Adult Learner—may be 24 years of age or older; a veteran of the armed services or active-duty; returning to school after four or more years of employment, homemaking, or other activity; a person who assumes multiple adult roles, such as parent, spouse/partner, and employee.

Undergraduate Adult Students	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Penn State–all locations	17,987	18,457	17,918	17,016
Commonwealth Campuses	7,937	7,490	6,667	5,713
Penn State World Campus	7,649	8,736	9,122	9,546
University Park	2,745	2,591	2,385	1,983

Data Source: Outreach Analytics and Reporting

Percentage of Undergraduate Adult Learners Who ...

58.2% reside in Pennsylvania

61.1% are part-time*

62.0% transferred from another institution*

80.2% are enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program

10.3% are enrolled in an associate degree program

includes only undergraduate degree–seeking adults

Top Five Baccalaureate Majors* in Which Adult Learners Are Enrolled:

Business

Nursing

Information Sciences and Technology

Psychology

Liberal Arts

includes majors and pre-majors

Undergraduate Adult Learners' Financial Facts 2016/17

- **74%** of all undergraduate adult students receive financial aid.

- **37%** of adult students receive Pell grants, compared to **24%** of all undergraduates. Of those, **43%** of Commonwealth Campus adult learners receive Pell grants, compared to **34%** of Penn State World Campus adult learners.

- Median income of adult students who applied for aid is **$30,078**, compared to **$79,495** for all undergraduate aid recipients.

- Average loan debt for undergraduate adult learners who graduated is **$37,000**, compared to **$36,495** for all undergraduates who graduated.

Data Source: Office of Student Aid

cal.psu.edu

Focus

As the Commission enters its third decade, it continues to study the unique challenges faced by adult learners, as well as the steps the University may take to engage and to assist these learners. In addition, the Commission will continue to advocate for these learners by building awareness through events such as the annual Hendrick Conference.

The focus of the Commission for Adult Learners in 2018-19 will be the *"time to degree and persistence for the adult learner."* This focus will be based on, but not limited to, four points linking to the work that the action teams do within the Commission:

1. **Access**—Review factors that impede persistence and retention among adult learners, and suggest implementation of new practices to mitigate the effect these factors have upon adult learners.

2. **Engagement**—Create new opportunities for adult learner engagement, both in and outside of the classroom. Use the Adult Enrollment Coordinator network as a resource regarding best practices and unmet adult learner needs.

3. **Strategic Collaboration**—Seek partnerships with other organizations and commissions across Penn State to optimize the educational experience offered to our adult learners.

4. **Charting the Course**—Benchmark current Penn State practices against adult learner programs offered at other colleges and universities to compare current best practices and ensure that Penn State offers robust support to these students.

Mission

Penn State's Commission for Adult Learners is composed of faculty, staff, and students from several University locations. Members are dedicated to improving the adult learner experience at Penn State.

Charge

1. Provide a visible University-wide body whose primary purpose is to contribute to a supportive climate for adult learners.

2. Monitor the recruitment, retention, and satisfaction of adult learners.

3. Advocate for adult learners' concerns by recommending changes in policy, practice, and procedures that impact adult learners.

4. Foster coordination and information exchange regarding programs and services that attract and retain adult learners.

5. Serve as a repository and facilitating body for adult learner–focused initiatives University-wide.