



It's always your time at WCC!

Your guide to adult learning success



Washtenaw
Community College

*What do you call someone
who attended WCC? Employed.®*



Are you interested in pursuing a college degree or certificate?

Maybe changing careers or advancing in your current job? Perhaps you want to learn a new skill or brush up on an old one.

Or maybe it's time to finish a degree you were not able to complete because life got in the way.

Whatever your reason, Washtenaw Community College is invested in your success, every step of the way.

Over 40% of WCC students are over age 25.

You're in good company!

Adult learners and non-traditional students are a significant part of our student body, and, as such, we make sure that we have the programs, scheduling options and resources to meet your needs.

You'll find a welcoming community of students of all ages—all looking to meet their educational or professional goals, just like you.

We offer flexible program options to fit your life and timetable.

Most of our students work full or part-time while attending WCC, and may be balancing school, work, home and family commitments. That's a lot of juggling and the very reason we offer a wide range of programs to fit your busy life.

If a "traditional" college/classroom schedule doesn't work with your life, don't worry. WCC offers more than 135 programs, 49 of which are completely online. We also offer a



number of accelerated programs, certificates and courses for students looking to complete a goal. We have classes in the evenings and weekends, too. We're bound to have something to fit your schedule and career goals.

What do you call someone who attended WCC? Employed.

WCC is here to help you grow both professionally and personally so you can have the career you want.

Your success is extremely important to us. We try to make all processes as straightforward as possible and assist if you hit any roadblocks or have questions. In short, we're for **YOU**.

Don't let being considered a "non-traditional" student keep you from reaching for your goals. At WCC, there's no such thing as a "traditional" student—just students, all of whom make up our vibrant, unique community.

We've got something for everyone, and we're here to support you. Reach out to us with any inquiries, to schedule a campus tour, or if you have questions or concerns about anything you've just read.

We hope to see you on campus or in a virtual classroom soon!

Meet WCC Students

Carmen Samaniego

Associate Degree
Programming in Java

**Carmen got her degree
tuition-free through
Michigan Reconnect!**



**Are you 25+? Look up
Michigan Reconnect!**

Carmen had spent 16 years in a cosmetology career when the COVID pandemic brought the bulk of her work to a halt.

"There were a lot of salon restrictions, and I wasn't able to work for a long time," said Carmen.

She was growing frustrated when a friend told her about Michigan Reconnect, a program that pays the cost of in-district tuition for eligible adults 25 and older who want to pursue an associate degree or skills certificate at any of Michigan's public community colleges.

Carmen was skeptical at first. "I thought 'That's too good to be true.'" But after doing some research, she made a phone call that changed her life.

With the help of Reconnect, Carmen pursued a Computer Science: Programming in Java Associate Degree. The program is a path toward emerging careers in fields, including artificial intelligence, smart cities, autonomous vehicles and more.

"This has opened so many doors that I couldn't have imagined," said Carmen (who even thinks about

ways to combine her new tech skills with her beauty knowledge).

In addition to Reconnect, Carmen credits WCC's support systems for helping her succeed, taking advantage of services like free tutoring sessions and the Learning Commons.

"WCC has really held my hand all the way through. If you desire a higher education, WCC and Reconnect make it very attainable."



Meet WCC Students

David Graham

Associate Degree
Business Management
Transfer



David Graham was in his mid-40s and parenting multiple children when he enrolled at WCC. The regional manager of a national auto parts chain enjoyed his career, but something was driving him to finish his college degree.

"I'm looking to transition to a training role, talking with C-suite folks or those out in the field. One of the things I've most enjoyed in management is teaching and explaining and showing," Graham said.

David chose the Associate Degree in Business Administration Transfer program, which offered a number of self-paced classes. He continued managing 12 stores and 130 employees while working toward his goal of completing the program and transferring to Central Michigan University to pursue a bachelor's degree in Business Management.

"I love working with the teams in the stores and working with the general public—customer service is second nature to me," said David.

"But I could have a much greater impact within an organization training and helping people to develop and serve."

WCC helped David find the right path to complete his goal without sacrificing work obligations or family time. How can WCC help YOU?

Adult learners have obligations outside of classes.

WCC has resources to help you get over your personal finish line.



MICHIGAN ECONNECT

Paying for college

WCC has one of the lowest tuition rates in Michigan, but we understand finances may still be a concern and applying for financial aid can seem complicated.

We can also help you find scholarships, like the Michigan Reconnect Scholarship (only available to eligible adults 25 and older) and other scholarships and grants that may significantly reduce the cost of college.

Paying for textbooks

We know the cost of books and supplies can add up quickly. Some grants and scholarships may cover or—partially cover—textbook costs.

Academic Advising and Financial Aid can help you identify these options.

WCC also offers open educational resources (OERs) to help reduce costs and ensure access to materials. OERs include materials created by faculty from their own learning modules. Some faculty source OERs from learning and research that have been released and distributed in the public domain. OERs include digital and other formats and help keep education affordable while ensuring access to up-to-date materials.



Childcare

Students with children can apply for a scholarship that helps pay for child care. These are awarded through the **Student Resource Center** and can be used to pay for licensed providers. Our Student Resource team is happy to discuss requirements and help with the application process.

Life Resources

We understand that college won't be the only thing in your life. Our students face many challenges, both minor and significant. WCC has resources to help you manage.

Mental health support—WCC has a team of licensed professional

counselors that can help you work with personal issues. We also have support groups and meetings for those dealing with addiction issues.

Food insecurity—Need emergency food or financial assistance? Our Student Resource Center can help. We operate an Emergency Food Pantry and can connect you with community organizations.

Personal finances—Our team can help you learn financial planning skills and help find potential sources to assist with the cost of tuition, books, childcare and more.

It's natural to be nervous when starting something new. Some worries we hear include:

- ▶ Will I be the oldest one in my class?
- ▶ I haven't been in school for a long time—I might not be able to keep up.
- ▶ I don't think I have the qualifications to enroll in my chosen program.
- ▶ I heard this is a good job, but I don't have any experience in that field.

Good news! WCC has solutions.

WCC is a great place to grow.

WCC's Student Success Team provides systems to guide and support you.

The **WCC Welcome Team** helps with day-to-day questions about items, including admissions, registration (adding/dropping classes), transcripts and more.

Our **Academic Advising Team** can help you avoid overloading yourself by showing you not only which classes to take and when to take them, but also how to navigate transfer requirements. They can point you in the right direction if you need study help from resource centers on campus or online. This is especially valuable if you need assistance getting something over the finish line.

Degree-seeking students are assigned a **Success Coach** during their first year at WCC. They provide one-on-one support to identify and handle obstacles, connect you to campus services and resources, and work with you to develop goals.



Our smaller class sizes make it easy to get to know your instructors who serve as **Faculty Mentors**. They are available to answer your questions about assignments, timelines and resources that help you plan. You will have support!

The **WCC Center for Career Success** is here to help you find a job, internship or co-op experience. It's a great way to connect with potential employers, as well. We also provide résumé and cover letter assistance, interview coaching and professional development advice.

Meet WCC Students

Amanda McDonald

Certificate
Medical Billing & Coding



Michigan Reconnect was the spark that Amanda MacDonald, a wife and mother of three, needed to fulfill her career aspirations.

Launched in February 2021, Reconnect pays the cost of in-district tuition for eligible adults 25 and older wanting to pursue an Associate Degree or skills certificate at any of Michigan's public community colleges.

According to the state, more than 12,000 scholarship participants are currently benefitting from the program.

Amanda chose to pursue a Medical Billing and Coding Certificate. She wants to apply her credits to an Associate Degree in Health Administration.

She hopes to help people navigate through complicated insurance cases and advocate for coverage.

"Enrolling in college was always in the back of my mind but was not something I was necessarily planning," Amanda said.

"In the past, I've only taken jobs to make money. Now, I can earn a degree and do something I have a passion for."

How do I get started?

Does WCC sound like the right place for you? Follow these steps to start your journey toward a high-quality, affordable education and a welcoming campus community.



Step 1: Apply to WCC

Applying is quick, easy, and free—we don't charge for applications. Visit wccnet.edu/enroll to start the process. If you have questions, contact us at 734-973-3543.

Sounds great, but I don't live in Washtenaw County

WCC is convenient to several neighboring counties, and since we have one of the lowest tuition rates in Michigan, even out-of-district (and out-of-state!) rates are competitive. Compare college costs and calculate savings by using the Tuition Savings Calculator under the "Afford" section on wccnet.edu.

More good news! If you work in Washtenaw County but don't live here, you might still qualify for in-district tuition rates. This also might apply if you own property in Washtenaw County. Approval requires advance planning, and our team is

happy to answer questions and help you through the process.

Step 2: Apply for Financial Aid

We recommend that all students complete the FAFSA/financial aid application using WCC's Federal School Code, which is 002328.

You'll need this to qualify for scholarships (including the Michigan Reconnect program) and additional financial aid. Contact our team by phone, email or online chat to get help with this application.

Step 3. Identify your goal. Are you:

- ▶ Attending college for the first time?
- ▶ Hoping to obtain a degree or certificate?
- ▶ Working toward transferring to a four-year university?
- ▶ Looking to change careers?
- ▶ Looking to advance in your current career?

- ▶ Looking to complete a degree you started?

Defining your goal goes a long way toward meeting it. Our Student Welcome Center provides advice and assistance to make sure you set off down the right path. We'll connect you with an academic advisor and make sure any prerequisite, degree or transfer requirements are covered.

Step 4: Register for classes

Visit www.wccnet.edu/enroll to view classes for current and upcoming semesters and plan your schedule.

Course schedules are available several weeks before registration for each semester, so you'll have plenty of time to plan. Academic advisors are here to help if you need assistance selecting classes to meet your goals.

Washtenaw Community College does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other protected status in its programs and activities. The following office has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Vice President of Student Services, SC 251, 734-973-3536. Facility access inquiries: V.P. of Facilities, Development & Operations, PO 112, 734-677-5322. If you have a disability and require accommodation to participate in this event, contact Learning Support Services at 734-973-3342 to request accommodations at least 72 hours in advance.

The Student-Right-to-Know and The Crime Awareness & Campus Security Act of 1990 (also known as the Clery Act) requires institutions to disclose information about graduation rates, crime statistics, and security information to current and prospective students. Individuals interested in obtaining this type of information should contact the Dean of Students office at 734-973-3328.

