

ADULT LEARNERS

Are you financially ready to further your education?

Adult learners make up almost 40 percent of today's higher education student population.¹ Many face unique challenges like balancing work, school, family responsibilities and childcare. While the reasons to attend are many, it's important to keep finances in mind.

BEFORE YOU ENROLL

CONSIDER YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION

When returning to school, you may need to adjust your current lifestyle. Consider how your costs for school will fit into your financial situation, and identify areas where it may be necessary to cut back in order to fulfill your education dreams.



DEVELOP A BUDGET

Only one-third of American households keep a detailed budget.² And just 37 percent of Americans have enough in savings to cover a \$500 emergency.³ Are you prepared to handle those costs in addition to paying for education? Understand your full financial situation before making big money decisions.



CALCULATE YOUR INCOME

Enrolling in a postsecondary program may impact your work schedule or your ability to work—which might mean a change in income. Will you have a job or a side hustle while in school? Does your existing or future employer offer benefits for additional training or education? Also, consider work study as a way to earn money while gaining job experience.



ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

Depending on your goals and your situation, consider a variety of enrollment options. Certificate or four-year degree, part-time or full-time, there are many pathways to success. Also consider how your education path will impact your need for student loans. Scholarships are also a good way to decrease the cost of education.



EVALUATE THE IMPACT ON YOUR LIFE

Going to school takes time and energy. Do you have a support system backing your decision? Can you afford additional childcare if necessary? Think about the time investment and any other areas of your life that might change when pursuing your education.



¹ National Center for Education Statistics. Back to School Statistics 2018. August 2018.

² Associated Press NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. American finance poll. May 2016.

³ Bankrate. Survey: How Americans Content with Unexpected Expenses. January 2016.