

Reasons to Attend Prairie State College

- Fully accredited
- Credits that transfer
- Small classes
- Great career programs
- Dedicated professors
- Convenient scheduling
- Free tutoring and open computer labs

Admissions

Prairie State College offers “open admission” that encourages diversity and admits all high school graduates or the equivalent.

Here’s how to start your college career at PSC:

- Provide a high school diploma or GED.
- Take the COMPASS Placement Test or submit a copy of ACT scores.
- Meet with an advisor from Counseling and Advising to select courses. For questions, contact an academic advisor at (708) 709-3506.



Financial Aid

Prairie State College’s tuition is affordable, and financial aid is available through a variety of sources. More than 50 percent of our students receive financial aid.

The first and most important step in applying for financial aid is filing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). A FAFSA is required whether you receive federal or state financial aid, loans, grants, or scholarships.

Forms of financial assistance include:

- Pell Grant
- MAP Grant
- Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant
- Subsidized Stafford Student Loans
- PLUS Loans
- Work Study
- Scholarships
- Veterans Benefits

PSC Financial Aid Opportunities:

- PSC Board of Trustees Scholarships covers tuition and fees for two years.
- The PSC Foundation awards more than \$75,000 in scholarships annually to students who are not fully funded through any other source. Find out more at prairiestate.edu, go to choose a link, and click on scholarships.

For more information about how to obtain financial aid, call (708) 709-3562 or e-mail Alice Garcia at agarcia@prairiestate.edu.

RN First Assistant



Comm 07/09

 **Prairie State College**

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

Start *near*. Go *far*.

 **Prairie State College**
prairiestate.edu

RN First Assistant

The Program

The Registered Nurse (RN) First Assistant program is designed to provide the experienced perioperative nurse with the advanced preparation necessary to assume the role of first assistant. The Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) is a professional caregiver who assumes the responsibility for providing technical assistance under the direct supervision of the operating surgeon.

This course is presented in conjunction with Specialty Assist, Inc. Students are taught by a team of professionals with real-world experience and excellent teaching credentials.

Career Opportunities

The RNFA performs the usual functions pertaining to the perioperative experience, but also performs a number of intraoperative functions. This may include handling tissue, providing exposure, using instruments, suturing, and providing hemostasis. RNFA's can be employed by an institution, a surgeon or group of surgeon's, or self-employed as an independent contractor. Others are employed as educators in RNFA programs or as health care administrators.

About the Curriculum

This course is designed to provide theoretical instruction as well as practical skills attainment for the role and responsibility of a registered nurse first assistant.

Length of Course: Five days of nine hours of instruction with a one-hour lunch break each day.

Total Theory Hours: 45

Total Clinical Hours: 150

Class Dates: 2nd Monday of every month. The class must have a minimum of four students.

Course Objectives

1. To explore the role and scope of practice of an RNFA.
2. To discuss practice options and legal issues related to functioning as an RNFA.
3. To review relevant anatomy/physiology as it relates to the first assistant role.
4. To explore all aspects of the preoperative, intraoperative roles and responsibilities of the RNFA.
5. To refresh information on instruments, medical devices, positioning, draping, and surgical asepsis.
6. To develop psychomotor skills in assisting with wound exposure, handling and cutting tissue, providing hemostasis, and suturing.
7. To identify the roles and responsibilities of the RNFA in regard to postoperative client management.

Program Eligibility Requirements

- Must be an ADN, BSN, MSN, NP, CNS, Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA), CNM registered nurse who has graduated from an accredited school of nursing.

Note: This RNFA Program addresses specific needs for Advanced Practice Nurses seeking RNFA.

- Must be licensed to practice as a registered nurse in the state in which the clinical internship will be accomplished.
- Must provide proof of current RN license.
- The RNFA candidate must have a minimum of two years of recent preoperative nursing experience. This experience must include demonstrated competency in the scrubbing, circulating, or first assisting roles of the intra-operative nursing dimension. (Waived for NP)
- CNOR or eligibility with CNOR status obtained before graduation.
- CPR or basic life support (BCLS), advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) preferred.
- Proof of proficiency in the roles of scrubbing, circulating, or first assisting.
- Proof of ability to perform effectively in stressful and emergency situations.
- Proof of ability to perform effectively and harmoniously as a team member.
- Proof of ability to perform effectively as a leader.
- Must provide proof of current professional liability insurance specific to the RNFA role during RNFA program 150 clinical internship.
- Advanced practice nurses are required to take the Specialty Assist NP additional RNFA educational component.
- Labor and delivery must do C-Section.
- A letter from a Board Certified Physician (sponsor) to oversee internship portion of course.

Note: AD and Diploma nurses do not need a BSN to enroll or complete program. Certified advanced practice nurses do not need CNOR nor two years or experience to complete this program.

For More Information

Contact Gwen Dean, dean of health professions and director of nursing, at (708) 709-3766 or gdean@prairiestate.edu. At Specialty Assist, Inc., visit Web site: www.rnfaclass.com or contact Angela Daniels, at (815) 236-8785 or specialtyassist@hotmail.com.