

What advice would you give working professionals who want to return to school?

Whether you are finishing a bachelors' degree or earning an advanced degree, re-turning to school as a working professional is an investment in your future.

Many adult students manage multiple responsibilities such as their careers, family obligations, and extracurricular activities in addition to pursuing their educational goals; therefore, it is critical to establish balance for a successful experience. To accomplish this, familiarize yourself with the academic and support services available to you as a student, such as the resources through Student Success at the KU Edwards Campus. Connect with your academic advisor, faculty, and university support staff as you gather information about programs, faculty, and finances. Many working professionals have already established strong organization and time-management skills that are essential to a successful academic experience. As you research academic programs, look for late afternoon, evening and online classes, which will help balance work-life demands.

It also important to establish a support network through faculty mentors, classmates, colleagues, significant others, and family members. Create or join study groups, as this can lead to dialogue that enhances your classroom experience. Working professionals contribute valuable perspective in the classroom, especially since many work in the field they are studying and can contribute real-life experience and perspective. What you learn in class can often be applied at work the next day, which can boost your company's bottom line and your value as an employee.

