

Adult Learner—may be 24 years of age or older; a veteran of the armed services or active-duty; returning to school after four or more years of employment, homemaking, or other activity; a person who assumes multiple adult roles, such as parent, spouse/partner, and employee.

| Undergraduate Adult Students | 10/11 | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Penn State — all locations | 14,573 | 16,713 | 17,191 | 17,783 |
| Commonwealth Campuses | 8,384 | 8,993 | 8,717 | 8,562 |
| World Campus | 3,692 | 5,208 | 5,956 | 6,744 |
| University Park | 2,803 | 2,876 | 2,872 | 2,853 |

Source: Outreach Analytics and Research

Undergraduate Adult Learners' Student Demographics

18% of all undergraduate adult learners are actively serving military students and veteran students

76% of all undergraduate adult learners reside in Pennsylvania

61% of all undergraduate adult learners are part-time students

Top 10 Associate Degree Majors

BAY 13/14 Undergraduate Adult Learners

- Business Administration
- Letters, Arts, and Sciences
- Information Sciences and Technology
- Nursing
- Human Development and Family Studies
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Occupational Therapy
- Turfgrass Science and Management
- Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Mining Technology

Top 10 Baccalaureate Degree Majors

BAY 13/14 Undergraduate Adult Learners

- Nursing
- Business
- Information Sciences and Technology
- Psychology
- Letters, Arts, and Sciences
- Organizational Leadership
- Criminal Justice
- Liberal Arts programs
- Human Development and Family Studies
- Labor and Employment Relations

Source: Outreach Analytics and Research

Top 10 Degree-Required Growth Jobs by 2020

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|---|--|
| • Registered Nurses Associate Degree | • Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists Bachelor's Degree |
| • General and Operations Managers ... Bachelor's Degree | • Computer Systems Analysts Bachelor's Degree |
| • Elementary School Teachers (except special education) Bachelor's Degree | • Software Developers, Systems Software Bachelor's Degree |
| • Accountants and Auditors Bachelor's Degree | • Construction Managers Bachelor's Degree |
| • Software Developers, Applications... Bachelor's Degree | |
| • Management Analysts Bachelor's Degree | |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

2014–15 Committees and Task Force

Access and Affordability Task Force

The Task Force plans to examine the extent to which factors—such as rising tuition and fees, obstacles to obtaining credit for prior learning, difficulties with transferring credits to Penn State, lack of academic preparation, and challenges with financial literacy—create barriers to adult learner access and affordability. The Task Force will then consider and recommend strategies to address these barriers.

Awards and Recognition

Review nominations and select recipients of the Commission's grants and awards according to established selection criteria:

- **Shirley Hendrick Award**—In recognition of an administrator University-wide who has contributed to the success of Penn State's efforts to serve adult learners. The award is named in memory of Shirley Hendrick, inaugural chair of the Commission for Adult Learners, who advocated for continuing education.
- **Commission Recognitions**—The Commission for Adult Learners strives to recognize success stories of adult learners across the University with recognitions at the Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference.

Hendrick Conference Planning

Plan, coordinate, and present a conference that showcases best practices of the University's adult learner practitioners.

- Involve Commission committee members and their initiatives as conference break-out session presenters and in other activities.
- Identify presenters and content around the selected conference focus and strategic mission of the Commission.
- Include those with successful programs and services as presenters, to share information that participants can adopt/adapt at their locations.
- Recognize Commission awards and recognition program recipients at the annual conference.

Prior Learning Assessment

This committee works directly with the University's Director of Prior Learning Assessment to accomplish the following:

- Provide an adult learner perspective to University policy, practices, and procedures as it pertains to prior learning assessment.
- Recommend changes and revisions based on adult learner experience.
- Serve as a sounding board for acceptance of new ideas and initiatives that affect adult learners University-wide.

Military and Veteran Support Services

Review the availability of services at each Penn State Campus and in its local community to ensure that our military students' and student veterans' needs are met.

- Work with Student Affairs Research and Assessment to create a survey for veterans and active-duty military to inform what support services are needed.
- Determine and create a list of best practices, support services, and programs that are needed to support veterans.
- Propose a session at a future Hendrick conference to share the results of the survey.