Coming back to the classroom.
Your choices = Your future

The decisions you make today — the opportunities you seize — can forever change your life.

The single most powerful step you can take to change your future and the quality of your life is to advance your education.

If you’ve been thinking about beginning or completing your college degree — or pursuing a specialization, certificate or special post-baccalaureate coursework to prepare for professional school — we invite you to take advantage of Rider University’s 150 years of experience in helping adult learners achieve their goals.

Inside are the stories of six men and women just like you who made the choice to come back to the classroom and change their futures.

You can, too.
Alexandra Escobar

Degree: B.A. in Liberal Studies (cum laude)


Alexandra was going through a divorce when she decided to return to college. “I wanted to better myself,” she says. “I needed to provide for my children. I had to acquire new knowledge and skills to compete.”

“Women must often make career sacrifices when raising their children,” says Alexandra. “Rider helped me focus my energy on what I needed to do personally and professionally to get back on track.”

Now pursuing her M.A. in Business Communication at Rider, Alexandra also met her future husband, a fellow adult learner, at the University. “Rider truly changed my life in every way,” she says. “I’m proud to be a Rider graduate.”

“Earning my undergraduate degree gave me the confidence I needed to compete. Rider was an empowering experience for me.”

Rider Helps You Maintain Balance in Your Life

At Rider’s College of Continuing Studies, we understand that adult learners have major responsibilities outside the classroom as employees, parents, caregivers and community members. Our convenient evening, weekend and online classes – including all-online degree options – and comprehensive support network are all focused on ensuring your success as a student.
"I have to admit, I was a little intimidated initially because Rider has such a great academic reputation, and I was an older student," he says. "But my classes were terrific. I was amazed at the time the professors spent with students and the real-world experience they bring to the classroom."

Jeremia came to Rider just six credits shy of earning his associate degree in criminal justice at a local community college. He always had an interest in stocks and worked in retail, so he decided to pursue a business degree at Rider.

"My advisor and the entire CCS staff always had my back. They helped me maximize my transfer credits and select the right classes to meet my goals."

Jeremia Maldonado - 2014
Degree: B.S. in Business Administration
Career Path: Financial Advisor, Primerica

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Jeremia also credits the critical role that advising played in his success. "Thanks to the support of my advisor, I was able to schedule classes in such a way that I had plenty of time to study and work while attending college," he says. "She helped me balance it all."

RIDER OFFERS A NETWORK OF SUPPORT THROUGHOUT YOUR STUDIES
An experienced CCS advisor will partner with you from the day of your admission through graduation. You’ll receive hands-on assistance in selecting the right classes to meet your requirements while balancing your course load so you have time for your studies and other responsibilities. Tutoring in specific classes and other support services – including career planning – are offered at no additional cost.
Suzy’s employer is a Danish-based firm responsible for the daily operations and maintenance of Thule Air Base, the U.S. Air Force’s northernmost base. “Our firm believes education is very important in creating the whole person,” says Suzy. “My manager wanted to offer me challenges, so I decided to take some classes at Rider.”

“I never expected to pursue a degree, but Rider helped guide and support me. The University’s Prior Learning faculty and CCS staff helped me build a Portfolio Review that demonstrated proficiency based on my work experience in Greenland. That translated into college credit and helped to accelerate my degree.”

“At graduation, my youngest turned and said, ‘I’m so proud of you, Mom.’ The company leadership also has noticed a difference in me. They’ve commented on how I’ve changed.”

RIDER’S ONLINE CLASSES AND PORTFOLIO REVIEW MAKE COLLEGE MANAGEABLE

Working full time and attending college is challenging. Our online classes let you study anytime and anywhere. You can take select online classes or pursue an entire degree online.

Rider’s Portfolio Review also offers credit for professional experience.
Joe first contacted Rider for information when he was a sergeant in Afghanistan. “I wasn’t the best student in high school, but I learned discipline and focus in the military. I knew I’d do best in a smaller college with a solid reputation.”

Eager to begin his next career, Joe attended Rider full-time, year-round, and earned his degree in just two years. “Earning that degree was so deeply satisfying,” he says. “It gave me a sense of pride, knowing I accomplished something remarkable.”

“I felt welcome from my first moment on campus. If there was ever an issue, they were willing to help work things out. It sounds corny, but going to the CCS office was a bit like going into Cheers, where everyone knows your name.”
Kim Miller

Degree: B.A. in Liberal Arts (summa cum laude)

Career Path: Plans to pursue graduate study and aspires to one day also teach adult learners

"After losing my sight, I knew I needed to advance my education. Rider helped me find the financial resources to do so."

Kim, a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology, was working with New York City's top fashion houses when she began losing her sight to a rare, inherited eye disease. She's now legally blind.

Rider will help you develop a plan to finance your education and link you to a wide range of loans, grants, scholarships and work/study programs. The University accepts employer tuition reimbursement, and its convenient monthly payment plan lets you budget your educational expenses with no additional finance or interest charges (only a modest application fee is applied.)

"Rider taught me that all setbacks are setbacks for comebacks," says Kim. "I had a detour in life, but with Rider's help, I've started to live an extraordinary life."
“Rider opened doors for me. I moved from a blue collar job to a rewarding career as a supervisory supply systems analyst.”

Bill Lewis • 2014
Degree: B.S. in Business Administration (magna cum laude)
Career Path: Chief, Inventory Surveillance Branch, General Services Administration, Federal Acquisition Service

Bill originally planned to enroll at Rider after high school. “Then life took over,” he says. He served in the Marines, married and started raising a family. He finally enrolled at Burlington Community College, which he chose largely because of its partnership with Rider. While there, Bill developed his transfer plan with a Rider advisor.

In 2010, Bill transferred to Rider while working full time. “Rider’s flexibility was key — time was my most precious commodity.”

Bill credits his degree for opening the doors to opportunity, experience and promotional potential. “I started applying the principles from my classes immediately.” Ultimately, he put his knowledge to work to start NEST (Nurture Environmental Stewardship Today), a New Jersey non-profit group for families and children that he runs in his free time.

RIDER EMPHASIZES RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE EMPLOYERS VALUE
As an adult learner, you want every course to count. Our career-focused majors — developed in consultation with leading industry professionals — provide practical knowledge, technical skills and hands-on experiences to advance your professional goals. You’ll find that a Rider degree is respected by employers for its academic quality and rigor.
You’ve probably been thinking about coming back to college for quite some time. Perhaps you’re seeking greater job security or the increased earning potential that comes with professional advancement. Or maybe you dream of building a better life for your family — and serving as a role model for your children. Whatever your reason,

*now is the time to take the next step.*
The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

U.S. News & World Report ranks Rider in the top tier of northern regional universities offering master’s degrees.

Princeton Review ranks Rider as one of “The Best 379 Colleges.”