test Prep .5-3 credits

This course concentrates on quantitative and algebraic problem solving to prepare students for the math component of the Spanish language version of the high school equivalency exam. Content is taught in Spanish and includes conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and developing the ability to apply these in workforce and academic contexts.

Type: P

GSBS 72 Spanish HSE Science Test Prep .5-3 credits

This course concentrates on the three context domains of life science, physical science, and Earth and Space Science in order to prepare students for the Spanish language version of the high school equivalency exam. Content is taught in Spanish and includes textual analysis and understanding, data representation and inference skills, and problem solving in academic and workforce contexts.

Type: P

GSBS 73 Spanish HSE Social Studies .5-3 credits

This course concentrates on the content domains of civics and government, United States history, economics, and geography and the world to prepare students for the Spanish language version of the high school equivalency exam. Content is taught in Spanish and includes development of problem-solving skills in academic and workplace contexts. The Constitutions of the U.S. and Illinois are studied.

Type: P

GSBS 84 Beginning ELA I .5-6 credits

This is the first of two beginning level English language classes for students who speak little or no English. The course aids non-native English speaking students in the development of very basic oral and written English abilities.

Type: P

GSBS 87 Beginning ELA II .5-6 credits

This is the second of two beginning level English language classes for students who speak little or no English. The course aids non-native English speaking students in the development of very basic oral and written English abilities.

Type: P

GSBS 100 Pre HSE I .5-6 credits

This course is the first in a series of high school equivalency test preparation classes that includes basic skills such as literacy, reading, computation, communication, life skills and library and study skills.

Type: P

Adult Education and Literacy (continued)

GSBS 101 Pre HSE II .5-6 credits

This course is the second in a series of high school equivalency test preparation classes that includes basic skills such as literacy, reading, computation, communication, life skills and library and study skills. It covers the essentials of English, grammar, essay writing and comprehension in math, social studies, science and literature.

Type: P

GSBS 102 Pre HSE III .5-6 credits

This course is the third in a series of high school equivalency test preparation classes that includes basic skills such as literacy, reading, computation, communication, life skills and library and study skills. It takes students into progressively more challenging components in English, grammar, essay writing and comprehension in math, social studies, science and literature.

Type: P

GSBS 103 Pre HSE IV .5-6 credits

This course is the fourth in a series of high school equivalency test preparation classes that includes basic skills such as literacy, reading, computation, communication, life skills and library and study skills. It takes students into progressively more challenging components in English, grammar, essay writing and comprehension in math, social studies, science and literature.

This course also prepares students to move into HSE (secondary education) classes.

Type: P

GSBS 104 Pre HSE V .5-6 credits

This course is the fifth in a series of high school equivalency test preparation classes that includes basic skills such as literacy, reading, computation, communication, life skills and library and study skills. It takes students into progressively more challenging components in English, grammar, essay writing and comprehension in math, social studies, science and literature.

This course also prepares students to move into HSE (secondary education) classes.

Type: P

GSBS 105 Pre HSE VI .5-12 credits

This course is the sixth in a series of high school equivalency test preparation classes that includes basic skills such as literacy, reading, computation, communication, life skills and library and study skills. It takes students into progressively more challenging components in English, grammar, essay writing and comprehension in math, social studies, science and literature.

This course also prepares students to move into HSE (secondary education) classes and introduces the study of the Constitution.

Type: P

GSBS 110 HSE Manufacturing Bridge .5-4 credits

A part of a series of transition course, GSBS 110 provides contextualized high school equivalency instruction in the area of manufacturing and occupational knowledge and skills. The course is delivered through a series of modules and prepares students to take the high school equivalency exam and transition into post-secondary studies at the institution.

Type: P

GSBS 112 Intermediate ELA I .5-6 credits

This is the first of two intermediate level English language classes for non-native English speaking students who have basic English abilities. The course focuses on improving English reading, writing, listening, and speaking abilities for the purpose of meeting basic survival and social needs. Technology is introduced as a component of language learning.

Type: P

GSBS 113 Intermediate ELA II .5-6 credits

This is the second of two intermediate level English language classes for non-native English speaking students who have basic English abilities. The course focuses on improving English reading, writing, listening, and speaking abilities for the purpose of meeting basic survival and social needs. Technology is introduced as a component of language learning.

Type: P

GSBS 114 Advanced ELA I .5-6 credits

This is the first of two advanced level English language classes for non-native English speaking students. The course focuses on improving English reading, writing, listening, and speaking abilities for the purpose of community participation, employment, and/or to further the educational opportunities in the U.S. Students completing this level are able to begin High School Equivalency preparation or transition to a vocational training program.

Type: P

GSBS 115 Advanced ELA II .5-6 credits

This is the second of two advanced level English language classes for non-native English speaking students. The course focuses on improving English reading, writing, listening, and speaking abilities for the purpose of community participation, employment, and/or to further the educational opportunities in the U.S. Students completing this level are able to begin High School Equivalency preparation or transition to a vocational training program.

Type: P

GSBS 120 ESL Reading Skills 3 credits

This is a basic reading class designed to help intermediate to advanced level ELA students develop confidence in reading. A focus on essential reading strategies will help students improve reading comprehension and speed while developing vocabulary building and basic academic skills. Students will read texts from a variety of sources on life skills and workplace topics to develop critical thinking skills in preparation for a successful transition into postsecondary education or training, or employment.

GSBS 121 ABE Review Math .5-3 credits

This course describes the development of computing and other mathematical reasoning abilities. It includes basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, percentages, and measurements.

Type: P

Adult Education and Literacy (continued)

GSBS 122 ABE Review .5-3 credits

This course is a transition course designed to prepare students to move into Adult Secondary Education classes and further prepare for passing the high school equivalency test. It is a comprehensive review of basic literacy, reading, computation, communication, life skills and library and study skills.

Type: P

GSBS 126 ABE Math .5-6 credits

This course covers reading comprehension problems in several areas of basic-level mathematics.

Type: P

GSBS 127 ABE Math-Accelerated .5-6 credits

This course covers reading comprehension problems in several areas of basic-level mathematics. This course is for students who have a higher reading comprehension score than is required for GSBS 126.

Type: P

GSBS 131 HSE Math Test Prep .5-3 credits

This course concentrates on quantitative problem solving and algebraic problem solving to prepare students for the math component of the high school equivalency exam. Content includes conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and developing the ability to apply these in workforce and academic contexts.

Type: P

GSBS 132 ASE Test Prep .5-3 credits

This course includes instruction in language arts, science and social studies in preparation for the high school equivalency exam. Content includes study skills, technology, and test preparation skills.

Type: P

GSBS 140 ABE Citizenship .5-3 credits

This course is designed to prepare the student for American citizenship. The student will learn about the Constitution, American history and the structure of the United States government.

Type: P

GSBS 141 ELAP Transitional Reading I .5-6 credits

This is the first of two transitional reading skills courses for non-native English speakers who have completed or tested out of Adult Education ELAP classes and who are preparing for post-secondary education at a U.S. college or university. This course is designed to strengthen reading skills and will focus on reading comprehension, ability to make inferences, reading speed, and vocabulary building strategies.

Type: P

GSBS 142 ELAP Transitional Reading II .5-6 credits

This is the second of two transitional reading skills courses for non-native English speakers who have completed or tested out of Adult Education ELAP classes and who are preparing for post-secondary education at a U.S. college or university. This course is designed to strengthen reading skills and will focus on reading comprehension, ability to make inferences, reading speed, and vocabulary building strategies.

Type: P

GSBS 150 ESL Career Exploration .5-6 credits

This class serves intermediate-level ESL students looking to improve their language skills while learning about education and career pathways available to them. Students will also be guided in assessing their own skills & goals, and will develop a personal portfolio containing their resume, interview strategies, etc. Frequent guest speakers will share information on various programs available to Adult Education students, such as CNA and Precision Machining, and on transitioning to college education.

Type: P

GSBS 158 ABE Job Skills .5-4 credits

This course is for the student who is looking for a job or seeking a better job. It is a variable credit course with four levels. ABE Job Skills I: value activities, goal setting and workplace exploration. ABE Job Skills II: searches, applications, interviewing and behaviors. ABE Job Skills III: planning, budgeting and basic computer skills. ABE Job Skills IV: computer usage, computer applications, job practices and behaviors.

Type: P

GSBS 159 Career Development .5-2 credits

This variable credit course provides opportunities for career exploration using Illinois Career Cluster framework and for the development of the skills necessary to enter post-secondary education for ultimate employment within that cluster.

Type: P

GSBS 160 ABE Career Pathways .5-1 credits

This class prepares students to enter ABE-level Math and Language Arts classes by helping them to determine career goals and select a career pathway. Students will also learn how the Adult Education program can help them obtain a high school equivalency certificate, vocational certificate or transition into credit-bearing classes at SWIC.

Type: P

GSBS 161 ASE Career Pathways .5-1 credits

This class prepares students to enter ABE-level Math and Language Arts classes by helping them to determine career goals and select a career pathway. Students will also learn how the Adult Education program can help them obtain at high school equivalency certificate, vocational certificate or transition into credit-bearing classes at SWIC.

Type: P

GSBS 162 ASE Citizenship .5-1 credits

This course is designed for advanced level students preparing for American Citizenship. Students will study the U.S. Constitution and American history.

GSBS 163 ESL Forklift Readiness .5 credits

This is a support class for no-native English speakers who need language support in order to successfully complete IML 189, Forklift Truck Safety Certification Class. Class instruction will focus on vocabulary integral to the topic of forklifts and forklift safety.

Type: P

Adult Education and Literacy (continued)

GSBS 165 Basic Job Skills .5-4 credits

This course introduces students to job skills. The variable credit courses provide: Basic Job Skills I: value activities, goal setting, and workplace exploration. Basic Job Skills II: searches, applications, interviewing, and behaviors. Basic Job Skills III: planning, budgeting, workplace exploration, and basic computers. Basic Job Skills IV: computer usage, computer applications, job practices, and behaviors.

Type: P

GSBS 166 ASE Job Skills .5-4 credits

This course introduces students to job skills. The variable credit courses provide: Basic Job Skills I: value activities, goal setting, and workplace exploration. Basic Job Skills II: searches, applications, interviewing, and behaviors. Basic Job Skills III: planning, budgeting, workplace exploration, and basic computers. Basic Job Skills IV: computer usage, computer applications, job practices, and behaviors.

Type: P

GSBS 167 Transitions to College .5-2 credits

This variable credit course provides opportunities for career exploration using Illinois Career Cluster framework and for the development of the skills necessary to enter post-secondary education for ultimate employment within that cluster.

Type: P

GSBS 190 HSE Test Prep I .5-6 credits

This course covers the essentials in English grammar, essay writing, and reading comprehension necessary to prepare for the Language Arts component of the high school equivalency exam.

Type: P

GSBS 191 HSE Test Prep IV .5-6 credits

This course is the fourth in a series of high school equivalency test preparation classes that builds upon the work of prior courses and includes the essentials of language arts, math, science and social studies as well as life skills and workforce skills.

Type: P

GSBS 192 HSE Test Prep II .5-6 credits

This course concentrates on the three context domains of life science, physical science, and Earth and space science in order to prepare students for the high school equivalency exam. Content includes textual analysis and understanding, data representation and inference skills, and problem solving in academic and workforce contexts.

Type: P

GSBS 193 HSE Test Prep III .5-6 credits

This course concentrates on the content domains of civics and government, United States history, economics, and geography and the world to prepare students for the high school equivalency exam. Instruction focuses on the development of problem-solving skills in academic and workplace contexts. The Constitutions of the U.S. and Illinois are covered.

Type: P

GSBS 194 HSE Test Prep V .5-6 credits

This course is the fifth in a series of high school equivalency test preparation classes that builds upon the work of prior courses and includes the essentials of language arts, math, science and social studies as well as life skills and workforce skills. Deeper study of the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions are included.

Type: P

GSBS 195 HSE Test VI .5-6 credits

This course is the sixth in a series of high school equivalency test preparation classes that builds upon the work of prior courses and includes the essentials of language arts, math, science and social studies as well as life skills and workforce skills. In-depth study of the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions are included.

Type: P

GS-Dev/Review Vocation Skills

GSVR 81 Life Skills for Special Needs 2 credits

Teaches and reinforces specific skills needed for adults with special needs to function in society. Class is designed to teach related skills, independent living, safety and other related topics.

Type: P

GSVR 136 Small Gas Engines .5-3 credits

Students become familiar with small two and four-cycled gas engines, their construction, operation, problem areas, and how to service and repair them.

GS-Homemaking Skills

GSBM 59 Woodworking 2 credits

Includes a background of shop safety procedures, use of machine and hand tools and fasteners and abrasives. This class also includes the study of gluing operations and wood joints.

GS-Intellect/Cultural Develop

GSIC 51 Conversational Spanish I .5-2 credits

This is a practical course, which helps the traveler with basic patterns of Spanish.

Vocational Classes

GSVR 170 Construction Math & Technology .5-6 credits

This course provides students with job-related mathematics and building trades applications that are typically performed on calculators, computers and other electronic equipment. Students will learn and use Master-Pro calculators for in-class training in order to perform effectively on the job.

Type: P

GSVR 176 Career Exploration & Readiness .5-4 credits

This course enables students to better understand the contemporary work environment and prepares them for successful transition into work and a career. Students engage in personal skills analysis, set personal goals and examine the demands of various career paths. They learn how to search for employment, prepare a resume and job application and practice interviewing. In addition, students upgrade oral and written communications and basic computer usage skills.

Type: P

GSVR 181 Career Exploration Spanish .5-4 credits

This class prepares students to enter into Spanish HSE classes by helping them to define career goals and select a Career Pathway. Students will also learn how the Adult Education program can help them obtain a high school equivalency certificate, vocational certificate or transition into credit-bearing classes at SWIC.

Type: P

Community Education and Partnerships

Community Education

swic.edu/community

Community Education courses are designed for students who are interested in personal development activities. These courses are offered at the Belleville campus.

Community Education credit is not applicable toward any associate degree or occupational certificate at Southwestern Illinois College. For further information, call the office of Community Education at 618-235-2700, ext. 5393.

Personal Development and Individual Enrichment Courses

Community Education offers noncredit classes for residents of various ages. Computer education, grant writing, and ethnic cuisine are just a few of the offerings available through this department. Classes are short-term and reasonably priced, meeting on Saturdays or weeknights for your convenience.

Programs for youth are available in the summer. The summer Kids on Campus and College for Kids programs offer students the opportunity to learn while having fun. Week-long programs feature everything from rocket science to multicultural and foreign language experiences to computer game design.

High school students who need help getting into the college of their choice can attend SAT Prep Classes at SWIC. These noncredit Saturday classes provide students with helpful hints for interpreting questions and understanding the types of information included in the test. Advance registration is required.

Development/Review of Vocational Skills

GSVR 81 Life Skills for Special Needs **2 credits**

Teaches and reinforces specific skills needed for adults with special needs to function in society. Class is designed to teach related skills, independent living, safety and other related topics.

Type: P

Paraprofessional Test for Teacher's Aides

Individuals who would like to work as a teaching aide in local schools must pass a certification test. This certification is required for employment in most Illinois schools.

Classes to assist in preparing for this test are available through the Community Education office. The WorkKeys Paraprofessional Certification Test is also offered through this office. For schedule of classes and test dates, please contact the Community Education office at 618-235-2700, ext. 5393.

Special Interest Seminars

Local experts share information on topics of interest to members of the community. These programs are offered over several weeks and cover a variety of topics. Currently, residents can attend seminars on Medicare and Buying & Selling Homes.

For information on any of these classes or programs, call the Community Education office, 618-235-2700, ext. 5393, or visit the office in Room 2030 of the Information Sciences Building, Belleville Campus.

The National Test Center – Scott Air Force Base

The National Test Center at Scott Air Force Base offers CLEP, DSST, and school exams to active duty military, Air Force and Army Reserve, Air National Guard, Army National Guard, dependents, retirees, civilians, and contractors who have access to Scott Air Force Base. CLEP and DSST exams demonstrate a test taker's mastery of a college subject. Testers who pass may receive 3-6 college credits for these exams depending on their school policy. There are 33 CLEP exams and 34 DSST exams offered. Students taking online college courses who need a proctor for mid-term/final exams may contact the NTC. The NTC is located in the Base Education Center, Room 76. Exams are offered multiple days and times with a schedule built out two months in advance. For more information, contact Lillian.Sands@swic.edu at, 618-641-6677, or 618-744-9517

Scott Air Force Base

Although students need not be affiliated with the military to attend class on base, Scott Air Force Base has an office and educational center for Air Force personnel who want to work toward their Community College of the Air Force or other degrees. SWIC personnel are available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday to answer questions and help students register for classes, access financial aid and complete forms for college programs. Classes are held on base at the education center during the evenings. A computer lab is also available for student use.

For more information on Scott Air Force Base classes, contact Michelle.Deverman@swic.edu, 618-235-2700, ext. 5056, or 618-746-4200.

Wyvetter Younge (East St. Louis) Higher Education Center

The Wyvetter Younge (East St. Louis) Higher Education Center, located at 601 James R. Thompson Blvd., also houses SWIC classes and programs. Students can enroll in college classes and certificate programs at this location. Adult Education (High School Equivalency), CNA, welding and other vocational programs are offered at this site.

activities. Additional Running Start programs are available for one-year opportunities.

Community Education and Partnerships

(continued)

Belleville AmeriCorps

swic.edu/amicorps

Belleville AmeriCorps, a partnership with the city of Belleville, SWIC, Belleville School District No. 118, Belleville School District No. 175, the Franklin Neighborhood Community Association, and the 17th St. Neighborhood Association, has provided services addressing the educational and community development needs of the surrounding community since 1994. Belleville AmeriCorps strives to strengthen the community of Belleville by: providing positive recreational and enrichment activities for youth in the after-school and summer hours; increasing youth academic success in school; promoting computer literacy in adults and children; strengthening neighborhoods through enrichment activities, including after-school and summer camp programs; and encouraging volunteerism in community youth and adults.

Members serve as tutors, as volunteer coordinators helping build the capacities of local organizations, and as camp counselors during the summer months. Although the schools and community have greatly benefited from the services of the program, members also benefit by gaining valuable skills, work experience, a living allowance, and assistance with future educational expenses.

For more information about volunteering in your community, or becoming an AmeriCorps member, interested students and community members can contact the AmeriCorps office at 618-235-2700, ext. 5711 or visit the SWIC website.

Programs and Services for Older Persons (PSOP)

201 N. Church St., Belleville, IL 62220 –
618-234-4410

swic.edu/psop

PSOP provides a wide variety of services, programs and activities to promote healthy aging for adults aged 55-plus, promoting independence and helping them remain in their homes as long as possible. PSOP is committed to active aging through engagement in physical, mental and volunteer activities which facilitate seniors to thrive, remaining vibrant and connected to others and the world at large.

These opportunities are provided in offices located throughout the college district. Some of the services provided are:

Educational Programs

A variety of workshops and seminars are offered. Educational topics cover subjects of importance to seniors and caregivers to include health, legal and financial issues. Other programming promotes lifelong learning based on topics of interest and enjoyment.

SeniorLink Computer Training

SeniorLink computer training is designed to teach mature adults how to navigate multiple computer programs and applications including Windows, email, the internet and social networking sites. Classes are small and instructors assist students to learn at their own pace.

Access to Resources and Public Benefits

Trained staff assist seniors to access and receive multiple public benefits and services including the Senior Health Insurance Program, Benefits Access and other government benefit programs. Advocacy services provided include information about living wills and powers of attorney for health care and finance as well as veteran's services.

Social and Recreational Activities

Social and recreational activities are offered through PSOP and at the Shiloh Senior Center. Regular activities include card and board games, Breakfast Club, Lunch Bunch, Dine Around as well as weekly lunches and table games. Day trips and overnight trips promote socializing and fun. Dances, hobbies and crafts, sports activities and other cultural and special events with a focus on ages 55-plus are also featured.

Travel

Fun and educational group travel experiences to exciting destinations, including day trips and extended tours within the United States, as well as international travel and cruises are offered. Open to individuals of all ages, the Travel Program offers opportunities to make new friends and visit interesting places.

income eligibility requirements, may apply to become a Foster Grandparent and earn a tax-free stipend and other benefits.

- Placement of persons 55 years and older in volunteer situations with children from infancy to age 21
- Reimbursement of approved expenses and stipends for volunteers

Programs and Services for Older Persons (continued)

Health and Wellness Programs

Classes to improve strength, balance and coordination for all activity levels including Gentle Yoga and Tai Chi. Multiple options for increasing activity levels including Line Dancing, and group exercise are available. Health screening and counseling as well as programs to help manage and support chronic conditions that we encounter by living longer are also provided.

Older Adult and Caregiver Counseling Programs

Short term counseling is available for St. Clair County residents over the age of 60, or for those who provide caregiving for a family member or friend over the age of 60. The goal of the programs is to provide community resource information and assist with emotional adjustments related to aging, illness, bereavement, life events, or caregiving. Counseling is available in the home or at the PSOP building. Consultations and sessions are free of charge but donations to the program are accepted. Related community education programs, support groups, and literature are also available.

Volunteer Opportunities (RSVP)

RSVP recruits individuals to volunteer through agencies, hospitals, libraries and schools. More than 110 community agencies draw upon RSVP volunteers. Both short- and long-term volunteer assignments are available. Individuals over 55 help others through agencies, hospitals, libraries, nursing homes, and schools.

Home Care (Senior Companions)

The Senior Companion Program provides assistance to homebound elderly in need of companionship because of loneliness, illness or physical impairment. The program also offers respite for caregivers of these individuals. The service is free to the client. As a senior companion, individuals 55 years of age or older, who meet income guidelines, can help others while earning a tax-free stipend and other benefits.

- Placement of volunteers 55 years and older
- Services for frail, lonely, ill or homebound
- Respite services for caregivers
- Reimbursement of approved expenses and stipends for volunteers
- Lifeline Medical Alert Services

Intergenerational Program (Foster Grandparents)

The Foster Grandparent Program provides trained senior volunteers to schools, Head Start and day care centers. Individuals 55 years of age or older, who love children and meet income eligibility requirements, may apply to become a Foster Grandparent and earn a tax-free stipend and other benefits.

- Placement of persons 55 years and older in volunteer situations with children from infancy to age 21
- Reimbursement of approved expenses and stipends for volunteers

Housing (Service Coordination Program)

The Service Coordination Program serves seniors and disabled residents living in subsidized housing with referrals to service providers, advocacy and complaint resolution, linkage with SWIC/PSOP programs, and individual needs assessment. Information on affordable housing options is also available.

Illinois Telecommunication Access Corporation (ITAC)

PSOP is a selection/testing center for the Illinois Telecommunication Access Corporation program which provides a free amplified telephone for people who are hard of hearing, late deafened, deaf, deaf-blind or speech disabled. Eligibility requirements for an ITAC amplified phone include: legal Illinois resident, any age/any income, working standard phone service in residence (landline phone) and certified as unable to use the standard phone system by licensed family physician or audiologist. For information visit www.itactty.org.

Transportation

Alternative Transportation System (ATS)

Curb-to-curb transportation service is provided to Americans with Disabilities Act-eligible individuals and individuals 60 years of age or older in some areas. Reservations are necessary.

- Multiple township service areas
- Fare paid for any trip purpose
- 618-239-0749