Adult Educational Development

The Adult Educational Development (AED) Department provides instruction for eligible students 16 years old and over who do not have a high school diploma or equivalency and are not currently enrolled in high school. Instruction prepares students for completion of the Illinois High School Equivalency exam through all approved tests (Pearson Vue GED, HiSET, and TASC). Students who qualify can enroll in an ICAPS (Integrated Career and Academic Preparation System) course, including a free AED support class, to complete a college certificate in Logistics, Office Assistant, or Certified Nursing Assistant at the same time they are taking High School Equivalency (HSE) classes.

Foundational classes in Social Studies, Science, English and Math give basic skills-level students the confidence to progress from the Foundation level to Pre-HSE and HSE-level classes. HSE students will be advised by their instructors as to when they are ready for the official HSE exams. The Bridge to College and Career Success class helps students explore careers, prepare them for college and learn about academic success skills.

Second language learners with limited or interrupted schooling in their native countries can enroll in English Literacy Acquisition (ELA) classes which help achieve competence in reading, writing, speaking and comprehension skills and work toward attainment of a High School Equivalency diploma. Critical literacy, employability, math and technology skills are also incorporated into the ELA classes to prepare learners for HSE classes and postsecondary success.

Eligible residents are served by the Citizenship preparation classes, which prepare students for the interview and literacy testing conducted by the USCIS.

The AED department is connected with the community and provides support, resources and referrals through faculty and staff contact with students. Students are tested and placed during AED registration. Funded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2015, the AED program must report student outcomes and standardized test level gains to the State and Federal government. AED is committed to helping learners make academic progress, obtain completion and meet individual student goals.

Daytime and evening courses are offered at the Palatine Campus, the Harper College Learning and Career Center (LCC in Prospect Heights), the Palatine Opportunity Center, and the Hanover Park Education and Work Center. Qualifying students may opt to take some of their HSE courses online. For more information, call the AED department at 847.925.6223 (Palatine campus) or 847.925.6015 (Learning and Career Center).