

Returning to School as an Adult

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A college education was always in the back of my mind, but as a single working adult, financial concerns troubled me. One day while I was going through the same work routine for the 100th time, my brain kept telling me, "YES, YOU CAN!"

From that moment on, I started thinking positively that I could go back to school full time and earn a degree.

My local college offered financial assistance to qualified adult students. I was thrilled when I was informed that I qualified and received an independent academic scholarship for tuition and books. I had 30 credits that were transferable from another college. Also, I had been taking college classes part-time for two years.

By scheduling the maximum number of classes allowed and continuing straight through the summers, I could earn my remaining credits in 16 months. My college adviser told me my planned schedule was too aggressive, but I had to be practical.

I recall vividly that first day of classes in the fall semester. I strolled through the campus looking at all those "young" students. As I walked, I was thinking, "I should be at work!" But I resolutely went to my first class and from then on, there was no turning back.

A very unexpected occurrence took place as I completed my education. I gained self-confidence. Not only could I keep up with the younger students, I could excel! I was able to see myself in a whole new light. And learning with the younger generation was an enjoyable experience.

When I returned to the workforce, I encountered other adult-student-wannabes, and encouraged them to pursue their dream. Education can be attained at any age.