



**Press Clippings  
September 2019  
Web**

**Title:** Orientation for the Adult Learner

**Author:** Jeremy Bauer-Wolf

**Link:** <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2019/09/03/college-orientations-rise-adult-learners>

**Date:** September 3, 2019

Most of the undergraduates headed for or returning to college this year will be inundated with welcome week and orientation events designed to connect them with classmates, help them find extracurricular activities and clubs, and make them feel at home on campus.

The festivals and concerts may appeal to students in the traditional college age range of 18 to 24, but older students, an ever-increasing population on American campuses, often want something different.

These older students are often professionals with full-time jobs. They may have children and be balancing family responsibilities while attending college. They might only take classes part-time. They may not have time for lengthy events or feel they don't need the extra fluff that often comes with typical orientations. They want information pared down to simply learn what they need to earn their degrees.

Enrollment in college by those older than 25 has been steadily increasing in recent decades. It increased by 11 percent between 2006 and 2016. More than seven million students ages 25 and older are attending college in fall 2019, according to federal data.

"They're really focused on finishing," said David Duvall, director of the New Maverick Orientation and Transition program at the University of Texas at Arlington. "Anything we can do to help them with that, that's what this program is all about."

Almost every institution offers orientation programs introducing all students to campus. The programs have grown and evolved so much over the years that many universities now hold separate events for parents of incoming freshmen. More recently, colleges have started offering orientations designed for nontraditional students, such as those over age 25.

In a 2017 survey of 229 institutions, conducted by NODA, the Association for Orientation, Transition and Retention in Higher Education, 35 percent offered orientation for "nontraditional" students.

Joyce Holl, NODA's executive director, said many of these institutions sponsor weeklong programs prior to the start of the academic year to help older students and others. But she said colleges should also have "many touch points" or interactions with these students throughout the semester to ensure their academic needs are being met.

“What is offered and how may be different for each population,” Holl said.

Dan Nimlos was 25 when he started his undergraduate studies in 2009 at Bethel University, an evangelical institution in Minnesota. He'd taken a few years off after high school to explore being a musician and didn't want to rack up debt.

He met with an enrollment counselor before classes officially began and was given a list of his courses, but not much more. So he wandered around campus, confused about where to go or to whom to ask questions in the first few days after classes started. He points to his cursory introduction to the campus as one of the reasons he took the job as Bethel's student experience manager in charge of running the orientation program for nontraditional students.

Bethel's orientation involves an online class that provides useful information such as how to submit assignments and fill out financial aid forms online, how to connect to the campus Wi-Fi and complete various other tasks, on or off campus. The class is a subtle acknowledgment of, and accommodation for, the needs of students who've not been in college for many years and who may be overwhelmed by the new technology on campus, Nimlos said.

“There is a lot of self-doubt ... questions about, 'How do I find my footing here?' And a good part of this is how we assuage those fears,” he said.

Technology tends to also be a barrier for the older students at Peirce College, a private institution in Philadelphia that caters to “adult learners” and working professionals. The average age of the students there is 35, said Shannon Begley, the college's dean of academic advising and registrar.

Peirce's orientation program offers classes in time management and balancing college and personal life, Begley said.

Most students don't have time to sit through hours-long sessions on all aspects of the college, so students can attend one of the six orientation sessions Peirce holds throughout the year. Representatives from different departments on campus are on hand at these sessions to help students with a checklist of tasks that must be completed before they start classes.

Begley said she's had conversations with adult students who have struggled to adapt to college but let their pride keep them from them seeking help. Linking those students with a mentor they feel comfortable with can help chip away at that sense of pride, Begley said.

“We try to give you all the things from when you enter the door, so it becomes a natural part of your experience here at Peirce,” she said.

Administrators need to recognize that nontraditional and older students have needs that are distinct from younger college students, said R. Lee Viar IV, president of the Association for Nontraditional Students in Higher Education.

He also believes the two biggest obstacles adult students face are time management and technology. But they need to feel comfortable to get help in those areas. Having separate orientations for older students addresses such concerns, he said.

Institutions should not let a teenage guide give students in their 40s or 50s tours of campus, for instance, Viar said.

“That’s the same age as their kids -- they won’t ask questions,” he said.

Once orientation is over, however, institutions should try to integrate all students regardless of their age brackets. The younger learners tend to have more experience with technology, and their older counterparts often have “life experiences” that can be useful or interesting in classes, Viar said.

Duvall, at UT Arlington, said his institution offers a half-day program for nontraditional students, which can be students 25 and older or those belonging to other demographic groups.

Part of that orientation involves introducing students with the same major, which can result in students of different ages mixing, he said. But most of the program focuses on “need-to-know” information such as how to pay fees and tuition, campus safety protocols, and medical and mental health services. Older students had complained in the past that the full-day orientation they were required to participate in took up too much time and included information about broader campus culture that they were not interested in, Duvall said.

About 1,200 to 1,500 students participated in the course during the last academic year, Duvall said. UT Arlington also holds an orientation session on Saturday for students who work full-time.

“I think they really are surprised by all that campuses have to offer,” he said.

**Title:** NFL Alumni and Peirce College Join Forces to Expand Access to Bachelor's Degree Completion and Graduate Programs

**Author:** WBOC

**Link:** <http://www.w boc.com/story/40995724/nfl-alumni-and-peirce-college-join-forces-to-expand-access-to-bachelors-degree-completion-and-graduate-programs>

**Date:** September 3, 2019

*Also shared on 5 other news sources.*

Mount Laurel, New Jersey, Aug. 29, 2019 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- NFL Alumni and Peirce College are partnering to provide career-focused undergraduate degree completion and graduate programs for retired NFL players, coaches, cheerleaders and their spouses.

"We are thrilled to partner with Peirce College," said NFL Alumni CEO Beasley Reece. "This partnership is a great opportunity for former players to complete or advance their education and improve their career opportunities."

Members and employees of NFL Alumni now have expanded access to affordable, flexible degree programs and certificates designed for working adults and personalized degree completion pathways that maximize transfer credits, professional and military training and other college-level knowledge that has been acquired outside of the classroom.

"Peirce is an excellent fit for the members and staff of NFL Alumni, especially those who entered the league before finishing their bachelor's degree," said Dr. Mary Ellen Caro, president and CEO of Peirce College. "Our programs prepare NFL Alumni members and employees for a new career or to advance in their current profession without sacrificing their personal or professional responsibilities."

In addition to courses, degree programs and certificates, NFL Alumni members and employees gain exclusive access to Peirce College's career advancement training and returning to learning resources to help members grow their careers.

About NFL Alumni

NFL Alumni, a non-profit organization founded in 1967, is comprised of former NFL players, coaches, staffers, cheerleaders, spouses, and associate members whose mission is to serve, assist and inform former players and their families. The NFL Alumni offers a variety of medical, financial, and social programs to help members lead healthy, productive and connected lives, as well as community initiatives under its "Caring for Kids" programs. Pro Football Legends is the commercial marketing arm of the NFL Alumni. For more information, please visit [www.nflalumni.org](http://www.nflalumni.org).

## About Peirce College

Established in 1865, Peirce College is Philadelphia's leading senior private, nonprofit college for adults and a pioneer in online education and leveraging technology in higher education. Today, Peirce continues its tradition of serving the unique needs of working adults through career-focused online and on-campus programs that provide students with academic excellence, flexibility and personalized support. Peirce offers associate, bachelor's and master's degree programs taught by faculty who are leaders in their respective fields. Learn more at [www.peirce.edu](http://www.peirce.edu).

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**Title:** Graduates earn 285 degrees, certificates from Peirce College

**Author:** Keystone Business News Reports

**Link:** <https://keystonebusinessnews.com/stories/512866226-graduates-earn-285-degrees-certificates-from-peirce-college>

**Date:** September 4, 2019

About 49.1 percent of the 285 degrees and certificates handed out by Peirce College in 2017-18 were to students in business, management, marketing, and related support services programs, making them the most popular programs that year, according to the latest disclosure from the U.S. Department of Education.

The agency's National Center for Education Statistics shows the private not-for-profit institution in Philadelphia conferred 84 bachelor's degrees and 31 associate's degrees in business, management, marketing, and related support services programs.

But the single most popular program was for a bachelor's degree in general business administration and management. Data shows the school gave out 45 bachelor's degrees in general business administration and management, followed by 31 associate's degrees in general business administration and management and 25 master's degrees in organizational leadership.

The college enrolled 1,478 students for 2017-18, including 1,389 in undergraduate programs and 89 in graduate programs.

**Title:** Bachelor's Degree Center Releases National Rankings of Paralegal Degree Programs

**Author:** Bachelor's Degree Center

**Link:**[http://money.mymotherlode.com/clarkebroadcasting.mymotherlode/news/read/38880445/bachelor's\\_degree\\_center\\_releases\\_national\\_rankings\\_of\\_paralegal\\_degree\\_programs](http://money.mymotherlode.com/clarkebroadcasting.mymotherlode/news/read/38880445/bachelor's_degree_center_releases_national_rankings_of_paralegal_degree_programs)

**Date:** September 23, 2019

*Also shared on 56 other news sources.*

The Top 3 Best Paralegal Bachelor's Programs for 2019 are: 1) Auburn University; 2) Quinnipiac University; 3) Montclair State University. The Top 3 Online Paralegal Bachelor's Programs for 2019 are: 1) Tulane University; 2) University of Central Florida; 3) University of Massachusetts Lowell.

A complete list of all institutions ranked is included at the end of this release.

"In the last few years, the job market for lawyers has been cooling down, with law schools turning out far more lawyers than are necessary," according to BDC editors; "What hasn't cooled down, though, is the demand for paralegals and legal assistants – the professionals who do the real behind-the-scenes work of a law firm, like taking depositions, preparing documents, researching precedent, and more." As BDC editors explain, "Most paralegals begin their career with just an associate's degree, since that is usually the standard for a paralegal certification in most states." For working paralegals who want more, getting a bachelor's in legal studies or paralegal may be key to moving up: "Online programs allow busy working professionals the chance to improve their credentials and learn new skills while continuing their current jobs." The editors of BDC note that "with advances in technology, online programs can be as immersive, collaborative, and enriching as traditional on-campus programs."

For traditional students, on the other hand, "an on-campus bachelor degree in legal studies provides mentorship and networking opportunities with the law firms and corporations in the area – the ones that do the hiring." For these students, a bachelor's degree is thinking ahead to future opportunities. "Although a bachelor's degree is not necessary to obtain an internship or an entry-level role as a paralegal," the editors explain, students "should be aware that it is often necessary for positions in a government agency, corporate legal departments, and some law firms." Whether they are traditional-aged students just making the first steps into their legal career, or working paralegals looking to make a big move ahead, Bachelor's Degree Center's rankings of the best paralegal and legal studies bachelor's degree programs are built to point the way to solid programs with a real ROI.



Bachelor's Degree Center has been providing advice, resources, and rankings on the best traditional and online bachelor's degree programs since 2014. Completely independent and unbiased, BDC is working to be the ultimate resource for new high school graduates, working adults returning to school, and nontraditional students.

All Institutions in the Bachelor's Degree Center Paralegal Degree Rankings (in alphabetical order)

American Public University

Auburn University

Ball State University

Bay Path University

Bellevue University

Berkeley College

Charter Oak State College

Daemen College

Dominican University

Eastern Kentucky University

Florida Gulf Coast University

Grand Valley State University

Herzing University

Hilbert College

Hodges University

Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

Kent State University

Lewis University

Liberty University

Loyola University Chicago

Madonna University

Minnesota State University Moorhead

Mississippi College  
Montclair State University  
Mount St Joseph University  
National University  
Northwestern State University of Louisiana  
Peirce College  
Post University  
Purdue University Global  
Quinnipiac University  
Regent University  
Southern New Hampshire University  
St John's University  
Stevenson University  
SUNY Canton  
Texas A&M Univ Commerce  
Tulane University  
University of Arizona  
University of Central Florida  
University of La Verne  
University of Maine at Augusta  
University of Maryland University College  
University of Massachusetts Lowell  
University of New Haven  
University of Southern Mississippi  
University of Toledo  
Ursuline College

Widener University

Winona State University

**Title:** Study.com Partners with Peirce College to Expand Access & Affordability for Working Adults

**Author:** mySA

**Link:** <https://www.mysanantonio.com/business/press-releases/article/Study-com-Partners-with-Peirce-College-to-Expand-14463211.php>

**Date:** September 24, 2019

*Also shared on 94 other news sources.*

New Degree Completion Pathways Help Adults Finish a Bachelor's for as Low as \$11,000

Peirce College is collaborating with Study.com, an online education platform that serves millions of students, teachers and working professionals, to create more affordable degree completion pathways that expand access for adult students.

The partnership, one of a handful the college has developed in the past year aimed at expanding access and affordability, connects students to more than 150 Study.com courses that have been evaluated and recommended for college credit by the American Council on Education (ACE) and mapped to undergraduate degree programs at Peirce College. Through transfer credits, Study.com courses and Peirce courses, the college has created pathways to finishing a bachelor's degree for as low as \$11,000.

"Increasing access and affordability for adult students in Philadelphia and across our region is critical," said Dr. Mary Ellen Caro, president and CEO of Peirce College. "We believe our partnership with Study.com can increase degree attainment in our city to help fuel the regional economy and reduce cost and time to degree completion for adult learners."

Study.com courses, paired with Peirce College courses, can significantly reduce degree completion costs for students and maximize education assistance programs offered by employers throughout the region.

"We're excited to partner with Peirce because through this relationship we're able to remove the three main challenges many students face with higher education - cost, time, and lack of flexibility," said Adrian Ridner, co-founder and CEO of Study.com. "By offering students a low cost degree pathway that is online, students are able to reduce the time that it takes to earn a bachelor's degree."

According to a 2018 Pew Charitable Trust report, 17 percent of Philadelphians age 25 or older, about 176,000 people, have earned some credits toward an undergraduate degree but have not completed one. The report said that Philadelphia's low percentage of adults with a college degree is often cited as a key factor contributing to the city's

lackluster economic performance over the past several decades, and that reducing the ranks of adults with some college credits but no degree could help address that.

Caro said Study.com was one of the first organizations outside of higher education institutions to realize that most adults were looking for something different than what traditional higher education typically offers.

“One of the most significant changes in serving adult students today is the unbundling of higher education,” she said. “Most adults have unique needs that do not fit the traditional higher education model. Students coming back to finish their bachelor’s degree need a different path.”

#### About Study.com

Study.com is an online education platform that helps learners of all ages excel academically and close skills gaps. From test prep and homework help to earning low-cost college credit and developing workplace skills, Study.com’s online courses, short animated video lessons and study tools have made learning simple for over 30 million students, teachers and working professionals. Study.com was founded in 2002 and is a privately-held company located in Mountain View, Calif. Learn more at <http://www.study.com> or download the mobile app from the iOS app store or Google Play.

#### About Peirce College

Established in 1865, Peirce College is Philadelphia’s leading senior private, nonprofit college for adults and a pioneer in online education and leveraging technology in higher education. Today, Peirce continues its tradition of serving the unique needs of working adults through career-focused, online and on-campus programs that provide students with academic excellence, flexibility and personalized support. Peirce offers associate, bachelor’s and master’s degree programs taught by faculty who are leaders in their respective fields. Learn more at <http://www.peirce.edu>.