Guided Pathways
Helping Students Succeed

Paris Junior College is at the forefront of a national initiative seeking to help students finish certificates or degrees with fewer excess hours and better preparation for employment or transfer to a four-year institution of higher education.

_The Guided Pathways model is based on coherent and easy-to-follow college-level programs of study that are aligned with requirements for success in employment and at the next stage of education._ - American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

In 2017, PJC was one of 30 colleges chosen nationwide by AACC to lead this initiative, which focuses on helping students clarify their goals, so that they can enter an educational pathway designed to help them achieve those goals.

Students first choose one of seven pathways that represents their interests: Arts and Humanities, Business, Industry, Health Careers, Public Services, STEM, or Social and Behavioral Sciences. Then the student chooses a program within that pathway aligning with their goals, interest, and aptitudes. Each program is represented on a Program Map, specifying which courses the student should take and in what order, the marketable skills and outcomes and career opportunities associated with that program, and information regarding transfer to a four-year institution, where appropriate.

PJC’s Program Maps are designed to help students stay on track with regard to their coursework and to master knowledge and skills that will equip them to enter the labor market successfully or to pursue further education with seamless transfer of credits.

Academic Studies

Academic Studies includes communications, fine arts, social sciences, natural sciences and mathematics, kinesiology (physical education), as well as learning skills and teacher education along with library support services for all areas of the College.

Objectives of Academic Studies include: fostering an appreciation of the creative process; the ability to think critically and to communicate effectively; a desire for lifelong learning; and a strong identification with truth and reason.

Courses offered in Academic Studies are designed primarily for transfer. Many courses such as art, music, language, humanities, theatre, and a variety of studio classes serve a dual purpose. They are available for students planning to transfer to a university, and are also available to community members wishing to broaden their educational experience and enrich their lives.

Students selecting majors within Academic Studies should consult with a Student Success Coach. During the visit with their Student Success Coach, students will develop a degree plan for their major that sets forth the classes required in the core curriculum as well as suggested specialization courses in their major field of interest. By visiting with their Student Success
Coach on a regular basis, students may make sure they are taking courses that apply not only toward a Paris Junior College awarded Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree, but also transfer and apply to their intended baccalaureate degree.

Because most students taking Academic Studies courses plan to transfer to a university, a goal of the College is to assure the transferability of its courses; however, because of the diversity of the population served by the College, students planning to transfer courses to a university or four-year college should take the responsibility of discussing their plans with a counselor from their university-of-choice as well as a Student Success Coach on campus.

Academic Studies also provides general education courses for students pursuing technical or workforce training and degrees.

Students planning to continue their education toward a baccalaureate or advanced degree may complete core curriculum courses providing a sound background in the arts and sciences. The 42 hours of core curriculum courses are guaranteed to transfer and replace the first two year core requirements at all state-supported colleges and universities in Texas.

**Associate’s Degree Core Curriculum (42 credit hours)**

Paris Junior College adheres to various policies that are designed to make transfer easy, such as a state-honored block core curriculum, a statewide Guarantee for Transfer program, and participation in the Texas Common Course Numbering System.

The Texas Education Code, as a result of Senate Bill 148, requires all public colleges and universities to have a core curriculum. Core curriculum is defined as “the curriculum in the liberal arts, humanities, sciences, and political, social, and cultural history that all undergraduate students of a particular Texas institution of higher education are required to complete before receiving an associate or bachelor’s degree.”

Every public institution in Texas has a Core, which is designed to provide a solid foundation for your college education and to make transfers between and among Texas institutions of higher education as smooth and seamless as possible.

The purpose of the Texas Core Curriculum states, “Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.”

Core objectives include the following:

- Critical Thinking Skills
- Communication Skills
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills
- Teamwork
- Personal Responsibility
- Social Responsibility

The core curriculum is predicated on a series of basic intellectual competencies – reading,
writing, speaking, listening, critical thinking, and computer literacy – that are essential to the
learning process in any discipline. Foundation competencies include teamwork, communications,
quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and social and personal responsibility. Although
students can be expected to come to college with some experience in exercising these competen-
tcies, they often need further instruction and practice to meet college standards and, later,
to succeed in both their major field of academic study and their chosen career or profession.

PJC will designate core curriculum courses completed by a student on the official PJC tran-
script. If a student satisfies all component areas, the message “Core Curriculum Completed”
will appear on the transcript.

Students should visit with a Student Success Coach and follow the appropriate Program Map
to ensure that they take the correct courses for their Associate of Arts or Associate of Science
degree program at PJC in addition to the major for their chosen transfer college or university.

Students must complete a minimum of 60 credit hours in a program of study with a cumula-
tive (overall) grade point average of 2.0 or better in order to graduate with an associate degree
in the state of Texas.

PJC’s common core curriculum courses of 42 credit hours are detailed below, along with ad-
ditional graduation requirements and elective hours as follows. However, the entire core cur-
riculum is embedded within each Program Map associated with an academic transfer degree,
so students should consult their chosen Program Map to determine which courses to take.

COMMUNICATION (2 courses) ........................................ 6 Credit Hours

  ENGL 1301 ........................................ Composition I
  ENGL 1302 ........................................ Composition II

MATHEMATICS (1 course) ........................................... 3 Credit Hours

  Recommended for STEM majors:
    MATH 1314 ......................................... College Algebra
    MATH 2312 ......................................... Pre-Calculus Math

  Recommended for Non-STEM majors:
    MATH 1324 .................................. Mathematics for Business & Social Sciences
    MATH 1332 ................................ Contemporary Mathematics I
    MATH 1342 ................................ Elementary Statistical Methods

LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES (2 courses) ......................... 6 Credit Hours*

* Lab hours will count toward hours required in “Additional Core Curriculum Requirements, Part I.”

  Recommended for STEM majors:
    BIOL 1406 .................................. Biology for Science Majors I
    BIOL 1407 .................................. Biology for Science Majors II
    BIOL 2401 ................................ Anatomy & Physiology I
    BIOL 2402 ................................ Anatomy & Physiology II
    CHEM 1411 ................................ General Chemistry I
    CHEM 1412 ................................ General Chemistry II
    GEOL 1403 ................................ Physical Geology
    GEOL 1404 ................................ Historical Geology
PHYS 1401. College Physics I
PHYS 1402. College Physics II

Recommended for Non-STEM majors:
BIOL 1408. Biology for Non-Science Majors I
BIOL 1409. Biology for Non-Science Majors II
BIOL 1322. Nutrition & Diet Therapy
BIOL 2306. Environmental Biology
PHYS 1303. Stars and Galaxies
PHYS 1304. Solar System

Recommended for Allied Health Majors:
BIOL 1322. Nutrition & Diet Therapy
BIOL 2401. Anatomy & Physiology I
BIOL 2402. Anatomy & Physiology II

LANGUAGE, PHILOSOPHY and CULTURE (1 course) 3 Credit Hours
COMM 1307. Introduction to Mass Communications
ENGL 2322. British Literature I
ENGL 2323. British Literature II
ENGL 2327. American Literature I
ENGL 2328. American Literature II
HIST 2311. Western Civilization I
HIST 2312. Western Civilization II
SPAN 2311. Intermediate Spanish I
SPAN 2312. Intermediate Spanish II

CREATIVE ARTS (1 course) 3 Credit Hours
ARTS 1301. Art Appreciation
DRAM 1310. Introduction to Theater
MUSI 1306. Music Appreciation

AMERICAN HISTORY (2 courses) 6 Credit Hours
HIST 1301. United States History I
HIST 1302. United States History II
HIST 2301. Texas History

GOVERNMENT / POLITICAL SCIENCE (2 courses) 6 Credit Hours
GOVT 2305. Federal Government
GOVT 2306. Texas Government

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES (1 course) 3 Credit Hours
ECON 2301. Principles of Macroeconomics
ECON 2302. Principles of Microeconomics
PSYC 2301. General Psychology
PSYC 2314. Lifespan Growth and Development
PSYC 2315. Psychology of Adjustment
SOCI 1301. Introductory Sociology
SOCI 1306. Social Problems
ADDITIONAL CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS, Part 1: Take 3-6 Credit Hours from Part 1.

Note: Lab hours associated with courses taken to fulfill the Life and Physical Sciences core curriculum component (see previous list) will be counted toward the additional 3-6 credit hours required here under Part I.

Communication:
SPCH 1315 .............................................. Public Speaking
SPCH 1321 ............................................. Business and Professional Communications

Mathematics:
MATH 1314 .............................................. College Algebra
MATH 1324 ............................................. Mathematics for Business & Social Sciences
MATH 1332 ............................................. Contemporary Mathematics I
MATH 1342 ............................................. Elementary Statistical Mathematics
MATH 2312 ............................................. Pre-Calculus Math
MATH 2413 ............................................. Calculus I

Life and Physical Sciences:
BIOL 1322 ............................................. Nutrition & Diet Therapy
BIOL 1408 ............................................. Biology for Non-Science Majors
BIOL 1409 ............................................. Biology for Non-Science Majors II
BIOL 2306 ............................................. Environmental Biology
BIOL 2401 ............................................. Anatomy & Physiology I
BIOL 2402 ............................................. Anatomy & Physiology II
PHYS 1303 ............................................. Stars and Galaxies
PHYS 1304 ............................................. Solar System

ADDITIONAL CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS, Part 2: 0-3 Credit Hours from Part 2.

Language, Philosophy and Culture:
COMM 1307 ............................................. Introduction to Mass Communications
ENGL 2322 ............................................. British Literature I
ENGL 2323 ............................................. British Literature II
ENGL 2327 ............................................. American Literature I
ENGL 2328 ............................................. American Literature II
HIST 2311 ............................................. Western Civilization I
HIST 2312 ............................................. Western Civilization II
SPAN 2311 ............................................. Intermediate Spanish I
SPAN 2312 ............................................. Intermediate Spanish II

Social and Behavioral Sciences:
ECON 2301 ............................................. Principles of Macroeconomics
ECON 2302 ............................................. Principles of Microeconomics
PSYC 2301 ............................................. General Psychology
PSYC 2314 ............................................. Lifespan Growth and Development
PSYC 2315 ............................................. Psychology of Adjustment
SOCI 1301 ............................................. Introductory Sociology
SOCI 1306 ............................................. Social Problems

42 Total Credit Hours
Additional Requirements for Associate of Science or Associate of Arts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Associate of Science</th>
<th>Associate of Arts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer (3 Credit Hours)</td>
<td>Computer (3 Credit Hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional courses as specified on the student’s Program Map (12 Credit Hours)</td>
<td>Language, Philosophy &amp; Culture, as specified on the student’s Program Map (6 Credit Hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC/EDUC 1300** (3 Credit Hours)</td>
<td>Foreign Language, as specified on the student’s Program Map (6 Credit Hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC/EDUC 1300 (3 Credit Hours)</td>
<td>PSYC/EDUC 1300 (3 Credit Hours)</td>
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Minimum Credit Semester Hours Required for Graduation for AA or AS: 60 credit hours.

**Fields of Study**

Mandated in Senate Bill 148, the Fields of Study curricula are intended to facilitate the transferability of lower-division courses among Texas public colleges and universities. Field of Study courses are defined by SB 148 as, “a set of courses that will satisfy the lower-division requirements for a bachelor’s degree in a specific academic major at a general academic teaching institution.” Receiving institutions may not require incoming transfer students to repeat courses with the same content as Field of Study courses. PJC offers Fields of Study curricula for Business, Communication, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Engineering, Music and Nursing. Refer to the appropriate Program Map for guidance in course selection.

**Guarantee For Transfer Credit**

PJC guarantees to its students who have met the requirements for its Associate of Arts/Associate of Science degree and students who have met the 60 credit-hour transfer plan transferability of those course credits to the Texas colleges and/or universities that participate in the Guarantee for Transfer Credit program.

**Common Course Numbering**

To help meet the transfer needs of its students, PJC is a member of the Texas Common Course Numbering System Consortium. All Texas community/junior colleges and many Texas universities also use this numbering system. The Texas Common Course Numbering System provides a shared, uniform set of course designations for students and their advisors to use in determining both course equivalency and degree applicability of transfer credit on a statewide basis. Students should not assume that only courses with common course numbers will transfer and should see a PJC academic advisor for assistance.

**Workforce Education Programs**

The Associate of Applied Science degree (AAS) is awarded upon completion of a prescribed program of study designed to prepare students to enter and compete in the job market. AAS curricula are designed to enable the graduate to enter an occupation with marketable skills, an acceptable level of technical competency, and the ability to communicate effectively.
The AAS degree is awarded to students who meet the specific degree requirements along with the graduation requirements listed under the Academic Policies section. The total number of hours required to graduate with an AAS degree is 60 hours. A minimum of 25 percent must be completed at PJC.

Each workforce education program uses advisory committees for program development, evaluation, long-range planning, development of employment opportunities for graduates, and other program issues. These committees provide an essential link between the education institution and the business community to ensure that graduates are adequately prepared for employment. Members of the advisory committees are selected from related industry, prospective employers, and other knowledgeable community representatives.

Within each AAS program are suggested time lines for completion of degrees and certificates.

**Associate of Applied Science Degree Core Curriculum 15-16 credit hours**

**COMMUNICATION / HUMANITIES / FINE ARTS (2 Courses)**

*Communication (1 Course):*
  - ENGL 1301: Composition I
  - SPCH 1315: Public Speaking
  - SPCH 1321: Business and Professional Communication

*Humanities / Fine Arts (1 Course)*
  - ARTS 1301: Art Appreciation
  - COMM 1307: Introduction to Mass Communications
  - DRAM 1310: Introduction to Theater
  - HIST 2311: Western Civilization I
  - MUSI 1306: Music Appreciation

**SOCIAL / BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE (1 Course)**
  - ECON 2301: Principles of Macroeconomics
  - ECON 2302: Principles of Microeconomics
  - GOVT 2305: Federal Government
  - GOVT 2306: Texas Government
  - HIST 1301: United States History I
  - HIST 1302: United States History II
  - HIST 2301: Texas History
  - PSYC 2301: General Psychology
  - PSYC 2314: Lifespan Growth and Development
  - PSYC 2315: Psychology of Adjustment
  - SOCI 1301: Introductory Sociology

**NATURAL SCIENCE & MATH (1 Course)**
  - BIOL 1322: Nutrition & Diet Therapy
  - BIOL 2401: Anatomy and Physiology I
  - BIOL 2402: Anatomy and Physiology II
  - BIOL 2420: Microbiology for Non-Science Majors
  - MATH 1314: College Algebra
  - MATH 1316: Plane Trigonometry
Mathematics for Business & Social Sciences
Calculus for Business & Social Sciences
Contemporary Mathematics I
Elementary Statistical Methods
Pre-Calculus Math

One additional course needs to be selected from any of the above categories.

INSTITUTIONALLY DESIGNATED OPTION (3 Credit Hours)

PSYC (Psychology) 1300 or EDUC (Education) 1300

NOTE: The second digit in a course number indicates the number of credit hours for that course.

Students should see individual program areas for specific degree requirements.

Each degree program must also contain math, computer, and communication competencies. These should be built into every program to the extent that they are applicable and relevant. If a program area elects math, computer science, or communication courses as general education requirements, the courses must be academic transfer courses of collegiate level and of a general nature, not geared to a specific occupation – e.g., welders, electricians, or secretaries.

Certificate Programs

PJC offers certificate programs designed to meet specific employment needs of the community. Students who enroll in certificate programs are generally interested in re-entering the job market after an absence, changing careers, or upgrading job-related skills in order to enhance employment specialization. Although certifications are normally one year in length, the specific number of credit hours varies by program area.

Graduation

To graduate from Paris Junior College with an Associate Degree, students must:

» Complete a Request for Graduation form available online. It is the responsibility of the student to know the application deadline as published in the College Calendar and Student Handbook.

» Present the completed graduation form to the Office of Admissions & Records.

» Meet the specific requirements for one of the degrees as described.

» Have a grade point average of “C” or 2.00 in all work completed, excluding developmental courses.

» Complete 25% of coursework towards the degree at Paris Junior College.

» Be enrolled during the calendar and/or academic year during which the degree is to be awarded.

» Complete all financial obligations to Paris Junior College.

» Successfully complete all sections of the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) or be exempt from the TSI requirement.

» Submit course substitutions to the appropriate Vice President’s office.

Note: Academic rules and requirements are subject to change at the end of any semester and/or summer session. Individual academic divisions may prescribe additional standards of performance.
Within five years of initial enrollment a student may graduate according to the catalog requirements in effect at the time of first enrollment or any subsequent catalog provided the requisite courses are still being offered and mandates of regulating agencies are satisfied.

If a student fails within five years to complete all requirements of the catalog in effect at the time of initial enrollment, then the student will be required to graduate under the current catalog.

**Graduation with Honors**

To be considered for graduation with honors, a student must be seeking an associate degree and have completed at least 30 semester credit hours in residence at Paris Junior College. All coursework attempted (including transfer courses) are considered for high/highest honors.

- Honors – overall cumulative grade point average 3.50 – 3.89
- High Honors – overall cumulative grade point average 3.90 – 3.99
- Highest Honors – overall cumulative grade point average – 4.00

**Accounting / Business Administration**

The Accounting/Business Administration program is designed to prepare students for transfer to a four-year university as a business major and adheres to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Field of Study Curriculum for Business. The program will provide students with a background in basic academic areas such as mathematics and the sciences, as well as introductory work in the business areas of accounting, economics and business computer applications. Graduates from the program will have earned an Associate of Science degree and will be ready for junior and senior level work in such business areas as accounting, finance, management, and marketing.

**Suggested Course of Study for University Transfer Students (60 Semester Credit Hours)**

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<tr>
<th>First Semester - 15 SCH</th>
<th>Second Semester - 15 SCH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 2301</td>
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<td>EDUC/PSYC 1300</td>
<td>ECON 2302</td>
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<th>Fourth Semester - 15 SCH</th>
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<td>BIOL 1322</td>
<td>BIOL 2306</td>
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<td>GOVT 2305</td>
<td>BUSI 2301</td>
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<td>MUSI 1306</td>
<td>COMM 1307</td>
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