

Educational Opportunity Centers

I became deaf at age 21, and could no longer pursue my nursing career in my home country of Kenya, West Africa. I moved to the U.S. in 1984, and really struggled to find suitable employment while raising my family on my own. I was turned down for many jobs, and I felt that employers only saw my disability and not my skills. I came to the EOC, and am so glad I did. My counselor really believed in me, and encouraged me to complete my college degree in a new profession. I received continued support even when I thought of quitting. Now, I am only one semester away from receiving my Office Assistant degree at Chippewa Valley Technical College. And my part time job will become full time once I graduate. I feel very happy and successful!



Faustina



At 26 I decided that I should go back to school. I loved my job in retail, but there was no opportunity for advancement. I visited several schools' websites, but wasn't brave enough to follow through. Then I attended a workshop at Chippewa Valley Technical College and found that my interests lay in the humanities. A counselor suggested that I make an appointment with the EOC office at UW-Eau Claire to help me get back into school. I have now completed two successful semesters at CVTC, and transferred to UW-Eau Claire to complete my third. It is very hard being a non-traditional student so I still visit the EOC office for advice and support. They are never too busy to listen and help. It is really very wonderful!

Mary



I am 38 years old, from Bruce, Wis., and work as a handyman. Early in my life, I was diagnosed with a learning disability but never received any help for it. Eventually I dropped out of high school. I was frustrated with my lack of education, and wanted to make a better life for my family so I went for help at the EOC office at the local college in Rice Lake, Wis. I found out that I could still attend college, even without my GED, by taking the Ability to Benefit test. It was hard with my disability but with my EOC counselor's help, I passed the test. I am now a student at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College-Ashland in the Marine Mechanic Program. I would recommend to other adults that wherever they are in life, to follow their dream and believe in themselves!

Jeffrey

In 2003 I moved from Kenya, West Africa to the United States. I was living in Barron, Wis., where I completed my HSED at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College. I supported my younger siblings while working at the Jennie O' Turkey Store. I met EOC Counselor Jim Dzimiela in 2005 at UW-Barron County, when I decided to go to college. He assisted me throughout the process, from financial aid to class selection. I started out as a part-time student and the EOC made my transition to college painless. I am in my final semester, and will be graduating with an Associate of Arts & Science Degree in May. I have applied to three universities to complete my bachelor's in business.



Harun

- For more information, visit us online at www.uwec.edu/EOC
- To schedule an appointment, call the numbers listed below.

Eau Claire
Educational Opportunity Centers
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
P.O. Box 4004
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004
Phone: 715-836-2024 or 800-335-3113
Email: eocstaff@uwec.edu

Rice Lake
Educational Opportunity Centers
University of Wisconsin-Barron County
Meggers Hall
Rice Lake, WI 54868
Phone: 715-234-8024 or 888-858-5632
Email: eocstaff@uwec.edu



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For adults making educational and career decisions



IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO BEGIN!

Why go to college?

10 reasons adults go to college

- Improve their earning potential.
- Upgrade knowledge and skills.
- Fulfill a dream.
- Prepare for a satisfying career.
- Be a role model for their children.
- Finish something they started years ago.
- Complete a job requirement.
- Expand their horizons.
- Increase their self-esteem.
- Prove to themselves that they can.



Ready to get started?

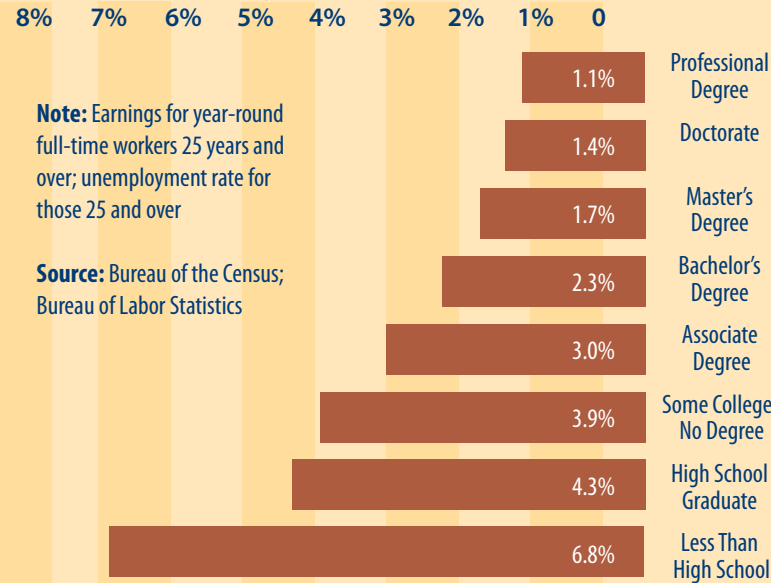
Have you thought about earning a college degree, but don't think it's possible? Do you want to finish a degree program started years ago, but don't know where to start?

The Educational Opportunity Centers Program (EOC) at UW-Eau Claire can help. Our program was created to help you set educational and career goals, give you the information and assistance you need to begin, and provide the ongoing support to help you succeed.

What is Educational Opportunity Centers?

The EOC program is a federally funded TRIO program that provides counseling and information on college admissions to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a college program. An important objective of EOC is to counsel participants on financial aid options and to assist in the application process. Our clients enroll in either two- or four-year colleges/universities or vocational/technical schools. The EOC staff also encourages individuals without a high school diploma to return to adult high school or obtain a General Education diploma (GED).

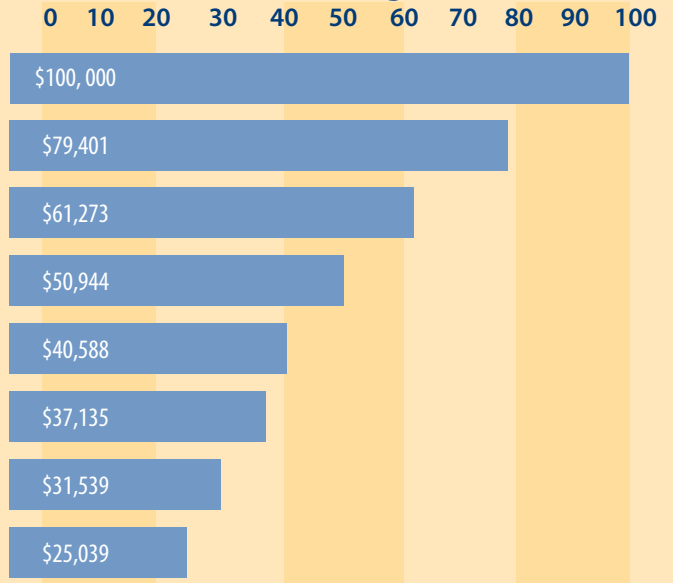
Unemployment Rate in 2006



Note: Earnings for year-round full-time workers 25 years and over; unemployment rate for those 25 and over

Source: Bureau of the Census; Bureau of Labor Statistics

Median Earnings in 2005



http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032006/perinc/new03_010.htm

Who is eligible?

Eligible participants are U.S. citizens or permanent residents who live in one of the following 10 counties in Wisconsin: Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Rusk, Sawyer, Trempealeau or Washburn. In addition, participants 19 years of age or older can qualify for EOC services if they are low-income, first-generation college adults or U.S. veterans.

Priority is given to those who are both low-income and first-generation college students (those whose parents/guardians do not have a college degree). Those who have already earned their bachelor's degree are not eligible for EOC services.

What services are available?

All EOC services are free of charge to eligible adults, including:

- Career development, financial aid and other workshops.
- Individual career assessments.
- Assistance in selecting an appropriate certificate, two-year or four-year program at any school.
- Assistance with admissions application process.
- Assistance with financial aid applications.
- Academic and career counseling.
- Assistance clearing up defaulted student loans.
- Assessment of transfer credits.
- Assistance with entrance and placement exams.
- Referral to ESL and GED/HSED programs.
- Advocacy with educational institutions.
- Referral to other community services and agencies.



What is TRiO?

"TRiO" refers to a series of programs funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. They were created to assist disadvantaged Americans in overcoming class, social and cultural barriers to higher education. The term TRiO refers to the initial three programs, Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search and Student Support Services. Currently there are 2,600 TRiO programs throughout the U.S.

EOC at UW-Eau Claire

UW-Eau Claire has had an EOC program since 1994 and maintains a satellite office in Rice Lake. The EOC program has helped more than 15,000 eligible adults pursue education beyond high school.