## **Advice for Adult Students**

# Myths about Returning to College

- 1. **College is only for extremely intelligent people:** Most college students are of normal, average intelligence.
- 2. **College is only for particularly creative people:** College is a place to learn, not just to invent.
- 3. **College is only for the young:** Colleges are full of diversity and include students of <u>all</u> ages. The average college student is 27 years old.
- 4. **College is only for those with a lot of free time:** Colleges often accommodate unconventional schedules by offering night classes, part-time enrollment, and weekend classes. Some schools also offer distance learning and on-line classes.
- 5. **College is only for the rich:** Colleges offer many ways to finance an education including loans, scholarships, grants, and work study.
- 6. **College programs will take too long to complete:** Four-year schools offer summer classes which will help speed the process. Associate degrees are often completed in two years.
- 7. **College is only for those who pass entrance college exams:** Colleges may require that you take the exams; however, they may not require a certain score. Many schools do not require entrance exam scores after a certain age. Be sure to check with your school.
- 8. College is only for the people who know what they want to do: Colleges generally have two years of general course requirements that expose you to a variety of subjects before requiring you to declare a major. Many students change majors numerous times, and career counseling services are usually available.
- 9. **College professors tend to get agitated with older, non-traditional students:** College professors are there to teach and to help you succeed. They are on your side no matter what age you are. When you show an interest in learning, they become more inspired to teach.
- 10. **College is only for those without children:** College bound parents balance school and family every day. Some colleges even offer day-care services on campus.
- 11. College graduates don't really earn more than non-college graduates: Average college graduates earn about <u>twice as much</u> as average high school graduates.



#### ADVICE FOR ADULT STUDENTS

## **Tips on Making the Transition**

- Be patient, relaxed, and focused when dealing with school related people and situations. Do
  not be intimidated by the idea of returning to school as an adult student. Remember: You
  are not alone.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Take a campus tour and learn where buildings and offices are located.
- Become familiar with school administrators. It will help you to know your financial aid advisor, admissions counselor, and academic advisor. Some schools have personnel who specialize in nontraditional student populations.
- Ask about your educational options. Many schools offer night and weekend classes. Classes
  may also be offered at more convenient off-campus locations. If you have young children,
  take time to find out if a day-care service is available on campus.
- Get involved. You can meet many of your fellow students by attending orientation programs developed specifically for nontraditional students. Ask about free tutoring services and take advantage of study groups and labs.
- Be efficient and creative with your study time. Utilize shorter time spans to study rather
  than trying to set aside 2 hours at once. Review your notes at lunch or while waiting for a
  doctor's appointment. You may be surprised by the amount of possible study time you find
  hidden in your current schedule.
- Be flexible with your normal routines. Don't get stressed out over a dirty house or an overgrown lawn. Ask your family or friends to help you out.
- Be positive and enthusiastic about your educational adventure. Everyone can succeed!

## Resources on the Web:

Association for Non-Traditional Students in Higher Education (ANTSHE):

http://www.antshe.org/

Back to College: <a href="http://www.back2college.com/">http://www.back2college.com/</a>

Adult/Continuing Education: http://adulted.about.com/

Adult Student.com: <a href="http://www.adultstudent.com/">http://www.adultstudent.com/</a>

