

Working Adults



Open University

Most CSU's, UC's and some private schools provide students with the opportunity to enroll in university courses without being officially admitted. Students are able to take courses listed in the schedule of classes. These classes are offered online, in evenings, and weekends. Most of these courses count towards their degree of choice, however each university has different standards of completion and the maximum number of units a student can take through *Open University* differs by university.

Online Classes

Online classes are a flexible and convenient way to obtain a degree for working adults and while raising children. These classes offer flexible schedules for working adults with part-time or full-time jobs and online classes allow you to do assignments at your own pace so you may work around family schedules and needs. With the convenience of online classes, a student does not need to be at a classroom, cutting down on transportation costs and time as you can do the course work at home. Some online classes may also cost less as textbooks may not be required with most materials provided online.

Financial Assistance

Federal student aid and scholarships do not have an age restriction. **Some scholarships are specifically offered for students 30 years or older.** Although some schools may not provide financial aid for the first bachelor's degree, there are schools that waive this restriction on adults returning to earn a second degree in order to prepare them for a career change.

6 Ways to Save on Continuing Education

1. **Target Scholarships** – that are tailored for adults rather than high school students.
2. **Use your Experience** - If you have been in a profession or occupation for a number of years, your experience might get you some credit towards your degree.
3. **Passing the Tab** - Some companies offer company sponsored tuition. Companies will pay some of your tuition if you decide to go back to school.
4. **Discounts** - Some states offer tuition waivers for people over the ages of 60 to 65.
5. **Scholarships in your Field** - Some scholarships are targeted towards a specific field. If you can demonstrate experience in that field, your chances of getting that scholarship are higher.
6. **Cash in On Service** - The Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act will allow those who served active military duty on or after September 11, 2001 access to veteran educational assistance for up to 15 years after service.

Proprietary Schools

Tips for Finding the Best School for You

- Make sure that the school is accredited. Accrediting bodies that cover specific regions in the United States are generally the most respected and recognized.
- Ask the school what percentage of graduates from the program you are interested in are hired and how long does it take to find a job?
- Find current and former students and ask them for their opinion. Did they find the job they wanted? The school should be able to put you in touch with someone who has been successful in their field.
- Ask recruiters if credit from their colleges will transfer to other schools.
- If you're set on a proprietary school, make sure you research a few schools and compare costs. Then pick the best one that suits your needs.

Financial Aid in Proprietary Schools

- Proprietary Schools have incentives to help students obtain Pell Grants.
- Proprietary schools students receive an average of \$1,649 more than students who are attending a community college.

Proprietary Schools and Student Focus

- Most proprietary schools offer course schedules that suit students' lives. Since most students work, the schools try their best to work around the student's schedule.
- Schools such as the University Of Phoenix lay out the entire course plan for students all the way through graduation. This system allows students to plan their lives around their schedule.
- In large urban areas, schools like DeVry wait until after 10am to start the day due to the heavy morning commutes.
- Once students are enrolled, schools work hard to keep them at their school. At the University of Phoenix, if a student is absent or struggling, the professor contacts one of the three counselors who are part of his "graduation team". These counselors help students throughout their enrollment at the school.

Education pays:

