



## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **When does SSP start?**

A 12-week session begins each September and February.

### **When does the class meet?**

SSP meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. throughout the semester. A simple supper is available on Tuesday evenings around 5:30 p.m. In addition, there are five Math Mondays scheduled 5:30 p.m. -7:00 p.m. We meet on the UW-La Crosse campus in Centennial Hall 4300 – the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Department. Occasionally, a special session is required.

### **How much does it cost?**

Nothing. Everything is provided at no-cost to students. Community support of SSP is strong! The Women’s Fund of La Crosse, the AAUW-La Crosse Branch, the PEO, and other community groups and individuals support the program with donations and grants. SSP is offered to the community by the WGSS Department at UW-La Crosse.

### **Does SSP have childcare?**

Yes. On-site childcare is provided for all Tuesday and Math Monday sessions. Childcare is provided by a volunteer staff of UWL students with childcare experience.

### **Is SSP only for those who want to go to UWL?**

No. SSP includes presentations by UWL, Western Technical College and Viterbo University admissions and program staff. SSP students have an opportunity to explore the programs and student services of all three schools.

### **What if I don't know what I want to study?**

SSP helps students explore their interests and career ideas throughout the semester. Being open to a wide range of academic programs, careers, and skill development is a great way to begin SSP.

### **What if I can't afford to go to college?**

SSP helps you learn about available resources and the strategies used by returning adult students. We can help you connect with people and offices who specialize in financial aid, loan repayment, community programs, and student budgets.

### **What do you learn at SSP?**

SSP provides information about the mechanics of going to college (admissions, majors/programs, financial aid), academic and career planning, and introduces you to college-level work. We practice writing, thinking, and math skills. With information, support and practice, students develop the confidence and strategies needed to be successful college students.

## **Will it help me pass tests colleges require, such as Accuplacer or others?**

SSP does not focus on test preparation. However, SSP can help you feel more prepared and confident in taking these placement tests. The purpose of these tests is to help identify courses that match your level of preparation as you begin college. Remember, these tests do not determine if you are “smart enough” to go to college!

## **Do you earn college credits for SSP?**

No. SSP is a pre-college program. Completing SSP is an accomplishment recognized by admission staff, scholarship committees, faculty members and staff.

## **I don't have my GED yet. Can I attend SSP?**

We ask that you complete your GED and encourage you attend Western Technical College's prep courses. Please complete the application and we will keep it on file. We want to keep you posted about the start date for each session.

## **I have already taken some college courses. Is SSP for me?**

Yes, SSP is a great refresher experience. Many SSP students have attempted college at some point but had to stop out. Some SSP students have earned an associate degree. Others are only beginning to investigate going to college. Students with different experiences make for a wonderful class.

## **Do you have to be a parent to go to SSP? Do you have to be a single parent?**

SSP is designed with single parents in mind, so we spend time talking about parenting issues. That said, everyone can benefit from a SSP semester and non-parents attend each semester. If you are interested in learning and engaging with others, you are encouraged to apply.

## **Can people of any gender attend SSP?**

Yes. SSP does not discriminate based on gender or other statuses. Most SSP students are women and single parents who see “degreeing-up” as the best strategy for accessing family-supporting incomes. That said, everyone is welcome! A diversity of experiences and interests represented in our class makes for a great semester!

## **How can I apply?**

There is no cost to apply to SSP. We have an online application, or you can access a printable application on our website. You can also email or call Andrea to request a paper application.

## **I heard there is a SSP scholarship. Is this true?**

Yes, finishing SSP with good attendance and completion of assignments, makes you eligible to apply for up to four \$750 scholarships for each of your first 4 semesters. You must be enrolled at least part-time (6 credits) for these scholarships. A one-time scholarship of \$300 for CNA or other selected certificate programs is available. Students enrolled at UWL, Western Technical College, Viterbo University, or other selected colleges are eligible.

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