

Family, Friends, and Co-Workers: Support for Your Success

You've dreamed of earning a doctoral, master's, or bachelor's degree. And you're ready to take the next step by seeking the right program for you at a university that can offer you the student services you need. What else can you do to ensure you are successful? You can enlist the support of your network of family, friends, and co-workers.



Communicating with Family and Friends About Your Program

Your support network can help you reach your academic goals through their encouragement and practical assistance. In fact, the Lumina Foundation for Education—a private, independent foundation that strives to help people achieve their potential by expanding access to and success in education beyond high school—conducted research that shows the following*:

- Adult learners are more determined if they have the support of family and friends.
- Family support has a positive impact on educational outcomes for adult students.

Below are some ways you might want to address your goals and needs with those closest to you as you prepare to embark on your educational journey:

- Share your **reasons for pursuing a degree** and why it is so important to you.
- Explain your goals so they understand your commitment, and then **actively enlist their support**.
- Let them know what they can do to help you the most, since there are many ways the people in your circle can **contribute to your success**.
- Ask for their thoughts on how your degree program of choice will help you **achieve your career goals** and complement your strengths.
- Discuss any concerns you or they may have about time commitments, resources, and shared responsibilities, and then try to **plan accordingly**.
- Reinforce the importance of what their **ongoing support and encouragement** means to you and how it will be an important factor in your success throughout your studies.

“My sister and my mother are a great support system. If I need them, or have any concerns, or feel a little down, stressed out a little bit, a little tense or overwhelmed with all of this, I can call them up and they will consult with me and console me. They’re there for me and we’re there for each other. And I appreciate that. It’s just wonderful to know that I have them by my side no matter what I’m going through.”

Vaneia Williams, with her mother, Joan Woodson-Mathews, and her sister, Brandi Moreland, all students in the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) program

*Lumina Foundation, *What We Know About Access, Persistence, and Success for Adult Learners in Postsecondary Education: A Review of Contemporary Literature*.



“My wife, children, and family are behind me 100 percent. Two of my daughters work in education and the third has gone back to school to work on her master’s degree. They know the importance of a quality education and the rewards that come with it. My wife gives me the time, space, and support needed to get through the program. She has become my editor and proofreader. She also gives me the ‘nudge’ when I feel I just want to throw my hands up.”

William Fassinger
Ph.D. in Human Services Student

Family and Group Tuition Reductions*

Position yourself for greater success from day one by enrolling in a Walden degree program with a friend, colleague, or family member. Not only could you be eligible for a substantial reduction in tuition, but the mutual support you receive could play a major role in your success. Here’s how tuition reductions* work:

- Receive a 25% reduction* on all tuition and fees (excluding residency room and board) if you are a spouse, parent, or child of an enrolled student who is paying equal or higher tuition.
- Benefit from group tuition reductions* if you are a member of a group of five or more who enroll from the same organization.

Learn more at www.WaldenU.edu/tuition.

*Not valid for Tennessee residents.
Only one tuition-reduction benefit may be applied to tuition and fees.

Discover ways to open communication with your family, friends, and co-workers to gain their valuable support while returning to school. Hear student success stories and learn how Walden University fulfills its commitment to your success through extensive student support services by viewing the *Walden Forum* “Support: The Keys to Success” at www.WaldenU.edu/forums.

Walden Is Here to Support You, Too

At Walden, our ultimate goal is your success. That’s why we have developed a comprehensive array of student services so you can focus on your studies:

- Your enrollment advisor can help you select the program that best meets your needs and goals and assist you throughout the application process
- Expert financial counselors can explain the financial aid process, assist with related paperwork, and help you navigate payment plans, employer tuition reimbursement, and other funding options
- Award-winning Student Support Team members can help guide you in the online learning environment
- Librarians will help you identify, evaluate, and locate resources
- Writing Center staff will assist you with graduate-level writing
- Academic advisors are available to counsel you on program planning, university procedures, course registration, and curriculum and degree completion and to serve as a link between you and the Walden faculty
- The Career Services Center staff are available to offer practical professional development tools and advice
- Research Center staff can help you develop, fund, and disseminate your master’s and doctoral research
- Undergraduate tutors are available in writing, math, science, and other topics

Discover more about the support you will receive as a Walden student by watching our video, *The Walden Experience*, at www.WaldenU.edu/studentsservicesvideo.