

The Illinois State Board of Education <http://www.isbe.net/licensure/html/paraprofessional.htm> awards a paraprofessional educator endorsement on an educator license with stipulations to individuals who: 1) are at least 19 years old; 2) Hold a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent (GED) **and** has met one of the following criteria:

- Holds an associate degree (or higher) from a regionally accredited institution of higher education; (evidence is an official transcript); **or**
- Has completed at least 60 semester hours of credit from a regionally accredited institution of higher education (excluding remedial coursework); **or**
- Presents an official score report from Educational Testing Service (ETS) showing a score of 460 or higher on the ParaPro test; **or**
- Presents evidence of earning the following scores on the Work Keys test (offered by ACT): Reading for Information/Workplace Documents (4), and Applied Mathematics (4).

Work and Employment

The Paraprofessional Educator degree will assist individuals in securing the education and credentials needed to obtain employment as a paraprofessional. The program incorporates general education and professional requirements, as well as related electives, and prepares individuals to obtain employment as an instructional assistant in pre-K-12th grade. The employment of elementary and secondary paraprofessionals is dependent upon publicly-funded resources. Most employment opportunities in this occupation will result from fairly high attrition or turnover. Many employment opportunities include part-time positions but full-time employment is available on a limited basis. These positions usually merit entry-level pay.

Advancement to other occupations related to child and adolescent care is possible with further education, training, and experience.

Special Considerations

Entry-level childcare position salaries may begin at minimum wage. This program is not designed, nor intended, to transfer as a package; however, the curriculum includes many transferable courses for the student who decides to pursue a baccalaureate degree.

To be a Title I Paraprofessional, students must hold state approval as a Teacher Aide. Title I paraprofessionals seeking employment should be prepared to provide the employer with a current academic transcript or demonstrate successful completion of a State Paraprofessional Certification Examination

For more information, refer to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) website at isbe.net.

Criminal History Check Policy

Illinois law requires Illinois school boards to conduct a criminal background investigation on applicants for employment. This law also prohibits the employment of a person who has been convicted of committing or attempting to commit any one or more of a number of offenses. At present, offenses include first-degree murder; any Class X felony; juvenile pimping; soliciting for a juvenile prostitute; exploitation of a child; obscenity; child pornography; harmful material; criminal sexual assault; aggravated criminal sexual assault; offenses set forth in the Cannabis Control Act; and crimes defined in the Illinois Controlled Substance Act. Employment must be denied whether the offenses and/or conviction occurred inside or outside the state of Illinois.

Students who perform classroom observations through coursework at Sauk Valley Community College may be required by the selected school/site to undergo a criminal background check prior to placement. Students may be denied at any observation site based on the results of that check.

Students who feel their criminal background may exclude them from observation or employment should seek counseling with SVCC faculty or advising staff early in their program to determine how it may affect their participation and eligibility.

Program Contacts at Sauk Valley Community College

- Academic Advising, 815-835-6354
- Beth Smaka, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education, 815-835-6388

Total Hours Required - 61-63 Hours

Major Field Requirements - 22 Hours

- ECE 114 - Child Care and Development (3 Semester Hours)

OR

- PSY 214 - Child Developmental Psychology (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 240 - Observ & Assess Young Children (3 Semester Hours)
- EDU 102 - Computer Education for Teacher (3 Semester Hours)
- EDU 210 - Diversity in Education (3 Semester Hours)
- EDU 220 - Educ of the Exceptional Child (3 Semester Hours)
- EDU 221 - Children's Literature (3 Semester Hours)
- EDU 276 - Clinical Exper in Education (1 Semester Hours)
- MAT 111 - Math for Elementary Teacher II (3 Semester Hours)

Related Requirements - 14-15 Hours

To be selected from the following list or others as approved by the department. When making choices, students should consult with their advisor to be sure that vocational training needs and state licensing requirements for teacher's aides are being met.

- Additional Physical/Life Science 3-4 Semester hour(s)
- ECE 115 - Intro to Early Childhood Educ (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 118 - Parent-Teachr-Child-Comm Relat (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 202 - Lang/Literacy Dev/Young Childr (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 207 - Math for the Young Child (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 228 - Child Health-Nutrition-Safety (3 Semester Hours)
- EDU 224 - Educ as an Agent for Change (3 Semester Hours)
- LAN 161 - Beginning Spanish I (4 Semester Hours)
- PED 213 - First Aid (2 Semester Hours)
- PED 220 - Rhythms & Games for Children (3 Semester Hours)
- PSY 217 - Abnormal Psychology (3 Semester Hours)

General Education Requirements - 24-25 Hours

- Communications (ENG 101, 103 and COM 131 required) 9 Semester hour(s)
- Social/Behavioral Science (PSY 103 required, PSY 215 recommended) 6 Semester hour(s)
- Science (Physical/Life Science) 3-4 Semester hour(s)
- Humanities/Fine Arts 3 Semester hour(s)
- Mathematics (MAT 110 required) 3 Semester hour(s)

SVCC Requirement - 1 Hours

- FYE 101 - First Year Experience (1 Semester Hours)

Total Hours Required for A.A.S. Degree: - 61-63 Hours

Suggested Program

First Semester - 16 Hours

- Related Requirements 3 Semester hour(s)
- EDU 102 - Computer Education for Teacher (3 Semester Hours)
- ENG 101 - Composition I (3 Semester Hours)
- FYE 101 - First Year Experience (1 Semester Hours)

- MAT 110 - Math for Elementary Teachers I (3 Semester Hours)
- PSY 103 - Introduction to Psychology (3 Semester Hours)

Second Semester - 15 Hours

- Related Requirements 3 Semester hour(s)
- ECE 114 - Child Care and Development (3 Semester Hours)

OR

- PSY 214 - Child Developmental Psychology (3 Semester Hours)
- ECE 240 - Observ & Assess Young Children (3 Semester Hours)
- ENG 103 - Composition II (3 Semester Hours)
- MAT 111 - Math for Elementary Teacher II (3 Semester Hours)

Third Semester - 14-15 Hours

- Related Requirements 5-6 Semester hour(s)
- EDU 210 - Diversity in Education (3 Semester Hours)
- EDU 220 - Educ of the Exceptional Child (3 Semester Hours)
- EDU 221 - Children's Literature (3 Semester Hours)

Fourth Semester - 16-17 Hours

- Humanities/Fine Arts 3 Semester hour(s)
- Physical/Life Science 3-4 Semester hour(s)
- Related Requirements 3 Semester hour(s)
- COM 131 - Intro to Oral Communication (3 Semester Hours)
- EDU 276 - Clinical Exper in Education (1 Semester Hours)
- PSY 215 - Social Psychology (3 Semester Hours)

Footnotes

- Due to State guidelines, students enrolled in this degree may earn no more than 20 credits through prior experience as listed in the Policies section of this catalog