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ONLINE EXTRA: More resources to get you back to college

By VALERIE RUSS
Philadelphia Daily News

The Philly area has a spectacular number of colleges to choose from, even for adults. But educational experts say you should take your time and find the one with the right financial aid, class timing and workload for you.

Nine local colleges have partnered with the Graduate! Philadelphia Fund College Access Center at the Gallery mall. They are:

Chestnut Hill College
Community College of Phila.
Holy Family University
Neumann College
Peirce College
Philadelphia University
Rutgers University-Camden
Thomas Edison State College
Widener University

Advisers from these schools guide would-be students at the center into the best program — even if the recommendation is for them to apply to a different institution than their own.

Of the schools above, the following offer **accelerated** classes: Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia University, Peirce College and Holy Family College.

These schools offer **evening** classes: Community College of Philadelphia, Chestnut Hill, Holy Family, Neumann College, Philadelphia University, Peirce, Rutgers University-Camden and Widener University.

These schools offer **weekend** classes: CCP, Chestnut Hill, Holy Family, Neumann, Philadelphia U., Peirce, Rutgers-Camden and Widener.

These schools offer **online** classes: CCP, Chestnut Hill, Holy Family, Neumann, Peirce, Thomas Edison, Rutgers-Camden and Widener.

Offering **hybrid** classes, a mix on online and in-class instruction: Widener.

Offering **credit for prior learning experience**: Neumann, Philadelphia U., Thomas Edison and Widener.

Meanwhile, other colleges in the Philadelphia area also provide ways for working adults to fit a higher education into their busy lives:

Harcum College, Bryn Mawr, Pa.

In 2005, Harcum College joined in a partnership with the nonprofit organization I-LEAD, Inc. to provide an accredited two-year associates' degree in leadership to community leaders. The classes are offered both online and in various sites based in community neighborhoods. Harcum also has announced it will have business hours on the weekends once a month in a program called First Saturdays, where interested adults can meet with admissions and financial aid office staff.

For more information call 610-526-6050 or go to www.harcum.edu.

Temple University, Philadelphia

Temple offers evening and weekend classes, and has an agreement with a number of community colleges in the region that will permit an adult who attends for one to two years, to be admitted to Temple to complete a bachelor's degree.

For more information, go to www.temple.edu.

Drexel University, Philadelphia

Drexel University offers more than 60 degree and certificate programs geared for working adults in areas such as nursing, business, education and information technology. Drexel Online also helps corporations to offer lower-cost education programs to their employees.

For more information, go to www.drexel.edu.

University of Pennsylvania, College of General Studies.

Penn's College of General Studies offers an opportunity for working adults to obtain both undergraduate and graduate degrees at a reduced tuition rate. Students may take day or evening courses. The CGS also offers non-degree program as well for people who may want to take a specific course or two because it will help them in their careers.

For more information, go to www.sas.upenn.edu/cgs.

Find this article at:

http://www.philly.com/dailynews/local/20080327_ONLINE_EXTRA_More_resources_to_help_with_your_college_goals.html?adString=pdn.news/local;!category=local;&randomOrd=040308010913

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