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CAPS

A tri-annual publication of the College of Adult Professional Studies. If you would like to submit information, please send to:

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On the Rise: Adult Students are Becoming the New Norm

When thinking of entering college, one might imagine young students arriving on campus, moving into their dorms, and saying goodbye to their parents. However, over the years this image has shifted because of the increasing number of adult students arriving on campuses across the country.



In a 2018 National Public Radio (NPR) article, *Today's College Students Aren't Who You Think They Are*, authors Elissa Nadworny and Julie Depenbrock state that research shows that “non-traditional” students are becoming a decent majority on college campuses. These students are not so “non-traditional” anymore and have the ability to surpass the number of traditional undergraduates.

Many students fall into several different non- traditional student categories that include: having a child or other dependent; lacking a traditional high school diploma; delaying postsecondary enrollment; attending school part time; or being employed full time. The NPR article provides a shocking statistic that states “close to 74 percent of undergrads fall into one of [the non-traditional student] categories and about a third have two or three.”

In 1969, Immaculata University established the Evening Division to service adult students seeking an undergraduate degree. Since then, the University has been offering career-focused programs in a variety of flexible formats for adult students who need to balance work, family, and school responsibilities. Many colleges are just breaking into the adult education market and often are unsure how to serve this population. However, the staff of the College of Adult Professional Studies (CAPS) understands the needs of this population and is doing all they can to provide students with the resources and help they need to succeed. For example, faculty and staff encourage all students to participate in campus events – both academic and social – to enhance their learning experience and become more involved on campus. Adult students are also encouraged to seek induction into applicable national honor societies.

“We started the adult education programs in 1969, long before it was popular to talk about the ‘non-traditional’ students,” says Kate Kearney, dean of CAPS. “For almost 50 years, we’ve known what many universities are just figuring out - these individuals, who have a wealth of both professional and personal experiences, greatly enrich our campus and our classrooms. They are an integral part of the future of the university and are some of the hardest working, best students you will ever meet.”

Whether you are a community college graduate, a first-time college student, someone who has been away from college for a while or utilizing military benefits, Immaculata’s supportive environment will help you succeed in achieving your academic and professional goals.

Ways to Connect

In addition to keeping up with regular academic deadlines, being a college student includes staying informed about a long list of deadlines, processes and even some social events. How do CAPS students stay “in-the-know?”

IU Student Emails – This is how your instructors, academic advisors and other university offices will contact you about information that is personal to you. **Check your student email often.**

Frequent Email Updates – Don’t miss these regular e-mails sent to both your personal and IU e-mail accounts from “capsadvising.” These include information we think is important for CAPS students: registration and graduation deadlines, CAPS-only and campus-wide events, occasional updates on internship postings or scholarships and more. [READ THESE EMAILS!](#)

Dome Digest – posted on MyIU and sent to your Student e-mail account every Monday includes Campus Events, Sporting Events and other Campus Announcements.

CAPS Facebook – like us at www.facebook.com/immaculatacl/

The Immaculata Involvio App – There’s truly an app for everything! This will keep you updated with all sorts of information about campus events. This app was just launched with the students who live on campus – they love it and you may too! First download the “Involvio” app. Select Immaculata and then follow the prompts to enter your network login.

CAPS Connection – (you’re reading it right now!) highlights CAPS students, graduates, instructors, various student services, provides financial aid updates, upcoming events and more info that you need to know. Published three times a year and mailed to your home.

Notes from Financial Aid

FAFSA APP

You can now download the Federal Student Aid App on your phone and complete your FAFSA! Please note that when completing the 2018-2019 FAFSA, you will use 2016 taxes and when completing the 2019-2020 FAFSA, you will use 2017 taxes. You are welcome to come into the Financial Aid Office to complete the FAFSA with our help.

PHEAA

The 2019-2020 FAFSA can be completed now to cover Fall of 2019, Spring of 2020 and Summer of 2020. Please remember to use 2017 tax information. In order to be eligible for the PHEAA State grant, your FAFSA must be completed by May 1, 2019, and you must meet these requirements:

- Be a Pennsylvania resident for at least 12 consecutive months
- Meet criteria for financial need
- Be enrolled for at least six credits as an undergraduate student
- Earn, through classroom instruction, at least 50% of the total credit hours required for completing your program of study

- Maintain satisfactory academic progress (as defined by PHEAA)
- Not have previously earned a bachelor’s degree or its equivalent
- Not be in default on an educational loan

Summer PHEAA grants require a separate application located on the PHEAA website, which becomes available in April of each year.

PELL GRANT

Continuing this year, eligible students may receive up to 150 percent of their Federal Pell Grant Scheduled Award. You must be eligible to receive Pell Grant funds for the payment period and must be enrolled at least half-time in the payment period(s) for which you receive the additional Pell Grant funds in excess of 100 percent of your Scheduled Award.

Attention Students:

Credits taken in Winter Session 2019 are included in your Spring 2019 semester credit totals for PHEAA State Grant eligibility determination. PHEAA requires that students take at least 50% of their semester credits in-class versus online in order to



qualify for full PHEAA State Grant eligibility. If you take more than 50% of your credits online, between winter and spring, you may face reduced eligibility.

- **Example 1:** You take 3 credits online in winter, 3 credits online in spring, and 3 credits in-class in spring. This is considered more than 50% online, so you may have reduced eligibility for PHEAA State Grants.
- **Example 2:** You take 3 credits online in winter, 3 credits online in spring, and 6 credits in-class in spring, which is considered exactly 50% in-class. This does not affect your PHEAA grant eligibility.

PHEAA State Grant eligibility also depends on many other factors, outlined here: www.pheaa.org/funding-opportunities/state-grant-program/prepare.shtml.

For more information, please feel free to contact the Office of Financial Aid at 484-323-3028 or finaid@immaculata.edu.

Did YOU Know???

Winter Session at Immaculata – Earn 3 credits in just 4 weeks.

Your opportunity to catch up or get ahead!

Dates:

December 17 – January 11

Totally online

Tuition:

\$300/credit

Registration is open now.

Registration for courses in spring 2019

November 12 – Seniors (90 credits or more)

November 13 – Juniors (54-89 credits)

November 14 – Sophomores (24 – 53 credits)

November 15 – Freshmen (0-23 credits)

November 16 – All



We will be observing Veterans Day, Friday, November 9. Watch your email for details.

Graduation Application

Are you planning to graduate in January, May or August 2019? All students planning to graduate must apply to graduate through SSIU. Don't delay, apply now!

Log onto MyIU. Click on SSIU, Student, Student Records and Apply to Graduate.

Please apply no less than two months prior to your intended graduation date.

Know Your Students: David Brennan



“If you don’t know the first names of your students within a month, shame on you,” states Immaculata professor of education David Brennan, Ed.D. He is referring to the often-repeated mantra he tells his student-teachers: **get to know your students.**

Having spent nearly 30 years serving at all levels within the education field, including teacher, vice principal, and principal, Brennan arrived at Immaculata 16 years ago. He teaches education courses and serves as the director of undergraduate education and director of the student-teaching program.

Immaculata recently added a new Associate of Arts degree in education in addition to the bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees offered. Brennan sees the associate degree as a way for people who are already working in the field, perhaps at the day care level, to start the process of earning college credit toward their teaching degree and then continue on to receive their bachelor degree and teaching certification if they choose to do so.

“We gear those classes to specifically meet the needs of workers who are working in that setting [Pre-K-4],” he adds.

“CAPS students bring a whole different atmosphere to the classroom,” Brennan states. “They bring experience to our undergrads who are just out of high school,” he explains. “These people have a nice perspective because they’ve been working... been in another career and can bring that experience to our undergraduates.”

One of those CAPS students who Brennan taught is Tamara Young ’16, B.A. in education, with Pre-K to 4. She is currently working as a para educator at Pottsgrove School District and credits Brennan, and her CAPS advisor Kate Commiskey, for guiding her through the program. “They never tired of talking with me and meeting with me during life challenges that would arise. Dr. Brennan worked with me to assure my student teaching was a success,” Young says.

One of the benefits of pursuing a bachelor’s degree in education from Immaculata is that the students conduct observations during the first semester of their sophomore year, which is earlier than most education programs. Brennan arranges for the students to observe at five different schools that range from public, Catholic, private, and charter. He wants the students to experience the classroom in various settings.

With aptitude in different environments, Immaculata students will make teachers who can be flexible, and meet the needs of all students! According to Brennan, flexibility is the number one trait a teacher should possess (along with knowing their students’ names)!



ESSAY Contest

Non-Traditional Student week is November 5 - 9. This is our opportunity to celebrate our CAPS students and recognize the daily accomplishments each of our students achieve by attending school while managing life, work and family. As part of this year’s celebration we are launching our annual “CAPS ESSAY CONTEST.”

This year we’d like to know: Who is motivating or inspiring you (besides yourself) to complete this degree? Tell us more about why or how this person motivates you.

Submit your answer in approximately 250 words by December 3 to capsadvising@immaculata.edu.

Make sure to include your name and IU email address. Three winners will be awarded \$100 gift cards to the IU bookstore.



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Campus Photos



CAPS staff and President Barbara Lettiere
at IU Family Day 2018

Clinton Bradley (right) presents President Barbara Lettiere and Dr. George Schwartz, IU faculty member, with a framed photo in appreciation for the support Immaculata provided while he was deployed to the Sinai Desert as part of the Multi-National Force & Observers Mission with the NJ Army National Guard. Clinton is a CAPS student in the Cybersecurity major.

