

FINISH WHAT **YOU** STARTED

If you have already earned some college credits, but now you are ready to:

- ✓ Achieve a lifelong goal
- ✓ Increase your earning potential
- ✓ Unlock more career opportunities
- ✓ Invest in yourself

...then it might be time to take the next step toward finishing your degree! It is never too late to return to EKU and finish what you started.


BENEFITS

- Free textbooks for all students with EKU BookSmart
- Personalized graduation plan
- Reduced tuition for active-duty military members and their spouses
- 8-week terms
- Study anytime, from anywhere
- Quality courses from respected faculty who teach the same classes online and on-campus
- Fully accredited, brick-and mortar institution

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EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL RETURN TO COLLEGE

Planning to return to college may seem overwhelming, but there are many ways to prepare. Use these tips to get ready for a successful college comeback.

1 - Identify your why. Clear reasons for finishing college can help you stay motivated.

- Students return to school for many different reasons. Identifying your goals can help you identify the program, modality, and timeline that works best for you.
- To identify your why, write a list of your reasons for pursuing higher education. Here are some to help get you started: improve career and salary prospects, make a better future for your children, personal satisfaction, achieve a lifelong goal, etc.

2 - Pick your path. If you're looking to finish the degree you started or complete a degree that's closely related to your past college course work, find the best path to get you there!

- Match your career goals to the degree or certificate program that can get you there. ECU Online provides more than 100 affordable undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and certificate programs delivered in a convenient, online format.
- A General Studies degree is a great option for students who have some college credit but have not yet earned a degree. You can transfer up to 90 credit hours toward your degree at ECU Online.
- Meet with an advisor to determine which courses you need to finish your degree based on your academic transcript and the university catalog. Your advisor can help you develop a personalized graduation plan that will help you achieve your goals.

3 - Find your funding. Be sure you have a good understanding of the different funding options available to you. Maximize your funding opportunities to reduce your cost of attendance!

- Complete the FAFSA to see if you are eligible for help paying for college. Always submit a FAFSA, even if you don't think you will qualify for aid.
- Apply for grants and scholarship opportunities. Take the time to apply for any scholarship or grant for which you are eligible.
- If you are currently employed, you may be eligible for help from your employer. Check with your HR office to determine if your company offers education or tuition benefits.
- Take advantage of our payment plan option, which allows you to pay your tuition bill in monthly installments.

4 - Plan your success. Embrace your fresh start with a detailed plan for success when classes start.

- Plan your schedule. Time management is key for a successful college career, so be sure to schedule regular time for classwork each week. Be realistic in your scheduling and ruthless in removing obstacles from your path.
- Create a dedicated learning environment. Set up a space just for studying that can help you focus and be productive – no distractions!
- Choose a strong support system. It is important to have family, friends, classmates, and advisors that will hold you accountable and keep you motivated on your journey. Stay active in your courses – your classmates and instructors can help you feel connected as well.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help. There is no shame in asking for help from your advisor, instructor, or classmates if you need additional support. Take advantage of the student support resources available to you as an ECU student.
- Celebrate your wins along the way. Keep track of important milestones and take a moment to be proud of yourself and your accomplishments – big or small!

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Why should I choose ECU Online?

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE



Kathryn Upton

EKU Online Graduate/Student, General Studies

Being able to finish my undergraduate degree through ECU Online has been priceless for me. I was able to select courses that were most applicable to my field and apply the knowledge in real time while working.

Crossing the finish line taught me that I am more than capable of doing hard things and succeeding.



Omar Clark

EKU Online Student, Bachelors Degree
General Studies

Don't give up on completing your degree. Don't be overwhelmed because there's more help than you realize. Take your time with the journey. Most importantly, **what you gain can never be taken away from you, and it will change your life for the better.**

My favorite part as an online student is that I can get my education while I work a sometimes 40+ hour week. When I was at ECU before, there was no Internet, no Blackboard, no online program. Back then, I never heard of general studies or liberal arts at ECU. Now this program exists and it suits me just fine.

Returning to ECU has changed my entire outlook on the possibilities available because of the degree(s).

[SEE OTHER ECU STUDENT STORIES](#)

I'm in! How do I get started?

APPLICATION & ADMISSION INFO

Undergraduate

APPLICATION DEADLINES

TERM	APPLY BY	BEGIN CLASSES
Fall A	July 5	August
Fall B	August 31	October
Spring A	November 30	January
Spring B	January 31	March
Summer A	April 5	May
Summer B	May 31	June

GRADUATE APPLICATION DEADLINES

How do I re-apply for admission?

APPLICATION PROCESS

Undergraduate Students:

Step 1: Fill out the free online application:

[START MY APPLICATION](#)

Step 2: Submit your high school transcripts to the Office of Admissions (if not already on file).

Step 3: Submit ACT or SAT scores (not required but encouraged for determining appropriate course placement).

Graduate Students:

Step 1: Fill out the free online application:

[START MY APPLICATION](#)

Step 2: Provide official entrance exam scores (GRE, MAT or GMAT), if applicable.

Step 3: Provide official undergraduate transcripts (if not an EKU graduate).

[STUDENT CLEARING HOUSE](#)

Step 4: Submit letters of recommendation, if required for the academic program.

Step 5: Some programs may have additional application requirements. Contact your enrollment advisor to learn of any specific requirements for your program.

Do I need to re-submit my high school or college transcripts?

Transcripts remain on file at EKU for 5 years. If you attended another institution after you last attended EKU, you will need to submit transcripts from that institution.

What are you waiting for?

**IT'S NEVER TOO LATE
TO FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED!**

