

The Adult Learner Connection

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“PACE” Yourself: Adult Degree Completion through Otterbein College’s Professional Adult Continuing Education Program

by **Mary Higginbotham, M.A.**
Adviser

If you’re an adult student working toward completing your bachelor’s degree, and time is of the essence, Otterbein College’s PACE (Professional Adult Continuing Education) program could be a good option. For students who meet specific criteria, bachelor’s degrees in **business administration, business psychology, human resource management, leadership, management and leadership, and organizational communication** can be completed in as few as 23 months.

The PACE program is geared specifically toward degree completion, for students who have earned college credit, either at Columbus State or other colleges or universities.* For students who transfer 90 quarter or 60 semester hours of courses, including “selected prerequisites,” to Otterbein, degrees in the PACE program can be completed in 23 months. Students who transfer with fewer hours or without the required prerequisites can also participate in the PACE program, but degree completion will take longer than 23 months.

Courses in the PACE program typically meet one to two evenings per week, usually from 6:15 – 9:30 p.m. Some weekend courses are also available. Quarters are the predominant academic term, although Otterbein offers December term courses and split-session courses during the summer. All courses are faculty taught, with student-to-faculty ratios of approximately 14 to one.

Flexibility is a key component of the PACE program, and students can enroll part-time or full-time, depending upon their needs. Classes are not offered in a cohort-type setting, so students progress at their own individual speed, and can enroll or sit out as dictated by their personal schedules. Students in the program are typically age 23 or older, but anyone may apply to the program.

PACE program courses are classroom-based, and the program does not include online courses. Most courses are taught at Otterbein’s Westerville location, although some courses are also available in Newark on the Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) campus.



*“You are never too old
to set another goal or to
dream a new dream.”*

-Les Brown

Students enrolled in PACE have access to resources and services available to all Otterbein students, including an Academic Support Center, writing skills courses, computer labs, and a math lab. Students also have opportunities to participate in internships and study abroad programs.

PACE and other adult students typically utilize Otterbein's Office of Continuing Studies, which serves as a one-stop center for students' enrollment, advising, and financial aid needs. Director of Continuing Studies Cynthia Johnson highlights the value of the one-stop center for its convenience, accessibility, and flexibility. "We really try to get to know our students," says Johnson.

According to Johnson, career planning and placement services are available to all Otterbein students, including PACE program students. Networking with faculty and a well-developed alumni organization are particularly strong resources for Otterbein students and graduates.

The cost for attending Otterbein varies, depending upon a student's course load. For the 2007-2008 academic year, part-time tuition is \$300 per credit hour. For full-time enrollment, fees are the same as those charged to traditional "daytime" undergraduates, at \$8,355 per quarter. December term enrollment is on a part-time basis only and summer quarter fees are charged at the per-credit-hour rate. Payment plans and financial aid are available, and the December term tuition is free for PACE majors if students successfully complete the recommended pattern of two courses per quarter over four consecutive terms.

Otterbein accepts a maximum of 90 transferable quarter credit hours from two-year colleges like Columbus State. Any transfer credit accepted at Otterbein must come from regionally accredited two- or four-year colleges or universities, and grades in courses must be a C- or better to transfer. All grades are considered during the admission process. A minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average is required for admission, although Otterbein may consider admission for students who do not meet this condition on a case-by-case basis.

Completing an associate's degree prior to enrolling at Otterbein does have particular advantages for students, including scholarship opportunities that are available only to degree holders. According to Johnson, the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degrees at Columbus State are the best preparation for majors in the PACE program.

She suggested three strategies to help Columbus State students interested in the program be successful at Otterbein:

- 1) Students should plan ahead and speak with an adviser in the Office of Continuing Studies at Otterbein as early as they know they're interested in the program.
- 2) Students should focus on academic success while enrolled at Columbus State.
- 3) Students should begin researching what they want to do long-term, and feel free to talk with Otterbein early about whether the PACE program might be right for them.

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Students may contact the Office of Continuing Studies at (614) 823-1356 to schedule a time to meet with an adviser. Weekly office hours are Mondays through Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., and Fridays 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Weekend hours may be available, but students should call ahead for specific dates. The Office of Continuing Studies is located in Towers Hall, which faces Grove Street in downtown Westerville.

When asked why students should consider Otterbein for their degree completion options over other programs, Johnson stated that Otterbein offers exceptional service to students, a quality education, and outstanding faculty. "Everybody who comes here just loves it," says Johnson.

*Otterbein also offers evening and weekend adult degree options for students without any previous college or university experience. Seven majors are available in this program, including **accounting, business administration, computer science, English (literary studies), organizational communication, psychology, and public accounting**. Students interested in these options should also contact the Office of Continuing Studies for further information. Nearly 50 majors are available to adult students who wish to enroll in traditional "daytime" programs. Some programs, like **nursing** and **education**, may be competitive, and some include online course options.

"I've learned it's always better to have a small percentage of a big success, than a hundred percent of nothing."

-Art Linkletter

**The Lifelong Learning Institute at
Columbus State Community College
By Rashaun Geter, Coordinator
Continuing Professional Education**

The Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) of CSCC provides educational opportunities for mature learners in central Ohio to broaden and extend their knowledge, share their life experiences, become more attuned to community resources, and interact with other “lifelong learners.” Peer-led and membership-driven, the LLI offers courses and special events that focus on the arts, literature, philosophy, science, languages, technology, spirituality, economics, and local, national and world affairs.

Launched in July 2004, the Institute offers a year-round menu of two-, three-, and four-week courses in September, January, April and July. “Coffee and Conversation” events and Symposia are offered in other months (except October) in partnership with several central Ohio locations, including senior residence facilities and arts organizations. The LLI pledges easy-access locations for its events, along with free or minimal parking costs.

LLI membership is open to all who are interested. Individual courses or events are also open to non-members for a per-event fee. The annual membership fee provides access to any or all scheduled offerings from September 1st to August 31st, a quarterly program mailing detailing upcoming courses and Coffee & Conversation events, and access to the Ohioana LLI Reading Group. Both Individual and partner memberships are available.

Individuals may opt to become a member anytime throughout the membership year. Membership rates vary according to the season one joins in. Those rates are as follows:

For Individual Memberships...

If you join in	You pay
Autumn (full year of events)	\$100
Winter	\$80
Spring	\$60
Summer	\$40

For Partner Memberships...

If you join in	You pay
Autumn (full year of events)	\$160
Winter	\$120
Spring	\$80
Summer	\$40

Additionally, reserved parking for on-campus events and courses is provided on a first come, first served basis. Reserved parking is conveniently located near the building wherein LLI conducts its programming. Parking passes are provided to all members and non-members which permit parking in the LLI reserved parking and any CSCC student or employee parking lot.

For more information about LLI, have a brochure and informational packet mailed to you. To be added to the LLI quarterly mailing list, or to become a member over the telephone please call 614-287-2576.

Information about past and upcoming LLI events can be found online at http://www.csc.edu/cpe/LifelongLearning/LLI_index.htm.



Need Help with Adjusting to Going Back to School?

**Columbus State Community College
Counseling Services
Aquinas Hall, Room 116**

Going back to school after a number of years can be very stressful. It can be challenging figuring out how to study again and learning how to juggle school, work and family. The Counseling Services office can help. Services offered include crisis intervention, mental health counseling, alcohol and drug counseling and prevention, consultation and referral services. We offer short term confidential counseling visits for each student at no cost.

Issues include:

- Adjustment to college and improving study skills
- Stress and time management
- Coping with testing difficulties or test anxiety
- Managing personal or family relationships
- Self-esteem, depression, anxiety or managing anger
- Alcohol and other drug use/abuse concerns
- Grief counseling
- Attention Deficit Disorder
- Academic concerns
- Physical abuse or domestic violence

Information and referral to community resources and long term assistance are also available. Please call **(614) 287-2668** or the staff listed below, or stop by the Counseling Services office located in **Aquinas Hall, room 116** for more information and assistance or to set up an appointment.

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Staff:

Dr. Mark Querry, Ph.D., Psychologist
Coordinator, Mental Health Services
(614) 287-5416
mquerry@csc.edu

Chandra Bell, M.S. Ed., P.C.C.
Counselor
(614) 287-5414
cbell02@csc.edu

Beth McComas Dennis, M.S. Ed., P.C.C.
Counselor
(614) 287-5638
edennis1@csc.edu

Spirit Week



Week of January 21st:

January 22- Funflicks - Make your own music video.

January 23-Caricature artist. Club and organization fair.

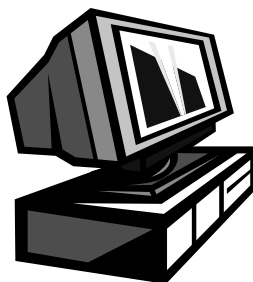
January 24-claw packs, face painting, make your own "CSCC spirit shirt"

January 25th-Raffle. Wear your CSCC paraphernalia, Talent Show Nestor Auditorium, 6-8:30 pm

For more details, please call 287- 2674

Join in the Fun!!

HELPFUL WEBSITES



<http://www.adultstudent.com> - Success stories, developing goals, note taking, financial aid resources, and concentration.

<http://www.adultstudentcenter.com/> - Resources to help with going back to school: Should I go Back? What are my Options? How will I Pay For It? Can I Make it Through School?

<http://www.collegesource.org> - Free college searches and over 14,000 catalogs online.

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> - Internet access for filing FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

<http://www.how-to-study.com/testanxiety.htm> - What is Test Anxiety? How do I know if I have Test Anxiety? What can I do About Test Anxiety?

<http://www.iwaynet.net/~40plusoh/> - Forty Plus of Central Ohio is a non-profit, member operated, job search training organization for experienced professionals of all ages who are currently seeking better career opportunities. The website includes information on classes on resumes, interviewing, networking, etc.

<http://ohioline.osu.edu> - Resources for family, home, children, community, food, etc.

<http://www.olin.org> - The Ohio Learning Network. A consortium of Ohio colleges and universities offering distance learning courses including OhioLEARNS, an online catalog of courses offered at a distance by Ohio colleges/universities.

<http://online.onetcenter.org> - Occupational Information Network. Search for occupations and match skills to occupations.

<http://sosmath.com> - A free source for math review material from Algebra to Differential Equations

COLUMBUS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

The **Adult Learner Connection** is a creation of Advising Services / Laura Huston-Hoburg, Counselor at Columbus State Community College. For more information please call 287-5023, or stop by Aquinas Hall, room 116.