ADULT STUDENT SERVICES

The Center for Professional and Continuing Education (CPCE) provides student services specifically for adult learners, often part-time students, who wish to obtain or complete an undergraduate degree. The Center assists interested persons to determine if they qualify for admission to the University, to identify appropriate academic programs to meet individual needs, to acquire financial aid information and to secure access to needed student services. The Center provides adults re-entering Pacific guidance in planning their academic career in relationship to their individual needs, abilities and goals. Student Services begins by providing assistance in discovering the options that are available. Assessment of personal goals, learning style, vocational interests and level of student skills are among the services offered in cooperation with several University offices. Because adult students often experience difficulty integrating their study schedules with their work and family situations, Student Services' staff members are prepared to assist students with the transition to the University.

Adult learners have several opportunities to earn elective unit credit previous to enrolling at Pacific. Students may take CLEP examinations (College Level Examination Program) for a reasonable fee and earn four units of undergraduate, lower division credit, for each test receiving a passing score for a maximum of 20 units. Broad area tests and specific field tests are available. Other forms of experiential credit include units earned through challenging courses and through cooperative education and internships.

Summer Sessions at Pacific offers special opportunities for adult learners with early morning, daytime, and early evening classes at a reduced tuition as well as online courses. Because the summer contains three separate sessions, students may complete the equivalent of an entire semester's work by taking the maximum number of units allowed in each session.

"Sprinkle a few adult students into your courses – and guess what? Other students begin to connect class discussion to the world outside the University. Why? Because adult students have experience, their comments make the world of ideas real to others. And because the sacrifices necessary in returning to school engender a seriousness about study evident to others, they often make the best possible models regarding what college life is all about."

Professor Emeritus Roy Childs

Adult learners experience many advantages because Pacific is a resident campus. Students can participate in and benefit from the many activities and events that take place every day of the week. Conservatory concerts, notable speakers, athletic events, recreational opportunities and other activities for learning and entertainment are available to adult learners.

An important dimension of Pacific is the supportive nature of its student body. Adult learners, in spite of their busy schedules balancing work, family and school, respond to the personal and academic needs of their peers. Frequently, students tutor each other and participate in study groups. Pacific's Iota Gamma chapter of the national honor society, Alpha Sigma Lambda, recognizes the academic achievement of adult learners. There is a "commuter lounge" designated on campus as an additional resource for non-residential students. In addition, Osher Re-Entry Scholarships are available to a number of qualified adult students each year.