
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 Orientation:
Beginning students are encouraged to enroll in ORIE 101 College Orientation Seminar or ORIE 110 College Success Strategies. For information regarding this course, 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:
Term Application Date
Fall/December Oct. 15
Spring/May Feb. 15
Summer/July June 15

Associate in General Studies
Degree Requirements Checklist

Communications (total of 9 semester credits) A minimum grade of “C” is required for ENG 101 & ENG 102
ENG 101 ENG 102 COMM 151 or COMM 155

Mathematics (total of 4 semester credits)
MATH 107 MATH 115 MATH 204 MATH 271
MATH 111 MATH 171 MATH 205 MATH 290
MATH 112 MATH 191 MATH 210 MATH 292
MATH 113 MATH 203 MATH 213 BUS 205

Physical Science (total of 4 semester credits) One laboratory course required
ATY 101 BIOL 151 CHEM 100 CHEM 202 PHYS 151
BIOL 100 BIOL 157 CHEM 101 ES 101 PHYS 152
BIOL 101 BIOL 158 CHEM 103 ES 102 PHYS 204
BIOL 102 BIOL 204 CHEM 105 ES 114 PHYS 205
BIOL 105 BIOL 250 CHEM 106 ES 180 PHYS 206
BIOL 108 BIOL 270 CHEM 201 ES 250 SCIE 101
SCIE 110

Humanities and Social/Behavioral Science (total of 9 semester credits)
At least one course must be taken in Humanities and at least one from Social/Behavioral Science

Humanities
ART 101 FILM 225 LIT 133 LIT 251 PHIL 151
ART 102 FREN 202 LIT 134 LIT 252 PHIL 152
ART 103 GERM 202 LIT 201 LIT 290 PHIL 153
ART 104 HIST 230 LIT 202 LIT 291 PHIL 154
ART 105 HIST 286 LIT 205 LIT 293 PHIL 155
ART 106 HUM 200 LIT 213 MUS 101 SPAN 202
ART 110 LIT 113 LIT 214 MUS 102 THEA 120
ED 293 LIT 117 LIT 215 MUS 103
FILM 115 LIT 120 LIT 216 MUS 110
FILM 215 LIT 125 LIT 219 PHIL 150

Social/Behavioral Science
ANTH 150 GEOG 241 POLS 150 PSYC 250 PSYC 288
ANTH 160 HIST 101 POLS 240 PSYC 251 PSYC 295
ANTH 210 HIST 102 POLS 241 PSYC 252 SOC 153
ANTH 250 HIST 115 POLS 262 PSYC 253 SOC 203
ECON 115 HIST 117 POLS 270 PSYC 254 SOC 210
ECON 201 HIST 118 POLS 289 PSYC 259 SOC 222
ECON 202 HIST 180 POLS 290 PSYC 260 SOC 220
ED 252 HIST 181 POLS 292 PSYC 265 SOC 230
GEOG 151 HIST 232 PSYC 151 PSYC 266 SOC 255
GEOG 152 HIST 250 PSYC 200 PSYC 270 SOC 265
GEOG 202 HIST 288 PSYC 210 PSYC 277
GEOG 240 HIST 292 PSYC 225 PSYC 280

Computer Literacy (total of 3 semester credits)
CIS 185 BUS 209

Human Well-Being (total of 2 semester credits)
HES 130 HES 151 HES 154 HES 156 HES 172
HES 131 HES 152 HES 155 HES 158 HES 180
HRO 150

Electives (total of 33 semester credits) Any courses, 100-level or above

Human Relations Course

Community Service, Education and Partnerships

Adult Education and Literacy

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

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 Diploma, English as a Second Language,
Vocational Training and Literacy

swic.edu/adult-education

Director: Meredith Shivers, MS
Assistant Director: Torrin Suedmeyer, MA
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 Diploma 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 nurse assistant, construction, community health worker, computer numeric coding, 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 diploma test preparation classes provide intensive preparation for the high school diploma test. Instruction incorporates the four subject areas – 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 diploma test preparation course is available each semester as well as bridge courses that focus on high school diploma preparation and readiness for college coursework in specific occupational field, such as health care. 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 diploma 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.

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
- Computer Numeric Coding
- Community Health Worker
- Nurse Assistant

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 diploma 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.

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 diploma 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.

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 Healthcare or Computer Numeric Coding.

- The **Healthcare** transition program consists of two programs of study. In the area of high school diploma, students may work toward passing their diploma 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 diploma or already have a high school diploma 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 diploma 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 diploma exam and transitioning into college-level study in the health sciences.
Type: P

GSBS 55 Careers in Health Sciences-ESL .5-6 credits
This course will assist students in developing their English language skills while using resources from the health sciences. Students will explore their personal interests within the health science field. They will develop the academic skills needed for study and work in the health sciences. This course is designed for persons at the Advanced level of ESL who are preparing to

transition into college-level study.
Fall, Spring, Summer
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 85 ESL with Technology I .5-3 credits
This is the first of two courses for non-English speakers to improve English skills through computer-assisted language learning. Students are introduced to basic computer functions as they discover and evaluate software and online resources that develop reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. The course includes practice in basic keyboarding, as well as information about online security and electronic communications.
Type: P

GSBS 86 ESL with Technology II .5-3 credits
This is the first of two courses for non-English speakers to improve English skills through computer-assisted language learning. Students are introduced to basic computer functions as they discover and evaluate software and online resources that develop reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Composition is introduced at this level and writing is done at the computer.
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 88 English Fundamentals .5-6 credits
This course is for students who want to improve their mastery of the English language or who are not prepared for college work in English. It covers the essentials of English grammar, punctuation, usage, vocabulary and spelling.

GSBS 100 Pre HSE I .5-6 credits
This course is the first in a series of high school diploma test preparation classes that includes basic skills such as literacy, reading, computation, communication, life skills and library and study skills.
Type: P

GSBS 101 Pre HSE II .5-6 credits
This course is the second in a series of high school diploma 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 diploma 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 diploma 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 diploma 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 diploma 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 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 diploma 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 diploma 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

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 diploma 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 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 diploma 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 diploma exam. Content includes study skills, technology, and test preparation skills.
 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

diploma 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 diploma certificate, vocational certificate or transition into credit-bearing classes at SWIC.
 Type: P

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

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 diploma exam.
 Type: P

GSBS 191 HSE Test Prep IV .5-6 credits
 This course is the fourth in a series of high school diploma 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 diploma 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 diploma 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 diploma 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 diploma 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

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 diploma 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 takers 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 and Literacy (Illinois High School Diploma), CNA, welding and other vocational programs are offered at this site.

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

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

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