

The Top 10 Things Every Adult Student Ought to Know

1. It's Never Too Late

It is never too late to follow a dream. If you have always dreamed of going to college or returning to college it's time to start. You won't be alone.

2. There Is No Need For Guilt

Remember, you are seeking to improve your situation through education. The best gift you can give yourself and your family is an education. Most will agree the sacrifices made were worth the effort with your diploma in hand.

3. Flexible Learning Options

Many courses are available at times that allow you to continue with your normal schedule, for example online, late afternoon or evening courses, and independent learning (through UW-Colleges or Independent Learning).

4. Academic Advising

An academic adviser is usually a faculty or staff member who advises students on his/her academic program. They will advise you of specific courses you must take, and know all about your major requirements for graduation. They can help you find internships, serve as a reference when you apply for a job, and are often available to provide personal advice.

5. Registration Process

Unless you are a re-admitted or second degree student, you will be required to attend an Orientation session at which time you will register for classes, get your textbooks, and your student ID card. This may seem frightening to you, but there are plenty of staff to assist you. After you register for the first term, the process becomes much easier.

6. Budgeting

Create a realistic and reasonable budget. No other problem creates as much stress, anxiety, and worry as not having enough money. Include all family members in the budgeting discussion.

Itemize your expenses, Itemize your resources, then Construct your budget.

7. Maintaining a Balance

Most adult students find it impossible to work full-time and go to school full-time. Therefore, it may be necessary to attend only part-time as long as you have a full-time job. A full academic course load at UW-Whitewater is twelve credits. It's important to remember that for every hour you have in class, there will be additional hours for reading, study, and assignments.

8. The First Semester

The first semester is going to be tough and it will take you a while to get your bearings. Don't get discouraged. You will soon have a routine, your family will have adjusted, and you will be on your way to achieving your dream.

9. Computer Literacy

Word processing is a necessary skill for all college students. Most instructors will not accept papers if they aren't typed. In addition to word processing, learning to use email and the internet is critical for college students. UW-Whitewater offers free basic computer training classes to students.

10. Attitude

Your attitude is the key barometer of your success. You begin highly motivated and focused. You encounter course work that takes time away from things you've always enjoyed doing. Your family and friends put undue expectations on you.

