

Supporting Early Educators Succeeding in College

Student success in college coursework is the result of individual effort and supportive and responsive personal, employer and college environments. Adult students returning to college while managing a family and full time employment are especially vulnerable without support. Some strategies that can assist with student success are described below.

Academic Supports

- **College “know how.”** Adult students should be encouraged to participate in orientation, take student success courses and tour the college they will be attending. Understanding how college “works” builds student confidence and supports academic success.
- **Early establishment of academic goals and understanding of requirements such as practica and field placement mandates.** An individualized professional development plan can help students set goals and clear coursework pathways.
- **Evidence-based successful remediation and developmental processes.** Contextualized developmental courses, compressed remediation and co-remediation have been proven to increase student success and retention.

Economic Supports

- **Defined pathways to credential and degree completion.** Degree requirements with prerequisites and course sequencing are discussed and available in printed materials and online.
- **Available and sufficient financial aid with clear financial aid advisement.** Students are advised early how to avoid course duplication in transfers and learn of other needed and available economic supports.
- **Completion goals for credentials and degrees.** A completed credential or degree has far greater lifetime earnings value than a high school diploma or the adult who has “some college.”
- **Student supports such as tuition and book reimbursement, paid study and class time, counseling and compensation awards for completion of courses, credential and/or degrees.** Compensation supports remove potential barriers to success from the start.
- **Financial assistance such as scholarships, grants, or work study that allow a student to graduate with little or no debt.**

Social Supports

- **Active counseling and coaching.** Skilled counselors respect the adult learner and provide active counseling to provide structure and support for academic success and work/life/college balance.
- **Student cohorts and learning communities, in-person and virtual.** Learning together helps students navigate academic needs as well as learn about supportive services such as tutors, child care, and financial aid.
- **Mentors with personal experience and knowledge of courses, instructors and program expectations.**
- **Non-academic supports.** On-site child care, evening and weekend course options and campus events, transportation to and from campus, etc. nurture a sense of institutional caring that help adult students feel welcomed and foster a sense of belonging.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® (T.E.A.C.H.) Scholarships provide academic, economic and social support for early educators working in early care and education settings. To learn more about how T.E.A.C.H. supports college student success please visit our website.



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