

**PROGRAMS FOR ADULT LEARNERS AT RIDER UNIVERSITY**

Coming  
back  
to the  
classroom.



**RIDER**  
UNIVERSITY

# 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.



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

**Alexandra Escobar • 2009**

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

**Career Path:** Consultant/Authorization Product Release Leader–North America, Johnson & Johnson

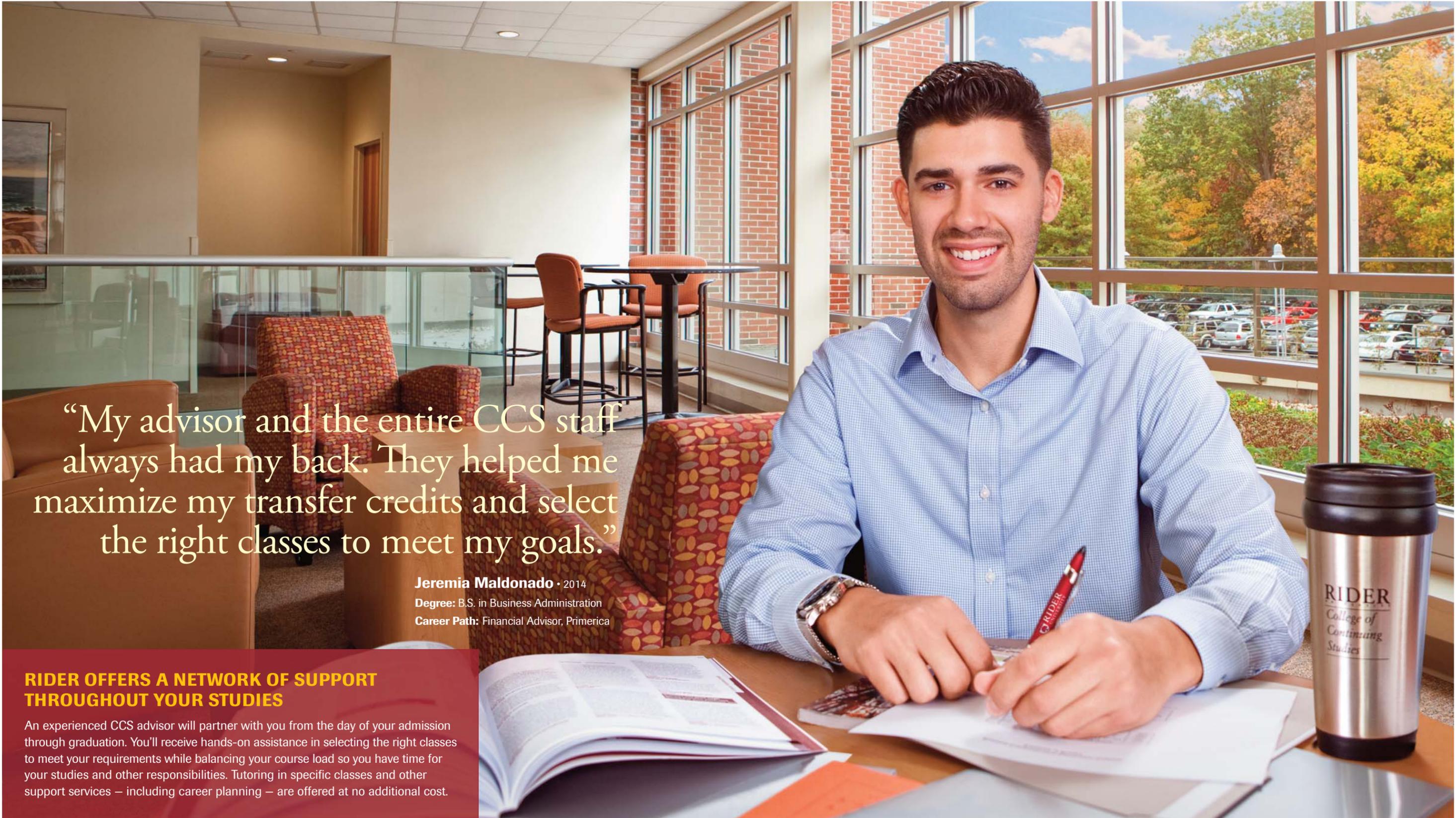
## RIDER HELPS YOU MAINTAIN BALANCE IN YOUR LIFE

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.

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.”



“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

### **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.

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.

“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 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.”



“My job takes me out of the country for weeks at a time. Rider’s online option let me study anywhere without missing a beat.”

**Suzy West** • 2014

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

**Career Path:** Logistics Manager, Greenland Contractors

## 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.

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.”

“What sold me on Rider was its academic reputation and personal approach to learning. I didn’t want to be just a number.”

**Joseph M. Michlik** • 2013

**Degree:** B.S. in Business Administration (*magna cum laude*)

**Career Path:** Financial Underwriter, Merchant Cash and Capital LLC

**RIDER’S RESPECTED PROGRAMS WILL TAKE YOU WHERE YOU WANT TO GO**

For adult students, academic reputation is an important factor in their college choice. Employers and graduate schools alike value Rider’s nationally recognized programs for their solid academic and career preparation. Most of all, our 12:1 student/faculty ratio assures you of a highly personalized learning 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.”



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

**Kim Miller** • 2014

**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

### RIDER WORKS WITH YOU TO MAKE COLLEGE AFFORDABLE

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.)

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.

She visited Rider and left that afternoon enrolled in classes. “They made me feel like it was all about me,” she says. “They went out of their way to help me identify and apply for scholarships and funding.”

“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

### 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.

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.



“As faculty, we welcome the insights and sense of purpose adult students bring to our classrooms. It transforms the learning experience for everyone.”

**Sheena Howard, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Communication

## It all starts with you.

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.*

Adult learners value the expertise of Rider’s faculty members, 96 percent of whom hold a Ph.D. or the highest degree in their fields. (Rider does not use teaching assistants.) They assist adult learners and out of the classroom, and our Student Success Center offers free tutoring, writing support and other services.

### Why Rider?

Finding the right college is challenging, whether you're 17 or 57. But at Rider, we know that your academic goals and needs as an adult learner are uniquely your own.

*Meeting your goals and needs is where Rider University's College of Continuing Studies (CCS) excels.* We understand that, as an adult learner, you have many questions about coming back to the classroom. Our focus is on giving you the control, flexibility and support resources to succeed.

### Can I do it?

You'll find Rider's accredited and respected programs to be challenging – but not impossible. And you'll study with hundreds of other adults who, like you, want to move forward in life through college studies.

Our role is to minimize the stress, hassles and barriers of your return to college. Our skilled advisors will be there, every step of the way, to guide and support you as you choose the right program and classes to achieve your goal. If a degree seems too great a commitment at this time, you can start with just a class or enroll in a certificate program. The most important thing is to take the first step.

### How long will it take?

Your length of study will depend on your choice of academic program. Some CCS students are just beginning their college studies while others are completing their associate or bachelor's degree, or earning a certificate for professional advancement.

Classes are designed to enable you to complete an entire class in as little as eight weeks.

Our goal is to help you complete your studies as quickly and efficiently as possible. At the time of your application, your advisor will meet with you to personally review your educational and work history. This will help us identify potential sources for credits that you might transfer to your program of study.

### Can I afford it?

We will partner with you to make financing your education a reality. Tuition for CCS is specially priced for adult learners, and we also offer additional scholarship support to qualified students, including Dean's Scholar Awards, Transfer Scholarships, and a variety of private and professional scholarships. You'll also have a dedicated financial aid advisor who will work with you throughout your studies to identify and help you apply for all potential sources of aid. You can also take advantage of Rider's convenient payment plans.



Rider is proud to participate in the **Yellow Ribbon Program** for qualified veterans and their families.

### What are my next steps?

You can learn more about our programs and the graduates featured in this brochure by visiting [www.rider.edu/ccs](http://www.rider.edu/ccs).

To set up a personal conversation about your degree, contact us at:

Phone: **609-896-5033**

Email: **ccs@rider.edu**

*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."

The only person  
you are destined  
to become is  
the person you  
decide to be.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



**RIDER**  
UNIVERSITY

College of  
Continuing Studies

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