



## 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.

### Commission for Adult Learners to Celebrate 20 Years of Adult Learner Advocacy in 2018

The Commission, established in 1998, is marking two decades of advocating for and supporting adult learners. We will continue to provide a strong and steadfast voice for these students, identifying opportunities and resources that make Penn State a more open and welcoming place for them.

Undergraduate Adult Students	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Penn State – all locations	17,783	17,987	18,457	17,915
Commonwealth Campuses	8,504	7,937	7,490	6,657
Penn State World Campus	6,744	7,649	8,736	9,148
University Park	2,853	2,745	2,591	2,370

Data Source: Outreach Analytics and Reporting

## Undergraduate Adult Learners' Student Demographics

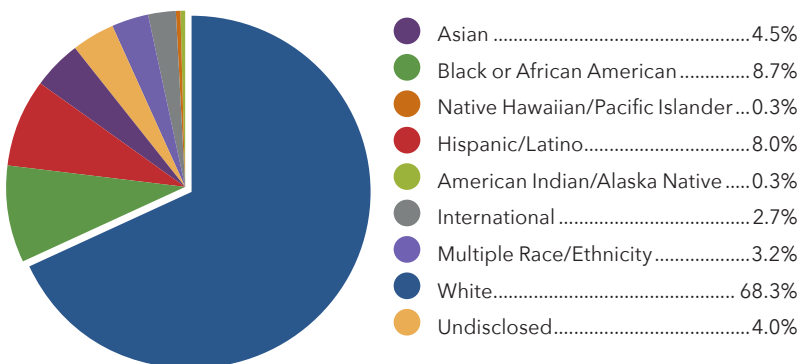
**19%** of all undergraduate adult learners are actively serving military students and veteran students

**62%** of all undergraduate adult learners reside in Pennsylvania

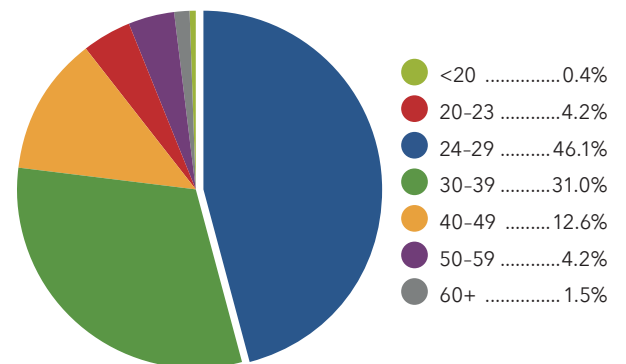
**60%** of all undergraduate adult learners are part-time students

Data Source: Outreach Analytics and Reporting  
As of April 30, 2017

### Undergraduate Adult Learners' Ethnicity



### Undergraduate Adult Learners' Age



Data Source: Outreach Analytics and Reporting



## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ADULT STUDENT ADVOCACY

### Undergraduate Adult Learners' Financial Facts – 2015/16

- **75%** of all undergraduate adult learners receive some form of financial aid
- Median income for adult students who applied for aid is **\$27,837**, compared to **\$77,812** for all undergraduate aid recipients
- **40%** of adult learner aid recipients are first-generation college students, compared to **33%** for all undergraduate aid recipients
- **24%** have dependent children
- **49%** of adult students receive student aid with a Pell Grant, compared to **34%** of undergraduates receiving student aid with a Pell Grant
- Average loan debt for adult learners who graduated is **\$42,937**, compared to **\$38,208** for all undergraduates who graduated

*Data Source: Office of Student Aid*

### Focus

The focus of the Commission for Adult Learners in 2017-18 will be the *“holistic view of the adult learner as a matriculating student.”*

This focus will be based on, but not limited to, four points linking to the work that the action teams do within the Commission:

1. Tuition – Review how educational costs affect access and affordability for the adult learner.
2. Adult Learner Engagement Committee (ALEC) and the Adult Enrollment Coordinators (AECs) – Strengthen links with our adult learners and the coordinators who serve them.
3. Charting the Course – Benchmark with other adult learner programs to ensure that Penn State is at the forefront of providing the best support network in higher education to facilitate success for our adult learner population.
4. Strategic Collaboration – Actively seek out relationships with other commissions and organizations across Penn State to create the best educational community for our adult learners.

### Mission

Penn State's Commission for Adult Learners is composed of faculty, staff, and students from several University locations. Members are dedicated to improving the adult learner experience at Penn State.

### Charge

1. Provide a visible University-wide body whose primary purpose is to contribute to a supportive climate for adult learners
2. Monitor the recruitment, retention, and satisfaction of adult learners
3. Advocate for adult learners' concerns by recommending changes in policy, practice, and procedures that impact adult learners
4. Foster coordination and information exchange regarding programs and services that attract and retain adult learners to Penn State
5. Serve as a repository and facilitating body for adult learner-focused initiatives University-wide