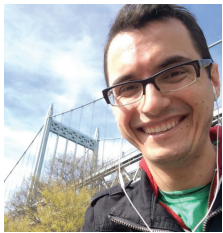




FACT SHEET

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.

This issue of the Adult Learner Fact Sheet highlights a few of our typical adult learners who completed their degrees or successfully completed the semester. We are proud of their achievements.



"I didn't know what it would be like going back to school after so many years, being in class with students much younger than me. Everyone at Penn State was very accommodating. The faculty and tutors were an incredible help. I don't consider myself an 'adult learner' anymore. I see myself as part of a great group of individuals eager to get work done and ultimately achieve our degrees."

Nicholaos Panagakos
Division of Undergraduate Studies, Penn State Worthington Scranton,
President Sparks Award Recipient

FAST FACT

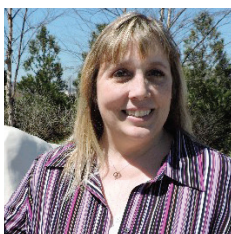
The 2015–16 academic year total undergraduate student head count was 87,862. Of that total, 21% (18,409) are undergraduate adult students.

FAST FACT

Of the 65% (11,892) of Penn State undergraduate adult learners who took an online course in 2015–16, 47% listed World Campus as their home campus. The remaining 18% were non-World Campus adult students.

"It's not just any online program, it's one of the best. Penn State World Campus offers the University's quality academic reputation and familiar name recognition. My education has opened doors for me already. I can't wait for the future."

Joanie Quintanilla
Graduate, Master of Public Administration,
Penn State World Campus



"Returning to school had been a desire of mine for a long time, but as a single mom there never seemed to be a 'right' time. My time at Penn State has been very rewarding. I'm truly overjoyed, honored, and privileged to be a Penn State adult student and pleased that my daughter considers me an inspiration."

Denise Hassick
Division of Undergraduate Studies, Penn State Lehigh Valley,
President's Freshman Award Recipient

FAST FACT

For 2015–16 adult learner undergraduates at all campuses, 26.86% indicated that they have children.

FAST FACT

The top undergraduate majors for adult learners in the 2015–16 academic year: Business Administration, Nursing, Information Sciences and Technology, Business, and Letters, Arts, and Sciences

"I have always wanted to be part of a great academic institution like Penn State. The proximity of Penn State Berks and the fact that it has a friendly atmosphere and courses for adult learners like me made it simpler to choose Penn State Berks."

Charles Gyapong
Communication Arts and Sciences, Penn State Berks





"Twenty-four years after I first enrolled at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, I graduated. I stayed with it. I saw it as one of those lifetime badges you get: the turn-40-and-go-back-to-college badge."

Michael Linhart
Graduate, General Arts and Sciences, Penn State Behrend

FAST FACT

In the 2015–16 academic year, there were 6,986 degrees awarded to adult learners: 520 earned an associate degree, 3,328 earned a baccalaureate degree, and 3,138 earned a graduate degree.

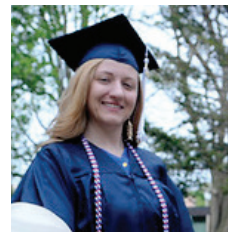
The totals exclude Dickinson, Great Valley, Hershey, and Study Abroad.

FAST FACT

Nearly one in five adult learners have military ties as active-duty military or veterans.

"My deployment is what brought me to World Campus, and since then, I can't rave enough about it. The professors all want the best for you; and they understand that military schedules get a little hectic, so they would really work with me."

Mandy Eagler
Graduate, Business



Commission for Adult Learner 2015–16 Successes and Highlights

- A revised policy covering short-term military absences was submitted to the University Faculty Senate for consideration and future implementation.
- CAL provided funding for a PLA brochure that has been distributed to the colleges and campuses and to Undergraduate Admissions.
- The 2016 Shirley Hendrick Award was presented to Dr. Daad Rizk for her accomplishments in launching financial literacy initiatives across the University.
- The Access and Affordability Initiatives Implementation Task Force considered two tasks: exploring adult degree completion options, and new tuition models to make Penn State more affordable to adult learners who attend part-time.
 - The Task Force agreed that the criteria for adult degree completion were met with the introduction of the College of the Liberal Arts Integrated Social Sciences degree, which allows up to 90 transfer credits, with the caveat that enrollments be monitored and new options to the degree be explored.
 - Additional conversations continue between the Commission and senior University leadership to review options to close the tuition differential between full- and part-time students.

Additional information is available on the CAL website at:

cal.psu.edu