

WHO ARE TODAY'S ADULT LEARNERS?



Adult learners are having a big impact throughout higher education. On campus and online, they represent a growing and diverse student population. As experts report on their needs and interests, adult learners benefit from degree pathways that address their needs for their time and provide opportunities to lower their cost of college.

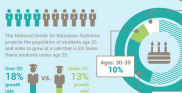
Working to support their education



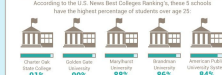
In order to fully understand the needs of all college students, one must understand the unique perspective and needs of adult learners and how they are altering the makeup of the overall student population.

A Quick Look: Adult Learners Today

Older and wiser: a growing number of students aren't back at high school. According to the US Dept. of Education, nearly 45% of students are age 25 and older, and that percentage is expected to increase in the next decade.



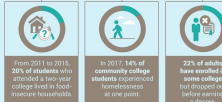
Most Students Who Are Adult Learners



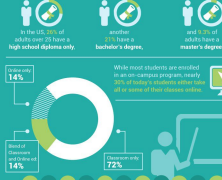
The majority of today's students work (85%) and raise kids (38%). Students with multiple demands on their limited resources often struggle to succeed in a one-size-fits-all system of higher ed. 38% of students with additional financial work and family obligations leave school on their first year.

A growing number of today's students are parents without jobs and kids. One-quarter of students have dependents. According to the 2014 American College Transparency Project, 20% of college students are raising children.

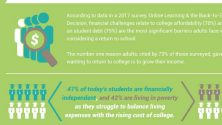
According to a study, financial challenges are the number one issue affecting college students and are having a major impact on graduation rates. Today's students are dealing with food insecurity, homelessness, and incomes below the poverty level.



What are Reasons Adults Don't Enroll in College?



Barriers to Student Success & Graduation

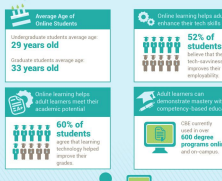


To tackle the real issues that adult learners face, education policies need to adapt:



A Better Way Forward

Despite all these challenges, advances in online education have begun to transform the way adults think about college and earning their degree.



Sources:

- American Association of Community Colleges
- U.S. News Best College Ranking
- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Census Bureau
- U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
- U.S. Department of Labor
- U.S. Social Security Administration
- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Department of Education