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Powering IT Careers

From networking and cybersecurity to software development and web design, Moraine Park offers a robust selection of Information Technology (IT) pathways designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving industry.



BUILDING A DREAM CAREER

Aaron Schlosser, an alumnus of Moraine Park's IT programs, exemplifies the impact of the College's approach to technical education. Having earned degrees in IT Technical Support and IT Network Specialist, he saw firsthand how the dual-degree structure enhanced his career. Now returning for a Cybersecurity degree, Schlosser recognizes the value of stacking credentials.

"I feel you get a higher quality education at a technical college because of the hands-on learning, smaller classroom sizes and oneon-one time with instructors," Schlosser said. "At a university, you tend to be just a number, whereas here, at Moraine Park, I am Aaron."

The affordability of Moraine Park was also a key factor in Schlosser's educational journey. He appreciated the reasonable tuition costs, which allowed him to enter the workforce without the burden of overwhelming student debt. Today, after years of dedication, he enjoys a successful career as a network engineer at Elkay Interior Systems in Fond du Lac, earning nearly six figures while continuing to expand his cybersecurity expertise.

"If you're passionate about computers, I highly recommend pursuing IT," Schlosser said. "It's a rewarding career and no two days are the same. One day, I might work with a small local business; the next, with the Fond du Lac School District; and the following day, with the Green Bay Packers. The variety provides something new and exciting each day."

THE INDUSTRY-LEADING EDUCATION

At Moraine Park Technical College, passionate instructors like Ben Blacklock and Tammy Freund bring the latest IT industry experience to the classroom, preparing students for dynamic and successful careers.

Ben Blacklock, an instructor in the IT Software Developer program, originally aspired to be a history teacher but found his calling in IT and now guides students toward a rewarding career in software development.

"The thing I like best about this career is that my job has never been the same for more than six months," Blacklock said. "The needs of the business are always changing and it's challenged me to learn more, get better at what I do and keeps me interested."

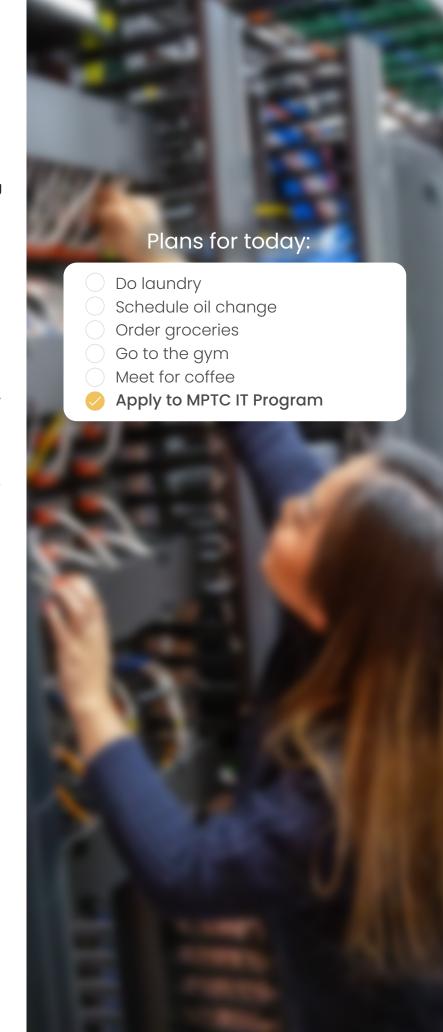
The Software Developer program offers flexible options, from asynchronous online learning to hands-on classroom experiences, ensuring students are job-ready for real-world challenges.

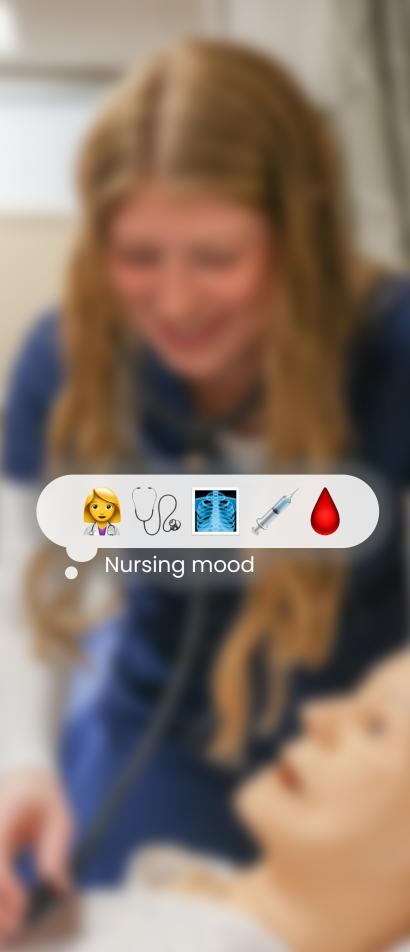
Tammy Freund, instructor for the Web Development and Design Specialist program, emphasizes the increasing demand for web and mobile development skills.

"There's not an industry that doesn't rely on an online presence," Freund said. "Every business needs a website or social media presence, whether through a dedicated website or a Facebook business page."

The program offers flexible learning paths, including a dual-degree option that allows students to earn credentials in both web development and mobile applications with just a few extra courses, enhancing their value to employers.

No matter the program, Moraine Park graduates enter the workforce with the latest credentials and hands-on training that set them apart in the job market. With strong industry connections, affordable tuition and a commitment to student success, Moraine Park continues to be a launchpad for IT professionals, empowering them to build careers in a field that is constantly evolving.





Faculty Feature Relly Schoeller

For 22 years, Kelly Schoeller has been a guiding force in Moraine Park's General Education department, helping students navigate the complexities of anatomy, physiology and microbiology. Her journey to the classroom was anything but linear. From pursuing finance to navigating a career as a chiropractor and business owner, Schoeller's story proves that education is never wasted—and that sometimes, the best way to learn is to teach.



Schoeller began her education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she played basketball while earning a bachelor's degree in political science and mass communication. Searching for direction, she briefly worked as a mortgage loan processor before realizing banking was not her calling.

At 24, she returned to school as a non-traditional student, spending two years at UW-Madison immersed in science courses. That decision led her to Palmer College of Chiropractic in lowa, where she completed her Doctor of Chiropractic degree totaling 12 years of higher education.

She opened her own chiropractic practice in Oconomowoc and began teaching part-time at Madison College. That experience sparked her love for teaching and ultimately changed the course of her career.

"I feel like I have been teaching my whole life," Schoeller said. "I've always been the type of person to step in and help others learn. One of my mottos is 'the best way to learn is to teach' and have always enjoyed explaining things to people."

Inspired by her love for teaching, she applied for a position at Moraine Park and never looked back. Now, more than two decades later, she remains deeply passionate about her students.

"My students are why I am here after all this time," Schoeller said. "Education changes and institutions evolve—but what never changes is the joy I get from teaching students. They give me so much in return and I enjoy getting to see them thrive."

Schoeller's teaching style is handson and engaging, reflecting her belief that learning should be enjoyable.

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"Many of my students have had discouraging experiences in education, and I want to change that," Schoeller said. "Learning should not make a student miserable, and I strive to create an environment where students feel comfortable and supported. Science classes are challenging, but by fostering a sense of community where students learn together and support one another, the process becomes more manageable and even enjoyable."

Schoeller's impact extends beyond the classroom and has impacted her life in surprising ways. Her daughter has a neurological disorder and has been hospitalized several times—experiences that have brought an unexpected full-circle moment. "Some of my former students have been her nurses," Schoeller said. "It's great to see students I've taught working in their professions and using their skills to help others."

Schoeller teaches anatomy, physiology, and microbiology—prerequisites for Moraine Park health care programs. With the College's new University Transfer Degrees, credits from her courses can now also transfer to a four-year institution, expanding opportunities for students.



Career Deep Dive: Dual Enrollment

Throughout the state, high school students are offered multiple career pathway opportunities. Whether it is an educational institution or an employer with internship-style training, their options are seemingly endless. Moraine Park is committed to empowering students in their journey by offering high school dual enrollment courses—allowing them to earn college credits before graduation, often at little to no cost. It's more than just a head start; it's a chance to build confidence, save money and take meaningful steps toward a bright future.



WHAT IS DUAL ENROLLMENT?

In simple terms, dual enrollment allows high school students to take college-level courses through Moraine Park. These courses are either taught at the high school by qualified teachers (dual credit) or on the College campuses by college faculty (Start College Now).

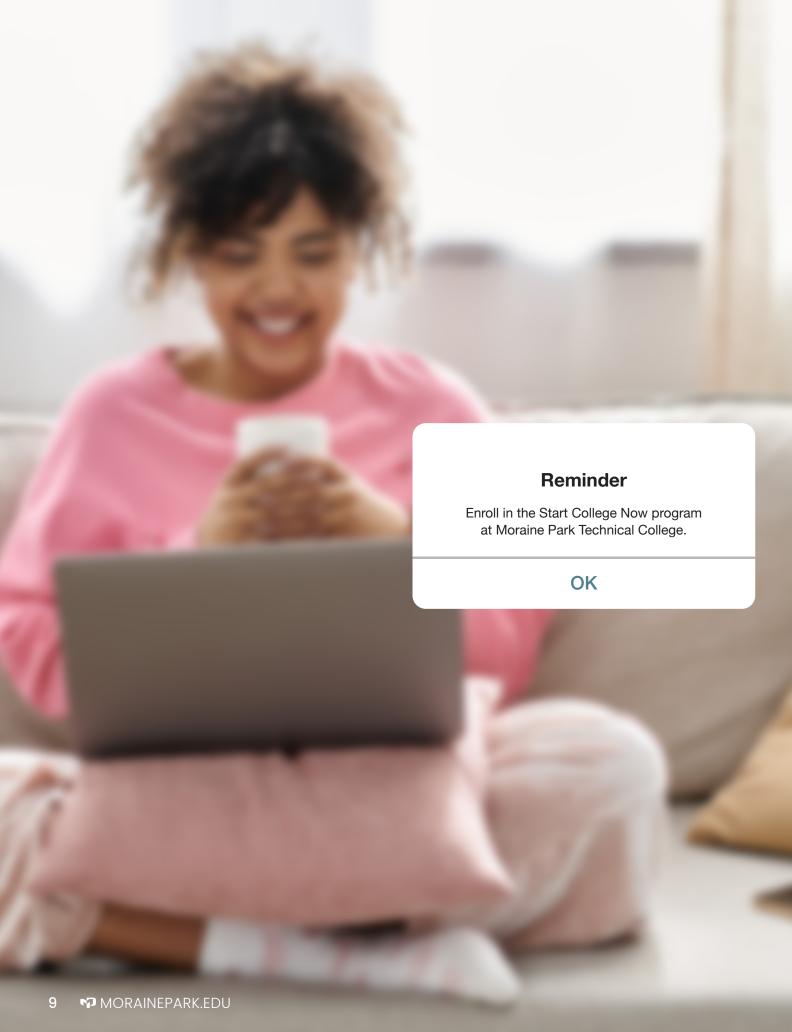
Beth Roehl, the K-12 partnership manager at Moraine Park, is passionate about this initiative.

"Dual enrollment is more than just earning credits," Roehl said. "It's about giving students the chance to explore career paths, gain credentials and build confidence—all before they graduate from high school."

Roehl, who joined Moraine Park in August 2022, has a background as a K-12 teacher and understands firsthand the power of education. During her time as an educator, she also taught dual credit courses, and this shaped her strong advocacy for making these opportunities accessible to all high school students.

"High school is the perfect time to explore different career fields," Roehl said. "Students can try out courses in health care, information technology, business, robotics or any program we offer. Even if they decide a particular path is not for them, they have gained valuable experience at no cost."

Moraine Park students and their families can save significantly on college education costs through dual enrollment. In the 2023-2024 school year alone, students in the College





District saved an impressive \$2.1 million in tuition costs. This gives students a head start, enabling them to graduate high school with college credits—or even a certification or degree-in hand.

Currently, health care courses such as Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) are the most popular among dual enrollment students. However, the college offers a diverse range of courses in program areas such as business management, graphic design, entrepreneurship, manufacturing technologies, auto, culinary, and more, allowing students to explore their interests without boundaries or limitations. Additionally, the increase in transfer agreements between Moraine Park and local four-year universities has reassured students that their credits will transfer easily, resulting in a rising interest in general education courses.

"We offer a wide variety of courses and are always exploring new options. If a student has a passion in a particular field, we want to help them start exploring it in high school," Roehl said.

For highly motivated students, dual enrollment can provide the opportunity to graduate high school with a significant portion of their college degree already completed.

"We have had students graduate high school with almost all their associate degree coursework completed, which opens many doors," Roehl said. "For some, this means they can begin their skilled careers right after high school. For others pursuing a four-year degree, it results in savings of approximately 50 percent on their tuition."

Dual enrollment is about creating pathways for success, ensuring students can access higher education early and gain a competitive edge in the workforce or further their studies at a four-year university.

TOP THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT TECHNICAL COLLEGE EDUCATION

Credits are Transferrable.

For students working toward a career that requires a bachelor's degree, attending Moraine Park is an affordable way to complete general education requirements. Some of these general needs can be completed in high school and then transferred to a local university. Regardless of the educational path, credits obtained at Moraine Park can remain with the students as they continue their education.

Degree Options are Endless.

Any career aspiration can begin at Moraine Park. We encourage parents and individuals with influence over the decisions of high school students to stress the importance of the journey and finding a pathway that works the best for their future aspirations. Degrees do not have to equal debt, and we work hard to offer outcomes that position our graduates for successful careers.

We Walk the Walk.

For over a century, Moraine Park has educated the local community. In fact, you would be hard-pressed to walk into any organization and not encounter a skilled individual who began their education at Moraine Park. The programs, outcomes, growing enrollment and gigantic alumni pool speak for themselves, and we are endlessly proud of the return on investment for our students.

In 2023-24, Moraine Park's dual enrollment opportunities offered district high school students:

3,602 dual credit courses14,149 earned college credits\$2.17 MILLION sayed in tuition and fees

ADVICE FOR PARENTS

As a leader in K-12 educational pathways, Roehl stresses the important role parents play in the educational journey for their children.

"Dual Enrollment is a great opportunity for your children to pursue their interests and passions," Roehl said. "I encourage all parents to engage in conversations with their children about exploring career options through dual enrollment. This invaluable chance allows students to test the waters and see if a particular field is the right fit for them. There is little to no cost involved, and if a student finds a good match, it could lead to significant educational savings in the future."

GETTING STARTED

Navigating the processes can get complicated, so we have simplified the next steps for you.

Students interested in taking advantage of dual enrollment can either.

- A) Talk to their high school career counselor about dual enrollment opportunities available to them.
- B) Contact Moraine Park's K-12 partnership department and they will help guide you through options and next steps.



Ready to start your future? Sign me Can't wait up today! to start!

Driving Toward Success



"I've always loved working on cars—taking them apart and putting them back together," Palomera said. "There's always something new to learn, and no two days are ever the same."

Christian Palomera, an Automotive Technician program graduate, accelerated his career by earning his associate degree from Moraine Park Technical College in spring 2024. His hard work paid off with a promotion from lube technician to Class-C automotive technician at Summit Automotive Ford in Beaver Dam shortly after graduation.

"I've always loved working on cars—taking them apart and putting them back together," Palomera said. "There's always something new to learn, and no two days are ever the same."

While attending Moraine Park, Palomera worked as a lube technician at Summit Automotive, gaining hands-on experience and refining his skills. After graduation, his new role allowed him to tackle more complex responsibilities, such as diagnostics and mobile repairs.

"As a mobile technician, I could visit customers directly and address issues on-site," he explained. "Not everyone can make it to the shop, so having the mobile tech vehicle lets me provide service wherever it was needed."

Palomera began his studies in Spring 2021, juggling a packed schedule. He worked mornings from 7 to 11 a.m. in Beaver Dam before heading to classes from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, at Moraine Park's Fond du Lac Campus.

"One thing I really appreciated about Moraine Park was the diversity of students," Palomera said. "It wasn't just people straight out of high school. I graduated from Beaver Dam High School in 2010, so at 31 years old, I wasn't the oldest in the class. It showed me that it's never too late to pursue your education."

Palomera proudly walked across the stage as a first-generation college graduate during Moraine Park's Spring 2024 Commencement Ceremony, marking a major milestone in his personal and professional journey.



Twins Thrive in Promise Zhanna

Max and Molly Atkinson, twins from Fond du Lac, are making the most of their opportunities at Moraine Park Technical College by participating in the College's Promise Program. The program, funded by donors, is designed to remove financial barriers for high school seniors within the district and has allowed both Max and Molly to pursue their educational and career goals without the added stress of financial strain.

Max, a 2023 Fond du Lac High School graduate, is enrolled in the IT Software Development program. He decided to further his education locally after researching his options.

"I realized Moraine Park has a lot to offer, and I could use it as a stepping stone on my educational journey," Max said. "Choosing a program came naturally, aligning with his hobbies of playing video games and using the computer. I didn't have to think hard about selecting a program; it felt really natural for me to pursue IT."

Molly, also a 2023 Fond du Lac High School graduate, chose the Administrative Coordinator program because of the open possibilities within the career field.

"I looked at the jobs in that career field, and it seemed like I could go anywhere and work for anybody in any field. I wouldn't be tied down to one specific area," she said.

Together, they have dedicated over two years and more than 200 hours to serving the Fond du Lac Holy Family Warming Shelter, far exceeding the program's volunteer requirement.

"The Promise Program has really helped me get out into the community and made me see the different paths I could take," Molly said. "Volunteering at the local warming shelter gave me a new perspective on my challenges. We think we have all these problems, like work or homework, but really those are wonderful problems to have, and we are very fortunate."

Max echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the connections he has built through the program. "The main way that I saw benefit from the Promise Program is that I got to establish more relationships with people." Working at the UPS Store, Max noticed he began recognizing people from his volunteer work, which made him feel more integrated into the community.

Financial support from the Promise Program has been crucial for Max and Molly.

"If I didn't have the Promise Program for financial support, I definitely would have paid everything out-of-pocket. I can't express how appreciative I am for the scholarship support," Molly said. "To the Promise Program donors—thank you for getting me more involved with the community around me that I've lived in my whole life."

As they look to the future, Max and Molly have clear goals. Max is eager to dive deeper into his IT studies after finishing his general education courses, while Molly is excited about moving out, getting her own apartment and starting her career.

Max and Molly Atkinson's journey through the Promise Program at Moraine Park showcases the power of community connection, education and determination. With the solid foundation they're building, the twins are well on their way to bright and successful futures.





Imagine What's Next

Update on Moraine Park's **Referendum Projects**



MANUFACTURING, AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS LAB West Bend

Moraine Park's major construction project at the West Bend Campus is underway, with noticeable changes to the building's exterior. Here is what is going on inside and what to expect during the next few months.

The new front entrance, an expanded conference center, the construction of the Advanced Manufacturing Center addition and the reconfiguration of the new student services department are all nearing completion.

- The new entrance and student services areas offer a bright and fresh design with ample space for employees to help with various student needs. The space is designed with forward-thinking materials such as modular walls-allowing for future reconfiguration without a large construction overhaul.
- The framing and exterior walls for the Advanced Manufacturing Center addition are in place, with interior framing well underway. While the interior is not visible to the community yet, passersby will notice the massive change to the exterior where the main entrance used to be.
- Finally, a new conference center was built using the existing square footage and a small expansion and will include breakout rooms and the ability to partition the space into smaller sections.

The next phase of this project will include the completion of the Advanced Manufacturing Center, the construction of a school Spirit Store, a restoration of the old student services area into offices for campus leadership and the relocation of the Economic and Workforce Development office.

The only areas of the construction zone currently open to the public are the new main entrance and the reconstructed student services area. All other spaces are still under construction, with an expected completion date later this spring.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FACILITY

Fond du Lac

The final of the referendum projects, the health and human services facility, is in the planning phases with construction scheduled to begin in late 2025/early 2026.

COMPLETED PROJECTS





Staying Connected With Moraine Park



UPCOMING EVENTS

Prospective students and community members are invited to save the date for the following upcoming college events.

APRIL 2 College Preview Day, Fond du Lac

11 & 12 grade students

APRIL 9 College Preview Day, West Bend

11 & 12 grade students

APRIL 23 Virtual Information Session

MAY 13 Virtual Information Session

MAY 17 Commencement

SEPTEMBER 18 West Bend Campus Open House



REMAIN CONNECTED

Find Moraine Park's news site, MPTC Today, the College's 2023-24 Annual Report, information on events, and links to College social media.

Our goal is to keep our district communities informed about all the latest news and updates at Moraine Park. As a public institution supported by taxpayer dollars, we believe in maintaining transparency and fostering strong connections with the communities we serve. Here is a brief overview of how you can stay connected with us throughout the year.



Scan me for fun college vibes.

More information can be found at **morainepark.edu.**



Don Charleston

Congratulations to all. You've chosen a great profession.

MPTC was a fantastic school! I felt like there was a lot

less "hoop jumping" to get started compared to other

Elizabeth Gaynor Sterman

Theresa Wuestenhagen

schools. No secrets no surprises.

Yes! My daughter is in the respiratory therapy program. She is getting a great education. She will graduate debt free in May 2026, and have a great career.



Your College of Choice

Celebrating our 2024 Winter Nursing Graduates - MPTC Today

43K views • 8 months are



moraineparktech

moraineparktech Happy International Firefighters Day! 🙎 🚝 🐧 👌

Moraine Park's Fire Protection Technicis, program is dedicated to training the negeneration of heroes. With a focus on lit property and environmental safety, our curriculum covers everything from fire suppression to emergency medical servi-

Exciting news! Soon, students will ignite passion for fire protection at our new H Regional Center, set to open for the Fall

OOA

May 4, 2024

Add a comment

Surgical Technology Program at Mor

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