

# Should you return to school?

The answer to that question depends on many factors. People have different reasons for going back to school:

- They want a better job.
- They want to set an example for their children.
- They've lost their job and need training for a new one.
- They simply love to learn.

If you decide to return to school you'll need to consider:

- The cost and how you'll pay for it.
- If more education will improve your chances for promotion or a better job.
- Whether your employer provides help with tuition.
- If you can balance family, work, school and other responsibilities.
- How you can work school into your schedule.
- How competitive the job market is in your field.
- Whether you can give the time and energy your classes will require.

Share your plans with your family and employer, and ask about their concerns and if they will support you.

Adults, of course, often worry if they can do well in courses. But many do better in school because they're more committed to achieving their goals.

## Scheduling options

You can go to school full time or part time. Full-time attendance at colleges on a semester schedule is usually 12 credit hours for undergraduate students, 9 hours for graduate students.

Part-time students are often eligible for less financial aid than full-time students, so you need to consider how much you can pay out of your own pocket.

You also need to consider your work schedule. Some schools advise students who work more than 20 or 30 hours per week not to enroll full time.

How much time you can spend studying is another question. Generally, you should allow 2 hours of study or each hour you're in class. If you can, you may want to take one class at first to get a feel for what's required.

## School support designed for you

Many schools have special services for adult students. The school's website should tell you what services are available and which office to contact. Most schools have a financial aid office that can help you complete financial aid forms and will offer you a financial aid package based on your need.

*Adults Returning to School* will help you become familiar with the many sources of assistance and opportunities for you to achieve your educational goal.



## Not sure what you want to do?

If you need help choosing a career, ask yourself:

- What am I good at?
- What subjects did I like in high school?
- What are my favorite hobbies or activities?
- Do I like to work with people, animals or machinery?
- Do I like working indoors or outside?

## Other sources of job information

To learn more about jobs, you may want to:

- Talk with people who earn their living in jobs that interest you.
- See if your public library has books about jobs that interest you or how to choose a career.
- Check "Help Wanted" ads in your area.
- Contact the Kentucky Career Center, which has dozens of offices throughout the state. Visit <https://kcc.ky.gov/Pages/Locations.aspx> to find the location nearest you.
- Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) and career assessment center counselors can help. Contact information for career assessment centers is on page 3. EOC contact information is on pages 6 and 7.

## Career assessment centers

Assessment counselors at many Kentucky community and technical colleges can help you identify careers you might be interested in pursuing. Your counselor also can help you develop a plan to reach your career goal.

### **Bluegrass Community and Technical College - Cooper Campus**

470 Cooper Drive, Oswald Building, Room 109,  
Lexington, KY 40506  
Phone: 859.246.6537; email: BL-CareerDevelopment@kctcs.edu

### **Newtown Campus**

500 Newtown Pike, Science Education Center,  
Room 101, Lexington, KY 40508  
Phone and email: *Same as Cooper Campus*

### **Elizabethtown Community and Technical College**

Learning and Resources Center, Room 110  
Phone: 270.706.8841; email: Jlamons0001@kctcs.edu

### **Gateway Community and Technical College**

516 Madison Avenue, Covington, KY 41011  
Phone: 859.442.1609; email: gw-careerservices@kctcs.edu

### **Henderson Community College**

Sullivan Technology Center, Room 213, Henderson,  
KY 42420  
Phone: 270.831.9671; email: Angie.watson@kctcs.edu

### **Hopkinsville Community College**

720 North Drive, Hopkinsville, KY 42240  
Phone: 270.707.3827; email: kanya.allen@kctcs.edu

### **Jefferson Community and Technical College**

CREW Career Center, 200 West Broadway, Suite 900,  
Louisville, KY 40202  
Phone: 502.213.4520; website: [www.crew.cc/](http://www.crew.cc/)  
*Services provided to JCTC students and alumni only.*

### **Madisonville Community College Assessment Center**

2000 College Drive, John H. Gray Building, Room 201,  
Madisonville, KY 42431  
Phone: 270.824.1701, 270.824.1702 or 270.824.1703

### **Owensboro Community and Technical College**

4800 New Hartford Road, Owensboro, KY 42303,  
Campus Center Building, Room 100  
Phone: 270.686.4529; email: Katie.Ballard@kctcs.edu

### **Somerset Community College**

808 Monticello Street, Somerset, KY 42501  
Phone: 606.451.6850

### **Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College**

1845 Loop Drive, Building L, Bowling Green,  
KY 42104  
Phone: 270.901.1046

