



Frequently Asked Questions

This is a four-year program. Can a student begin taking PLTW courses during his/her junior year?

Yes, a student can begin the PLTW program at any point during their high school career.

Does Introduction to Engineering Design (IED), Digital Electronics (DE), or Civil Engineering & Architecture (CEA) replace any courses at this time?

No.

Is there national recognition of these classes?

Yes, check the PLTW website at pltw.org. There are national end-of-course assessments. College credit is not automatically assigned — the district and schools will need to complete a certification process. To qualify for potential college credit, a student must carry a minimum of a B average in the course, pass an online end-of-course test, and pass an additional paper/pencil higher level Part C test. Individual universities will have their own specific guidelines for accepting the credit. Students/parents should check with specific universities regarding acceptance of PLTW credit.

Are the courses for a semester or year?

Each PLTW course is year-long.

Is there an application process in order to take a PLTW course?

No, there are prerequisites for each PLTW course and student must meet those requirements in order to be eligible. The prerequisites are listed in the course guide found at www.ipisd.org.

Are there summer PLTW courses available either in our District or outside of the District?

Indian Prairie does not offer summer PLTW courses.

Is there a specific sequence of courses to follow? What is the progression?

The first course is IED; all PLTW students should begin with this course. Students will then choose a path for further coursework. EDD is the capstone course and should be taken as a final course.

Is there AP testing at the end?

There are national PLTW tests administered at the end of each course.

Do we need specific software on our home computer so students can complete homework?

Software-related homework will not be assigned.

Will there be duplication if a student has already completed CAD or Drafting courses?

There will be minimal duplication; however, PLTW will allow students to use these skills in a problem-based team approach.

How will this fit into a student's schedule if they already have music, foreign language, etc.?

PLTW courses are full year courses and count as electives. Choices will have to be made when balancing a schedule. Students and parents will need to determine the plan that best meets the student's needs.

How much is the lab fee?

The lab fee for each PLTW course is \$20.