

ADULT LEARNER INITIATIVE (ALI)



Purpose:

Strengthen targeted support services designed to assist adult learners to reach their career and educational goals

The following recommendations are based on a review of the literature and an analysis of national, state, and institutional data.

1. Review, evaluate, and revise current student support services and resources to meet adult learner needs.
2. Create a specialized orientation for adult students.
3. Review college costs up front to identify payment options.
4. Focus on prospects for career advancement and provide reliable links to workplace-related course work and degrees and current pathway opportunities.
5. Evaluate viability of offering a variety of learning options including evening, weekend, short-term, late start, and accelerated classes as well as online, face-to-face, and hybrid courses.
6. Review and modify student leave possibilities to add flexibility and provide adult learners with alternatives.
7. Provide professional development workshops and training for faculty and staff that focus on adult learner needs and success strategies.
8. Undertake continuous assessment and recalibrate programs and services in response to the data.

The ultimate goal is to build on what is already in place, develop additional support services to fill in the gaps, and increase capacity across the college by providing on-going professional development activities that focus on adult learners.

www.foothill.edu/ali

Action Plan:

1. Create and post an Adult Learner Program webpage listing all the current programs and services for adult students in Fall 2013.
2. Designate a contact person in each student services department for adult learners.
3. Develop an orientation program to meet the needs of adult learners to be implement in the spring of 2014.
4. Continue to develop online interactive career pathway modules directed at adult students.
5. Financial aid staff will review current funding options for adult students and develop recommendations for alternative payment and financing opportunities.
6. Use the Community Ambassador Program (CAP) and a the new student success center in room 2150 to provide workshops, training, resources and peer-to-peer support for adult students.
7. Ask Instructional deans to consider developing additional evening, weekend, and late start classes.
8. Add and promote online professional development workshops focusing on adult and nontraditional students to the college's program.
9. Implement the new program review template for Student Learning/ Service Area Outcomes (SLSAO) that includes an assessment component focused on adult learners.



44% of Foothill College students are adult learners

Who are Adult Learners?

- Delayed enrollment into postsecondary education
- Attend part-time
- Financially independent of parents
- Work full-time while enrolled
- Have dependents other than a spouse
- Single parent
- 25 and older
- Lack a standard high school diploma

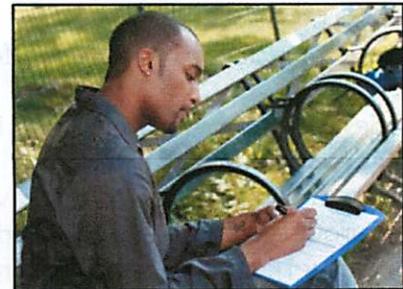


Between 2009 and 2020, NCES projects there will be a 21% increase in students aged 25 to 34 and a 16% increase in students aged 35 and above.

-National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), 2011

COMMON BARRIERS ADULT STUDENTS FACE:

- Day time classes conflicting with work
- Lack of financial aid
- Cost of college and lack of time
- Need for child care
- Transportation
- Negative perceptions of their ability to learn
- Fear and anxiety about starting or returning to college
- Underprepared for college



ADULT LEARNER STATS

National Center for Education Statistics, 2011

- 1 in 3 undergraduates in the US are 25 or older
- 2 in 3 community college students have to work to afford college
- 1 in 4 students are also parents
- 1 in 3 work 35+ hours per week while in college

THEY ARE:
Single parents
Married students
Students with dependent children
Students working full-time
Dislocated workers
Public assistance recipients
Homeless students
First generation college students
Financially independent students
Undocumented students
Students with disabilities
Older adults
Part-time students
ESL students
Military personnel
Veterans
Underprepared students

