

Point University

A GUIDE
TO GOING
BACK TO
SCHOOL



T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

CHAPTER 1 [Being a Nontraditional Student](#)

CHAPTER 2 [Christian Higher Education](#)

CHAPTER 3 [Succeeding in School](#)

CHAPTER 4 [The Access Program](#)

CHAPTER 5 [The Online Program](#)

CHAPTER 6 [Spiritual Life](#)

CHAPTER 7 [Point University FAQ](#)

Achieve your dreams with Point University.

You've thought about it. You've prayed about it. You've spoken to your family.

And now you're taking the leap:



YOU'RE GOING BACK TO SCHOOL.

Continuing your education can be daunting, especially for adult students who have been out of the classroom for several years. You have to find a place where you feel comfortable. A Christian university can offer a unique experience for adults who wish to obtain a degree, but who don't necessarily want to be surrounded by younger students seeking the "college experience."

Point University is a Christian college with a mission: to educate students for Christ-centered service and leadership throughout the world. That means all students — including nontraditional students like you.

Point is here to help you understand the ins and outs of your decision to go back to school. We can

help you succeed as a nontraditional student and work with you to achieve your goals. Through prayer, hard work and the support of Point University faculty and staff, you really can reach your dreams.

In this guide, you'll learn about making smart, Spirit-led choices as an adult learner, taking classes online, exploring your degree options, how to make the most of a Christian education, and the facts you need to know about Point.

Read on, have faith, and remember: you can do all things through Christ. ▶

CHAPTER 1

Being a Non-Traditional Student

WHAT DOES “NONTRADITIONAL” MEAN?

You’ve heard that as an adult learner, you’re a “non-traditional” student. But what does that really mean?

Good question. The National Center for Educational Statistics lists seven characteristics of nontraditional students. If any one of the following fits your situation, you’re a nontraditional student, and Point has a place for you.

- You’re a part-time student.
- You work full time.
- You are financially independent.
- You didn’t immediately continue education after graduating from high school.
- You have children or dependents other than your spouse.
- You are a single parent.
- You have a GED rather than a high school diploma.



If you read through these characteristics and one of them applied to you, you may be surprised to learn that you’re actually in the majority, and have been for a while. At the turn of the century (the 1999-2000 school year), [73% of students](#) were in some way nontraditional. You’re far from alone.

But perhaps you’re still asking yourself these questions: Do I have too much going on in my life? Will there be anyone there like me? How will I be able to study and live my life at the same time?

We know a lot of adult students who have similar concerns. And we offer some solutions: online degrees, and the Access program for busy adults.

WHAT KIND OF NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT ARE YOU?

THE HARD WORKER

This nontraditional student is working full time in addition to going to school. He or she may be going to school part time, or juggling a full-time job and a full-time workload. Many people can't give up a source of income for the time it takes to get their education, so they need to balance work and school.

At Point University, we offer entirely [online degrees](#), so that you can set your own schedule and work at a pace that's right for you. As long as you have Internet access, you can earn an associate or bachelor's degree from Point. And you shouldn't think that an online degree means you'll be isolated. On the contrary, you'll have plenty of interaction with your professors and peers.

The Access program also offers the flexibility working adults need to succeed. For instance, shift work can be unpredictable, which is why the Access program offers you the ability to switch to an alternate class time during the semester.

Point University wants working adults to have the tools they need to succeed. You're building a better future, and we're excited to be a part of that.

THE PARENT

You know how important a college education is, but your family comes first. At Point, we understand that your priorities lie with the people you love, and we don't think you should have to sacrifice your education in order to be present for them. That's

why we offer the [Access program](#) for busy adults. As an Access student, you can take online courses that are convenient for you. Just log in to your 'virtual classroom' and complete coursework as you go.

You should never have to miss going to a school play or tucking your baby in at night because of your studies. With the Access program, you don't have to.

THE MONEY MAKER

Maybe you're the breadwinner for your family. Maybe you're a single adult with a full-time job. In these and many more situations, you're the money maker for your household. That makes you 'financially independent.'

For the purposes of financial aid, you are generally considered financially independent if you are 24 years or older, married, a veteran, have dependents other than a spouse, or are an orphan or ward of the court.

But being financially independent doesn't necessarily mean you have the extra income for a college education. Point can help you plan ahead and to make your experience affordable. You can set up a payment plan so that you can incorporate your education into your budget. **And you don't have to worry about extra fees or paying for your textbooks each semester;** Access students pay an application fee, and tuition — and that's it! We will provide you with all of the textbooks for your classes at no cost to you.

THE OLDER STUDENT

The Access program is specifically designed for adult students, so you'll be surrounded by people

who, like you, are highly motivated to reach their educational goals. You can even earn college credit for prior life and work experiences! We also offer several online classes, so you can work from home, the library, or anywhere with an Internet connection. If you have any questions, problems, or concerns, the dedicated faculty at Point is here to help.

AM I TOO OLD FOR SCHOOL?

Some older nontraditional students are apprehensive about being “the old guy” in a class filled with kids fresh out of high school. You’re only as old as you feel, or so the saying goes — but when it comes to returning to school, you may find yourself having second thoughts. Are you too old for school?

Absolutely not!

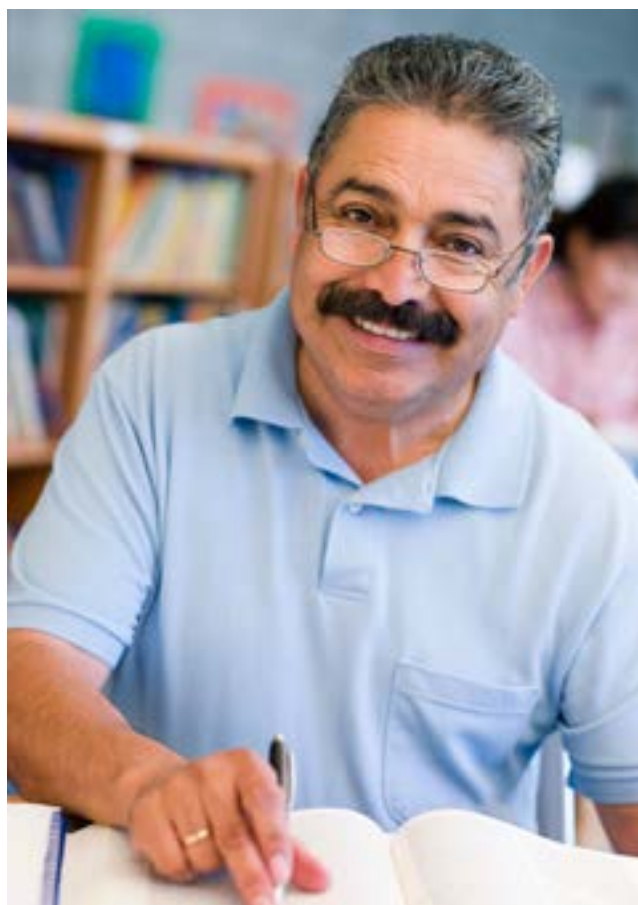
Two adages apply here: it’s better to regret something you have done than something you haven’t, and you never know until you try. There are some good reasons to head back to school as an adult.

ATTAINING GOALS

First things first: ask yourself why you are thinking about going back to school in the first place. Perhaps you’re looking for a change of pace, or maybe you want a second degree to increase earning potential or add to your professional cachet. What are your goals? Even if you like your current profession, it’s often smart to expand on your training. Whether you’re in your 30s, 40s, 50s, or even older, there is no time like the present to broaden your horizons.

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

If you’re worried that it’s too late to return to school, and you spend time thinking about how old you’ll be when you graduate, consider this: you’ll be just as old one day if you don’t! The question is not one of age, but of what you will allow to stand in the way of your happiness and your quality of life. If you’re considering going back to school to improve your quality of life in some way, recognize



that if you aren’t satisfied with where you are now, your level of satisfaction is unlikely to change if you don’t take action.

GETTING EXPERIENCE

Are you considering going back to school to study a field in which you’re already proficient, or are you looking to blaze a fresh trail into unfamiliar territory?



Work experience is often tied very closely to age. If you're staying in or close to your current profession, think of your age as an asset — you should be able to build upon your existing background. On the other hand, if you're sailing into uncharted waters, it is also a good idea to acquire real-world experience in the area you've chosen to study. The good news is that you can make that happen while you're still in school. Student internships offer opportunities to gain experience in a new field while completing a program.

You are never too nontraditional to go back to school — or to do anything else, for that matter! If you have doubts, you're not alone. But remember that many adults in your position have successfully completed a Point education. Be encouraged by their success; if they can do it, you can too. When you commit to a goal and dedicate your work to God, there's no limit to what you can achieve. ▲

CHAPTER 2

Christian Higher Education

IS POINT THE RIGHT PLACE FOR YOU?

In the internet age, adult learners have many options. Why should you choose a Christian university like Point?

YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS.

The people you meet and interact with at Point may not share all of your views, but they will share core values like respect, responsibility, growth and service. Your opinions and thoughts are always welcome, and if others disagree, you'll just enjoy more opportunity for lively and educational discourse. Every adult student at Point is here for the same reason: to continue his or her education in an academically challenging, spiritually vibrant Christian community.

YOU'LL WORRY LESS ABOUT WORK-LIFE BALANCE.

One of our goals at Point University is to prepare students to focus on the needs of the church as they impact the world for Christ. We offer degrees in a variety of academic disciplines, including organizational leadership and human relations. Students at Point aren't just looking for a job. They have

a calling. And when you are called to something, your work and your life aren't separate. They're in balance.

YOU AREN'T JUST ANOTHER STUDENT.

Each student at Point University is a messenger for Christ. You are special, and you have valuable gifts to share with the global community. [The Center for Calling and Career](#) is dedicated to helping you explore the ways in which you can use your gifts to transform the world. The administrators, faculty, and staff at Point take our role as shepherds on this campus very seriously. We are committed to helping each and every student grow academically and spiritually.

YOU HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW.

Point offers multiple worship and service opportunities to enhance the process of spiritual growth in our adult students. Small groups are central to our culture at Point University; spiritual formation groups, spiritual discipline groups, and listening post groups can help you meet other adult students and engage with the community. The Access Student Services Office also provides many opportunities to serve.

YOU'LL EXPERIENCE MORE THAN ACADEMICS.

A Christian university like Point takes a holistic approach to education. At Point, you'll receive a high-quality education that extends far beyond the classroom. We're not just nurturing your mind; we want you to grow socially, intellectually and spiritually. This unified worldview is incorporated into everything we do. Skills like teamwork, accountability and cooperation are extremely valuable in the working world, and a Christian education will help you develop these skills.

Whether you're interested in ministry work, business, the sciences, or another field of research, you'll find that the benefits listed here will not only help you as an adult student, but also as a member of your community after you receive your degree. We are honored to help nontraditional students like you undertake the next phase in their education, and our Christian values make us uniquely able to support you.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO TEACH FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE?

At Point University, our mission is "to educate students for Christ-centered service and leadership throughout the world." It is at the heart of all we do. Every higher education institution teaches critical thinking, research, problem-solving, innovation, creativity, and cutting-edge strategies and skills in its various degree programs. But Point University distinguishes itself by teaching the above values from a Christian perspective. We teach students to grow in faith, to really wrestle through and flesh out their Christian worldviews, and to live that worldview practically in their chosen career paths by taking faith into the workplace.

Here are three examples of what a class taught from a Christian perspective is not, and what it is:

THE BIBLE

- A class taught from a Christian perspective **does not** use the Bible as its only authority on its subject matter.
- A class taught from a Christian perspective **does** use the Bible to speak to the values expressed by its subject matter.

Our professors teach using their experience and the best available resources on their subject. They use textbooks, case studies, videos and lectures from all kinds of sources, many of which are secular. The difference is that in addition to being industry experts, our professors are also believers. If an industry practice or business ethic comes into conflict with the Christian values they see in Scripture, our

professors teach that the Bible is our guide for life, and that pursuing the character of Jesus is more important than abiding by worldly cultural norms. Discovering ways to address these kinds of conflicts is one of the greatest values of a Christ-centered education.

LEARNING

- The purpose of a class taught from a Christian perspective is **not only** to distill spiritual, theological knowledge.
- The purpose of a class taught from a Christian perspective **is** to distill all the knowledge and skills students need to be successful in their field from the perspective of their faith.

At Point, we believe that teaching students how to live out their faith in a practical, day-to-day manner is a critical part of their lifelong success. Students don't need to compartmentalize their faith to Sunday mornings. Instead, their faith can inform the way they study and do their jobs. We encourage Christian values like a strong work ethic, integrity, honesty, and respect, and we teach that these values are as important at work, at home, and at play as they are at church.

RESEARCH

- A class taught from a Christian perspective **does not** diminish practical experience, minimize facts, or gloss over secular research.
- A class taught from a Christian perspective **does** embrace research, facts, and real-life experience as a way to learn about the world that God created.

At Point, we believe that all truth is God's truth. We marvel at advances in medicine, physics and chemistry, because with every technological breakthrough, we receive a little bit more insight into

the mind-boggling infrastructure that supports our world. We believe that the precision, the order, and the infinite scope of our universe — both big and small — speaks to a divine order: it points to the hand of God.

We do not believe that God wants us to ignore the world or our needs in it, including financial needs. The most sound financial principles today are supported in Proverbs and in the New Testament, which discuss investment, saving, spending, lenders and debtors.

Point University distinguishes itself from other adult learning experiences by undergirding each subject we teach with Scripture and a biblical worldview — a Christian perspective. We teach many of the same subjects as traditional colleges and universities, but we view the subject matter through the lens of the gospel. For you, that's good news. ▶

*Get the knowledge you
need to be successful
in your field.*

CHAPTER 3

Succeeding in School

Adults pursuing higher education face unique challenges. Unlike traditional, younger university students, they are more likely to have families, jobs, and bills to pay. And if it's been awhile since they were in school, they may feel overwhelmed by the new systems, policies, and schedules they must navigate.

If you're an adult learner, remember: none of these challenges is insurmountable. With support from family, school, and your church community, you can clear every hurdle that stands in your way and complete your degree program.

When you're considering going back to school, it helps to sit down, clear your mind, and make a



list of what you'll need to succeed. Go through a step-by-step process that will help you order your thoughts and make good decisions.

IDENTIFY BARRIERS TO SUCCESS

Before you can tackle your challenges, you have to know what they are. Let's take a closer look at the types of barriers adult learners face and how Point University will help you overcome them.

INSTITUTIONAL BARRIERS

Universities are big places. If you have never attended one or are enrolling again after many years, the systems and procedures that govern student life can seem puzzling at first. From admissions requirements to registering for courses, it might take time to learn how everything works.

At Point, we appreciate that adult learners may be venturing into unfamiliar territory. Our enrollment staff will walk you through every step on the path from enrollment to graduation. We're here to remove institutional barriers and involve you in the educational decision-making process in every way we can.

SITUATIONAL BARRIERS

When you have a family, it can be hard to balance school with finding child care, planning a commute, and meeting financial obligations. Constraints like these keep many would-be adult learners from going back to school in the first place, but it doesn't have to be that way.

Thankfully, there are ways to mitigate the time and expense of these situational barriers. For example, distance education is helping thousands of parents and adults with jobs complete a degree program without having to leave home or find someone to pick the kids up from school. Point's virtual classrooms enable students to attend class on their own time, which means many of our students can enjoy a fulfilling college experience without altering their current work schedules.

Finances present another situational barrier, which is why our [Financial Aid Office](#) will help you identify all of the grants and scholarships for which you qualify. You might be surprised at the opportunities you have to make your education more affordable!

DISPOSITIONAL BARRIERS

What are some of the dispositional, or personal, barriers to success as an adult learner? Here are the most common ones we see at Point:

- Apprehension about the unknown
- Finding time to study
- Cultivating the self-discipline to attend class
- Staying confident

While these challenges have little to do with the school you attend or your obligations to work and

family, they have everything to do with you. Going back to school is a huge commitment, it's true, but with support and prayers from friends, family, your congregation, and Point, you will have dozens — if not hundreds — of shoulders to lean on should you ever feel overwhelmed.

Point also offers valuable on and off-campus resources that will help you in your educational journey. Counselors, study circles and prayer groups will help you stay on top of your work and maintain your confidence. If you're attending classes at one of [our locations](#), we also provide quiet study areas called Educational Resource Centers where you can focus and be productive.

It helps to remember that you're not the only adult student facing significant institutional, situational, and dispositional challenges. At Point, you'll be studying with others like you who are balancing school, work, and family responsibilities — people with whom you can form a support network as you work toward your goals.

USE THE THEORY OF MARGIN TO TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR EDUCATION

Adult learners bring a wealth of real-world experiences to the classroom. In many cases, they also bring a wealth of existing commitments. From family obligations to community involvement, it's common for adult students to struggle with external pressure from jobs, spouses, children, and finances in addition to the responsibilities of being a student.

For decades, educational scholarship has explored how adults manage to fit education into their busy schedules. One of the seminal theories to emerge from this research is the so-called “Theory of Margin,” first defined by the esteemed educational gerontologist, Howard McClusky, in the 1960s.

According to the Theory of Margin, adult learners live with two competing forces: their load (obligations in life) and their power (the time, ability and resources needed to meet those obligations). Margin is what’s left over when a student’s power over her life exceeds her load of responsibilities.

As you head back to school, you should identify ways to increase your margin. You can do so by reducing your load, increasing your power, or both.

LIGHTENING YOUR LOAD

As school increasingly becomes a part of your life, consider reducing your commitments to other activities in an effort to minimize your load. Don’t worry! We’re not saying you should suddenly stop working, paying bills, and helping out at your church. Many commitments must remain commitments, no matter how demanding your education program. But others might be more flexible.

For example, consider scaling back your working hours to make more time for studying. Many employers will be open to modifying your schedule or temporarily letting you work part-time, especially if they know it’s to help with your education.

Do you usually cook for your family? Talk to your spouse about taking over dinner preparation on days or evenings when you’re in class. The more

time you have to focus on school, the more likely you are to achieve your goals.

If finances feature prominently in your collection of “load” items, talk to the financial aid office about scholarships and grants for which you might be eligible. Most adult students at Point receive some kind of financial aid, and you might be surprised at the amount for which you qualify. Also consider reducing personal expenses in an effort to direct more funds toward education. Simple changes like driving less, preparing meals at home, and being conservative with your thermostat can pad your pocket and ease the financial burden of going back to school.

GAINING MORE POWER

Much like reducing your load, gaining power over your life can increase your margin (and likelihood of success) for educational pursuits. One way to acquire more power is to ask others for support.

Make sure your family understands that education is about to be a major part of your life, and ask them to help however they can. The same goes for friends and church leaders. Let them know what you’re doing, and ask for their prayers and assistance.

Taking advantage of school resources is another way to gain power over your education. Working with tutors, speaking with counselors, and using quiet study spaces around campus can help you focus on your work and achieve your goals. Remember: faculty and staff are there to help you succeed!

Finally, don’t forget to pray for wisdom and guidance as you enter this new phase of your life. There are sure to be challenges, but God is good and will

be there to empower and inspire you, every step of the way.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR RESOURCES

Adult students at Point University have many resources available to them. We encourage students to make the most of these resources during their time at Point to help them achieve — and exceed — their academic goals.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

At the [Educational Resource Center](#), students can find any extra academic support they need to be successful at Point University. The Center offers one-on-one tutoring for writing and math and works with students to develop skills like time management and test-taking strategies. It includes a quiet room, a testing center, and a [Writing Center](#), which can assist students at any stage in the writing process. Point University students can also access additional resources free of charge at the [H. Grady Bradshaw Chambers County Library](#). The Lindbergh off-site location's library provides research materials and learning resources, as well as a dedicated computer lab and study area.

Help is always just a phone call away.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Students at Point University all have academic advisors to help them plan and realize their educational goals. [Academic advising](#) helps students

make informed choices about how to pursue their objectives. Advisors offer their experience and insights in choosing the appropriate course of study, as well as other educational opportunities to enrich and fulfill students' individual academic ambitions. As an adult student, the perspective of an academic advisor can be especially beneficial when it comes to making the right scholastic choices.

ENROLLMENT TEAM

Point University provides dedicated support for adult students through our enrollment team. Team members are committed to helping prospective students make a successful transition into the adult-learning program. The enrollment team utilizes the StrengthsQuest™ system to help students recognize and focus on their talents in order to discover and achieve the most rewarding educational path moving forward.

TREAT YOURSELF WITH COMPASSION

As a returning adult student, you face a number of challenges. These come from everyday life, existing commitments to family, church, and work. But you can also face internal challenges, in the form of your own self-judgment.

Most of us really are our own worst critics. We can be hard on ourselves, and when we don't meet our own standards, we can get discouraged.

Ultimately, this can be very detrimental — people who are busy beating up on themselves may have a hard time achieving what they set out to do. How-

ever, you can learn to be gentle with yourself. One way to do so is to learn to set realistic goals.

REALISTIC GOALS

While recognizing that friends, family, and others may have expectations of their own, your expectations of yourself are the ones you'll focus on most. Make sure they're realistic.

***With friends, family, and
Point behind you, you'll
know you're not alone.***

How do you do that?

First, don't go it alone! Discuss your goals with the people closest to you, especially those who will be most impacted by your decisions about education. You might also consider asking one of your church ministers or someone else you trust for impartial and objective advice about what constitutes a realistic expectation. Ultimately, it's up to you to define expectations for yourself, but it can help to have others offer their perspectives on things.

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

When it comes to setting realistic goals, you need to be entirely honest with yourself about both your strengths and weaknesses. Are you good at budgeting time, or are you easily distracted? Are you diligent until the task at hand is complete, or does your attention wander? Can you prioritize, or do you do the things you want to do first, only eventually getting around to doing what is necessary?

These are all questions you need to answer, and you may even consider asking for candid feedback from others about what they perceive your strengths and weaknesses to be. If you are entertaining this possibility, proceed with caution — you may not always like what you hear! Listen to others' opinions carefully and understand that they support you and are trying to be constructive. Then pray for the willpower to capitalize on your strengths and improve on your shortcomings.

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

The best thing about setting a realistic expectation is actually meeting it. Congratulate yourself when you reach your goals. If you make an A in a class, be proud of it, and let the people around you offer you their praise as well. If you successfully complete a semester, take the time to celebrate that before you start worrying about the next one. When you treat yourself as lovingly as you would treat any other person you cherish, you set yourself up for success. ▲



CHAPTER 4

The Access Program

OVERVIEW OF DEGREE OPTIONS

Now that you've made the decision to return to school and get a Christian education at Point, the next step is to decide which of Point University's [adult learning degree programs](#), also known as Access programs, you will join. We'll look at your academic options to help you choose the right program for you.

GENERAL EDUCATION

To join either of the adult-degree programs at Point University, you'll need to satisfy the general education requirement. These required courses will serve as the foundation for the curriculum of the degree program you join. If you're entering Point University with less than 45 previously-earned semester credit hours, you'll need to apply for and complete an associate of arts degree. After you finish your associate of arts, you can decide whether you want to continue working toward a bachelor of science degree.

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

When you're considering which associate of arts degree you want to pursue, think about what you

want to do after you complete your studies. Each adult-learning associate of arts degree has a specific focus to help you achieve your goals.

An **associate of arts degree in business administration** will equip you in the foundational elements of business management and accounting.

An **associate of arts degree in child development** will help you to gain a better understanding of human development, education, and sociocultural issues facing society today.

An **associate of arts degree in Christian ministries** will prepare you for work in a church or ministry environment.

An **associate of arts degree in criminal justice** will develop your knowledge of the criminal justice system and give you a better understanding of current policies.

The **associate of arts in human relations** will help you to function in an environment where you're assisting people — ministry or otherwise.

Pursuing an **associate of arts degree in organizational leadership** will better help you perform in a business setting.

An **associate of arts degree in psychology** will add to your basic understanding of psychology and sociology and help you to gain a new perspective on interpersonal interaction.

Finally, your **associate of arts in general studies** will establish the foundation you'll need to pursue a bachelor of science degree.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Like the associate of arts degree, bachelor of science degree paths at Point University are focused on helping you achieve specific goals. All bachelor of science degrees will allow you to pursue additional studies in related disciplines.

Your **bachelor of science degree in business administration** will develop the leader within you by teaching you how to be a biblical steward for those around you in the workplace. This degree is designed to teach you about the many principles involved in business that you can apply at work and at home.

A **bachelor of science degree in child development** will give you a deeper understanding of working with young children in a variety of settings and make you more aware of their growth and development patterns. This degree is designed to help you obtain the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) certification.

Your **bachelor of science degree in Christian ministries** will prepare you to lead and serve in church

and ministry positions. This degree will provide you with the theological training necessary to lead others in their spiritual walks, and will help you develop your spiritual gifts and personal skills, teaching you how to use them for the glory of God.

Your **bachelor of science degree in criminal justice** provides insight into crime and criminal law, procedures, and behavior from a spiritual perspective. This degree prepares you for a variety of careers in law.

The **bachelor of science degree in human relations** will prepare you to lead and serve in human- and social-services positions. With this degree, you can work in public, private, or faith-based agencies and organizations.

Pursuing a **bachelor of science degree in organizational leadership** will give you the tools to lead and serve in business and society. You can use this degree in a variety of positions in corporate, private, government, and nonprofit organizations.

The **bachelor of science degree in psychology** was created to give students the chance to learn about the processes that take place within the human mind. This degree will give you a deeper understanding of others and yourself, so that you can use this knowledge to further your career and personal growth.

The best way to learn more about the adult-learning courses required for each degree is to look over the [Access catalog](#). You can set up a campus visit or contact us with any questions. You can also [apply online](#).

When you look over your degree options, make sure you're checking course availability at the Point

location of your choice. Not all degrees are offered at all off-site locations. If you have questions, you should contact the location for the latest information on degrees offered.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Do you notice that you have the natural ability to lead others toward a common vision? Are you the type of person who finds joy in working toward a goal within an organization to better serve customers? If so, the bachelor of science in business administration might just be the degree for you. This degree helps students grow in their understanding of business, leadership, management, planning, communication, marketing, finance, law and ethics. Courses in this degree program include Principles of Management, International Business, and Business Law. Students will learn such skills as:

- Self-reflection, contemplation, prayer and discernment to facilitate self-awareness and become more authentic leaders.
- Biblical approaches to stewardship and responsibility with regard to organizational practices.
- Managing people, time and resources by effectively communicating and utilizing judicious employment practices, encouraging team building, and mentoring junior members of the staff.

This degree is designed to give students the business acumen and personal capabilities necessary to succeed both personally and professionally. Hands-on learning is a big part of this program and stu-

dents will often find themselves solving real-world problems for local companies. Graduates from this program are prepared to go out into the world and make a difference in the workplace and at home.

You may find yourself working in a corporate, private, government or nonprofit organization.

Often, the best ministry you can have is in the workplace. What better way to make an impact for God's kingdom than to spend time within an organization daily and create an environment of love and kindness with coworkers and consumers? This degree prepares you to be a light in a business within your own community.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Do you enjoy being a mentor and caretaker for the next generation of leaders? Do you have a natural gift when it comes to working with children? If so, you will enjoy Point University's bachelor of science in child development degree program. You will learn about working with students from a young age in a variety of settings that foster a child's development physically, socially, emotionally, spiritually and cognitively. Courses in this program include Educational Psychology, Educational Foundations, The Family, and Creative Arts. Graduates of this program will learn multiple skills, including:

- Familiarity with the milestones of physical, social, emotional, spiritual and cognitive development.
- Ability to design organized lesson plans that include goals, materials, procedures and assessments.
- Ability to describe a variety of philosophies

about human development and apply Christian principles, when relevant.

Coursework is designed to lead students toward becoming Christ-centered, service-focused mentors to young children and their families. This degree will prepare you to work with children from birth through third grade, and even allow you to be eligible to apply for an Early Education (Birth through Pre-K) Teacher Certificate from the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). This degree meets the requirements to be a lead teacher in a Georgia Pre-K classroom.

Graduates from this program will have the ability to work in a Christian school setting and serve Christ by raising up the next generation of believers who will reach the world for God's glory. Wouldn't you like to touch the lives of children in this world and be a difference maker for Christ?

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

If you want a fulfilling career in which you bring glory to the Lord and spread his Word, a degree in Christian ministries is your first step. With courses like Biblical Interpretation, The Life of Jesus, and Acts of the Apostles, you'll gain plenty of knowledge about the specifics of the Bible and the historical context in which it was written.

But a good leader needs more than biblical knowledge. You will also learn about how to grow your church and generate support for your ministry, how to preach effectively, and how to counsel those around you. Working in church or ministry environments requires one to wear many different hats, and

classes at Point go beyond the words in the Bible to explore how these lessons can be applied today.

There are many aspects to religious leadership, particularly if you are interested in working within the church. In addition to gaining a thorough knowledge of the historical background of the Old and New Testaments, students will learn about the day-to-day aspects of running a Christian organization. Courses like Accounting and Finance for Church and Administration and Leadership in Ministry give Point graduates the concrete skills they'll need to succeed in their chosen careers.

Once you've received your bachelor's or associate degree in Christian ministries, what are you qualified to do? If you are willing to serve, counsel, advise and guide others, your opportunities are endless! Think about your passions; what gets you fired up? What do you think are society's biggest issues? Look for nonprofit or Christian organizations that work to solve those problems. Whether you'd like to be the director of a no-kill pet shelter, the manager of a domestic abuse hotline, or a leader in the fight against human trafficking, you will be equipped with the ability to educate, persuade and communicate passionately and effectively.

Many Point University graduates continue their studies in this field. You may wish to go to seminary and eventually become ordained, or perhaps you want to get a graduate degree in biblical studies or theology. A career or a calling is necessary in life, and there's no better way to spend your days than serving and helping others. An education at Point University can give you the tools to use your profession to better the world in the name of the Lord.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Do you strive to make your community a better place? Do you have an intrinsic need to help others? Do you want a career that is constantly interesting and exciting? These are just a few of the reasons to pursue a degree in criminal justice from Point University. Whether you have aspirations to be a state trooper, a crime scene investigator or work for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Point University will give you the tools you need to become a successful leader in your career path.

A degree in criminal justice from Point will provide you with knowledge and leadership skills to thrive in any role within the criminal justice field such as law enforcement, paralegal, social work and many more. Designed with an interdisciplinary approach, students get a variety of course offerings that focus on crime, criminal law, criminal behavior and crim-

inal procedures from a spiritual perspective. Point University provides a unique program in criminal justice through the lens of a Christian education.

The Point program requires students to challenge themselves with courses like Abnormal Psychology, Interpersonal Effectiveness and Conflict Management, and a well-rounded education that prepares them for any endeavor.

Graduates of the criminal justice program will learn a variety of skills, including:

- Identifying and discussing the differential effects within the criminal justice system
- Evaluating the different aspects of criminal behavior
- Applying philosophy and theory to criminal law and the criminal justice system
- Developing the ability to understand the tools and procedures of the criminal justice system



- Identifying the impact of societal, psychological, and environmental factors on criminal behavior

Whether you want to enhance your knowledge base for your current job or change career paths to give back to your local community, a degree in criminal justice from Point University will lead to many new opportunities. With so much in the news concerning the criminal justice system recently, now is the perfect time to gain the knowledge to help make a change in society. As a graduate from the criminal justice program at Point, you will encounter many new opportunities to be a successful leader in law enforcement.

HUMAN RELATIONS

Do you find yourself drawn to people? Are you often in the position of mediator during family conflicts? Are you a good listener — the kind of person your friends count on to lend an ear and offer support? If so, a human relations degree could take your natural talents and point them in the direction of a flourishing career.

This degree allows you to serve the world through your leadership in the human- and social-services sectors. It could set you on many different paths — you'll be able to choose from a wide variety of positions in many fields, particularly those that allow you to serve the church and to serve people. A student will learn to:

- Communicate effectively orally and in writing.
- Demonstrate skills in critical thinking, mathematics and computer literacy.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the content of the Old and New Testaments.

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of an integrated, Christian worldview and the role of believers in the body of Christ.

- Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamentals of individual and social dynamics and ways to address human and social needs.

A human relations major could become:

- A director at a food bank
- A youth leader at a church
- An administrator in a human resources department
- A Christian school counselor
- A hiring director at a company
- A social worker

These and many other career paths are available to a human relations major. Courses like Biblical Resources for Counseling and Counseling Diverse Age Groups set students up to help others through particularly tough times. Interpersonal Effectiveness and Conflict Management courses will allow students to bring strong skills in communication practices and dispute resolution to bear in any job environment, making them invaluable employees. Your human relations degree at Point University could be the start of a brand-new career, or allow you to perform more effectively in the one you already have. Either way, you'll find the opportunities afforded you professionally, spiritually and personally fulfilling.

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Point University offers degree programs in organizational leadership to equip working adults with

the management and leadership skills needed to succeed in their careers and in life. These classes will give you background knowledge in every area of business, from information systems to ethics. Some of the courses you will take during the 120 required credit hours include:

- Accounting and Finance for Leadership
- Principles of Marketing
- Business Law
- Entrepreneurship
- Human Resources Management

If you're interested in taking on a leadership role in an organization, it is vital that you understand the many aspects of business. Leaders must be able to have a bird's-eye view of the organizations they run, so the courses you'll take in this program will reflect the breadth of capabilities you'll need to exhibit in order to succeed in your career.

You might want to study organizational leadership for many reasons. Maybe you're interested in a new career path at an already established company. Perhaps you're at the bottom of the corporate ladder, and would like to advance more quickly. You might feel unfulfilled in your current career and want a change. Organizational leadership can provide you with the tools to succeed in all these situations.

Entrepreneurs will especially benefit from this degree, as they must know how to energize people and get them motivated for a cause. You never know — your business idea could become the next Uber or Apple! The interpersonal communication skills taught in organizational leadership classes

will enable you to get people on your side and convince them to support your project.

The Point program isn't just about becoming a leader. It's about becoming a good leader. Our courses emphasize Christian values and ethical principles. A leadership position is a big responsibility, and one that should not be taken lightly.

It sometimes seems as though every other day we see news of another political scandal or a revelation about unethical business practices. The only way to get these bad leaders out of their positions is by replacing them with good leaders. There are many struggles and temptations that come with leading an organization, but the courses and teachers at Point will help you recognize these hurdles and avoid or overcome them.

Skills like good communication, time management, and small group collaboration are applicable in any field, and will never be irrelevant or outdated. The critical thinking and problem-solving abilities you'll gain while pursuing your organizational leadership degree will help you get wherever you want to go.

PSYCHOLOGY

Do you enjoy learning about other people? Do you feel a strong desire to find solutions to problems? Do you love challenging yourself mentally and spiritually? Then a degree in psychology may be the perfect fit for you, allowing you to prepare for a future in various helping professions.

While studying psychology at Point University, you will gain a theoretical foundation for understanding

issues in psychology and related fields. You will also learn basic skills and attitudes that are pertinent to psychology and other helping professions.

This degree is aligned with the content areas of the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE), which are laid out by the National Board for Certified Counselors. It will prepare you for the possibility of attending graduate school in order to further your career opportunities.

Maybe you are ready to start fresh with a new education focused on helping others, or maybe you want to continue learning how to best serve the community around you. By taking classes like Biblical Resources for Counseling, Abnormal Psychology, and Personality Theory, Point University will provide you with the education necessary to achieve your goals. ▲

Your degree options include:

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

- A.A. in Business Administration
- A.A. in Child Development
- A.A. in Christian Ministries
- A.A. in Criminal Justice
- A.A. in General Studies
- A.A. in Human Relations
- A.A. in Organizational Leadership
- A.A. in Psychology

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

- B.S. in Business Administration
- B.S. in Child Development
- B.S. in Christian Ministries
- B.S. in Criminal Justice
- B.S. in Human Relations
- B.S. in Organizational Leadership
- B.S. in Psychology



CHAPTER 5

The Online Program

THE BENEFITS OF ONLINE LEARNING

You want to further your education in a faith-based environment, but as an adult living in the real world, you have limited flexibility. You have incredible demands on your time: a job, your family, extracurricular activities, friends, church services, volunteer work, and all the other responsibilities that fill up your days. With constraints like these, you may consider getting your Point degree online. At Point University, we offer [online degree programs](#) for busy adults. Our online format offers all of the same degree options as our Access program from the comfort of your own home.

Flexibility makes the online adult learning experience at Point special. Online learning at Point allows you to create your own schedule and work at whatever pace is most comfortable for you. Have a few hours open on the weekend? Great — so does Point. Want to knock out some assignments over lunch today? No problem. Is your only quiet time before the rest of the family gets up in the morning? Do you have only sporadic, unexpected windows of opportunity that you can't plan around? No need to worry — your online coursework is there whenever you're ready.

Additionally, as an adult online learner, you can do your work from wherever you happen to be. As long as you can get online, you can be completing coursework.



How's that for convenience? If you're on a business trip and you're up late, you can log on and do your homework. When you have to go out of town unexpectedly to visit family, your assignments travel with you. If you can connect to the Internet, you're good to go.

ONLINE DEGREE FAQ

Online learning is revolutionizing colleges around the country, but people often have questions about

how it works. These are some of the most common questions prospective students have:

WILL I EVER HAVE TO GO TO A CAMPUS?

Online learning gives everyone the ability to get a degree, whether you're right next door to a Point University campus or live halfway across the world. As long as you have a computer with Internet access, you can get an online degree. Of course, as a valued member of the Point community, you're always welcome on campus, and professors and staff will be here to support you, both in person and online.

IS AN ONLINE DEGREE WORTH LESS THAN AN "IN-PERSON" DEGREE?

No! You will be held to the same rigorous academic standards as our offline students, and your degree will reflect the hard work you've done to get it. Online learning is an increasingly common way to take courses, and an online bachelor of science or associate of arts degree is just as desirable as a conventional degree — plus, it shows future employers that you're able to work independently and manage your time, and that you're tech-savvy.

DO I HAVE TO LOG ON AT THE SAME TIME EVERY DAY?

The beauty of online learning is that you can set your own schedule. We all have hectic lives, and adult students in particular don't always have a consistent routine. Point University offers two types of online courses. The first type is asynchronous, which means that everyone logs on at his or her own convenience. You don't have to be online at the same time every day.

You can also sign up for video courses, in which a class is taught by an instructor and broadcast over the web. In these courses, you and other online students participate in a "virtual classroom" where you can interact and communicate with each other and your professor in real time.

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES?

As a self-guided student, it is your responsibility to make sure that you are active in your online class. You should participate in an online activity at least once a week, whether you're posting to a discussion forum, submitting an assignment, or asking the instructor a question. Most classes have an introductory assignment, so you can virtually meet your classmates and instructors. You should make sure you complete these assignments prior to the scheduled start date.

SO CAN I HAND IN MY ASSIGNMENTS WHENEVER I WANT?

Most work must be completed within a certain time frame, but you're welcome to work ahead if you are able to. Online learning is just as fast paced as conventional classes, and you don't want to fall behind. If you aren't current with course assignments, you won't be able to actively participate in the online course discussions, and you won't receive full credit for the work.

WHAT IF I NEED HELP?

Our online students may not be here in body, but they are certainly a part of the Point community in spirit! You have access to every resource we offer here at Point, including the [Educational Resource Center](#), personal counseling services, [spiritual](#)



[formation opportunities](#), and the [Center for Calling and Career](#). We are here to help you every step of the way, and you should never hesitate to come to your instructor or the counseling center with specific or general questions about a course, the program, or your spiritual life.

The bottom line is that online learning is designed to work for you. Online classes take advantage of the best parts of academia — one-on-one and small group discussions, interaction with peers and instructors, videos and multimedia presentations — and allow you to complete your education on your own terms.

ARE THERE LIMITS TO MY ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAM?

Because enrollment depends on state laws, Point University may not be able to offer all online programs in the state where you live. Check with our online admissions staff to ask us about this and any other questions you have about your online adult learning opportunities at Point University.

If online learning sounds like a fit for you, [call or email us](#) today to find out more about earning the credentials you need to succeed. ▶

CHAPTER 6

Spiritual Life

PRIORITIZE GOD IN YOUR LIFE WHILE YOU'RE IN SCHOOL

At Point, we don't believe Christianity is something we need before we die. We believe Christianity is something we need in order to live. Jesus came to earth to die in our place, yes. But He also came to show us how to live.

While the Bible doesn't record a great many details between Jesus' boyhood and his 30th birthday, there is one amazing verse that gives us a summary of what happened during those years.

Luke 2:52 says, "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." This little verse nestled into the end of the chapter that begins with Jesus' birth tells us that Jesus grew intellectually, physically, spiritually and relationally. That's why you're going back to school — to continue to grow in Christ, in all ways. To live your faith.

As you do so, remember that your journey is undergirded and shaped by the Spirit. To grow and become your fullest self, it's important to keep God at the center of your thoughts, even as your life becomes busier.

How do you keep your spiritual life at the forefront of your mind?

MANAGE YOUR TIME.

You have to balance all the things you need to do with the demands of being an adult student. There will be days when you have to study, but you'll also need to get an oil change, pick up the kids, and figure out a plan for dinner. It can be hard to find time to think, much less pray.

The key to all of this is time management. Learn to plan carefully so that you can use your time efficiently and effectively. Make lists, assign time limits and stick to them, block out periods for tasks without interruptions, and minimize distractions like email and social media. Once you understand where your time is going, you'll be able to find more of it for God.

BE REALISTIC AND FLEXIBLE.

Be realistic about how much time and energy you have in a day, and don't be afraid to adjust your schedule. Maybe you don't have the energy to read your Bible before bed now that you're nose-deep in your studies. If you find you keep falling asleep, perhaps a quiet block of time before or after lunch is the best time for you to spend in prayer. Sometimes it isn't how much time we spend in prayer and Bible study, but the commitment to not let other things push those disciplines out of your life, that's important.

Try switching things up a little bit. Instead of giving God the first 15 minutes of your day, try giving him the best 15 minutes of your day, even if that feels unconventional to you. Use your time spent commuting to pray or memorize Scripture. Most of us have little gaps of time in our lives that can become productive moments for us if we plan well. Intentionally using the small windows in your day might be just the structure you need to help you protect your priorities.

GET ACCOUNTABILITY.

The best way to build healthy habits is to find a friend who can journey with you. Go for weekly coffee dates to discuss the things you're learning and what God is teaching you. It's important to choose an accountability partner who isn't afraid to ask tough questions like, "Have you spent time in the Word this week?" or "How is your attitude toward your spouse?" Make sure that your friend is a person you trust; accountability only works when you're willing to tell the truth. You'll find that your friendship grows leaps and bounds, and you'll walk away from your meetings feeling encouraged and refreshed.

DON'T SHAME YOURSELF.

You may have heard that if you want to see what people value, check their calendars and their bank accounts. But, while this is a great guideline, not all of our time and money is ours to spend freely. Just because you spend more time at work than you do with your family doesn't mean that you value your job more than your kids. Just because you have to pay the tuition instead of tithing as much doesn't mean you're less committed to Christ.

The Bible says to work at everything as if you were working unto the Lord — that includes school and your job! Don't get so entrenched in whether you're devoting enough time to God that you forget that a relationship with Him is just that — a relationship. He is full of grace, and longs to be close to you. He understands your life, with all its stressors, and is there with you in the middle of all of it. Keep God's grace, not your own worries or guilt, at the forefront of your mind.

It is always possible to keep God as your priority, even when you're in the throes of dealing with a job, a family, and an adult education. The key is managing your time well, being realistic and compassionate toward yourself, and finding good friends to help you become the person God made you to be. You'll make it through this busy season, and maybe even find that you're learning more during these years than you ever have before!

Learn the healthy habits that will lead you toward your goals.

FIND A MENTOR

A mentor is simply a person from whom you intentionally learn. Finding a mentor is one of the best things you can do for your spiritual growth — he or she can help you make sure that you continue to live a God-centered, Spirit-filled life. At Point, your mentor could be a faculty or staff member, or even a fellow student who is ready to help you in your journey.

A MENTOR CAN HELP YOU GROW SPIRITUALLY.

Maybe your spiritual mentor is somebody a little bit older than you are, or someone who has walked with Jesus a little longer. A mentor will offer wisdom and perspective that you haven't yet acquired from your own experience. A mentor will know you well and will be able to encourage you in a way that is actually meaningful, not just generic and fluffy. Mentors can share knowledge about God and share stories about His faithfulness in their lives — all the times they were afraid but comforted, full of doubt but clinging to faith, aching but carried. A mentor can hold you accountable, pray for you, laugh and celebrate with you, advise you, and instruct you. You will be able to ask questions openly knowing that someone more seasoned than you are is there to wrestle through them with you.

A MENTOR CAN HELP YOU GROW RELATIONALLY.

A mentor doesn't have to just be a spiritual mentor, and you don't have to have just one. Different people can help you grow in different areas. Perhaps there is one particular person whose marriage is inspiring to you and you want to learn how to nurture one like it. Maybe someone else's business sense and financial planning impress you, and you want to hear how he or she started and what lessons he or she has learned along the way. As the saying goes, "Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself."

A mentor can advise you in all sorts of areas, but the final outcome is always the same: you build a relationship with another person that enriches both of your lives. Proverbs tells us that as iron sharpens

iron, so one person sharpens another. Mentorship is a win-win situation — an exercise in humility, learning, vulnerability, honesty, and accountability. There is something incredibly powerful about fostering healthy relationships with other people. As Bob Goff [wrote](#), "Next to grace, I bet God thinks making us need each other was one of His best ideas."

Finding a mentor is a proactive way to grow spiritually and relationally in the same way you grow intellectually and physically. It's a way to infuse your life with rich relationships, and you'll find it's a double blessing: you get to see God work in you and through you. Point University's campuses are full of people who are great at their jobs, love and support their families, and strive to follow Jesus. If you've never had a mentor before, Point would be the perfect place to find one!

KEEP THE SABBATH SACRED

The idea of Sabbath rest is rooted in the creation story, where we are told that God rested on the Sabbath day. God took time to cease His work and delight in the goodness of His creation. Imagine, for example, how refreshing it is for us to look at some marvelous part of creation like the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls, or one of those incredible photos of our planet taken from space. Then imagine what God was looking at on the Sabbath — all of that, and more!

We live such complex lives that it is sometimes difficult to stop what we are doing and notice the world around us. This is probably especially true of adult students with spouses and children, full-time

jobs, obligations at church, and school added to the mix. But it's still important to give yourself rest, just like God did.

Sabbath is about reflection. It is about enjoying the fruits of our labor in ways that honor God. We all need rest — we need to step away from the routine of daily living and take deep, satisfying, refreshing breaths, and come back to our work renewed. That's why it's so important to keep the Sabbath holy.

Sabbath ought to be a time when we clear our heads. That means we probably need to turn off our smartphones, put our textbooks away, and try to forget about work issues. Clarity comes out of resting our minds from what usually occupies our thought processes.

So, no matter how rushed life or school seems, walk away from the pressures of your calendar on the Sabbath. Give your mind a chance to rest and delight in God's creation. You will be surprised at the impact it can have.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

There are plenty of challenges involved in going back to school as an adult student. Before you enrolled, you were juggling as many balls in the air as you could, and now suddenly you're contending with a few more. With so much going on, it's easy to let your existing relationships slip through the cracks. But as you begin your adult learning experience, it's even more important to have support. People are made to be in relationship with each

other. When we serve each other, we are serving God. Here are a few things to keep in mind to help you navigate your relationships in a healthy way.

COMMUNICATION

Everyone knows that communication is key to any kind of relationship. Sometimes, as adult students, we are so focused on the task at hand that we can easily overlook just how necessary it is to be open and engaged. This can lead to misunderstandings and assumptions. The best — and only — way to deal with this is by getting things out in the open and communicating.

When it comes to your family and friends, err on the side of over-communication. You need to stay connected, and that requires really listening to what is going on in their lives. Check in with your spouse between classes, keep everyone in the loop about your schedule, and don't be afraid to let them know what is stressing you. This will help eliminate miscommunication and encourage understanding.

At Point, you build relationships that enrich your life.

RESPECT

We all have feelings, and we all want them to be respected equally. Few things are more important than mutual respect. It says that we care as much about the thoughts and opinions of the person we're talking to as we do about our own. Let the people in your life know that you are keeping their feelings in mind, and that they are important to you. Make eye contact and listen to them before

you speak. Only make commitments you can keep, and remain conscious of the needs, frustrations, and time constraints of the people you interact with. Remember, respect is a two-way street.

COMPROMISE

Disagreements happen in the healthiest of relationships. As an adult student, you'll need to learn to resolve these amicably through the art of compromise. You may disagree with fellow students, faculty members, or your own family about the best way to complete a task. Remember that it's more important to find a way over the hurdles than it is to be right. Conflicts need to be solved as calmly, rationally, and fairly as possible. The way to achieve this is through compromise.

SUPPORT

Sometimes we can lose sight of relationships until we need them. As an adult student, your relationships with your friends, your family, your coworkers, and your classmates are important. There will be times when you'll have to rely on their support, and you need to learn how to continue to be there for them when they need you, too. Return phone calls and answer text messages, even if you only have time to say that you don't have time to talk! Let your friends and family know that even though your time is more constrained, you still want them to call if they need you.

Going back to school is no joke. But if you learn the right skills and have the right support, you can do it all without losing your center. You can learn to live, not just for what's most urgent, but for what's most important: your relationship with Jesus Christ. ▲

CHAPTER 7

Point University FAQ

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

Whether you're headed back to school or are pursuing higher education for the first time, you probably have questions about the application process. At Point University, we've made applying to be an adult student as seamless and straightforward as possible.

UNDERSTAND ADMISSIONS PREREQUISITES

Every university has prerequisites for admission. Seeing that you have obtained a certain level of academic achievement and, in some cases, professional experience helps admissions committees determine whether you will be successful as a student. To become an adult student at Point, you must be at least 21 years of age. Applicants coming to Point with past college or university experience must also have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher. We also require a minimum of one year of relevant work experience. In some cases, work experience may even count as course credit! While a majority of our applicants have work experience that fulfills this prerequisite, you can always [contact your preferred campus location](#) to discuss your situation. Our Access and online program staff will always work with you to see whether you can earn credits for prior life and work experiences.

If you have any questions about these prerequisites or aren't sure whether you meet them, contact Point admissions to discuss your options.

COMPLETE OUR ONLINE APPLICATION

Do you fulfill our prerequisites for admission? Excellent! The next step is filling out our [online application](#). It's easy to complete, and you can get started right now. Since our programs offer five start dates throughout the year, there's never a "wrong" time to apply.

SUBMIT TRANSCRIPTS

Send our admissions committee official transcripts from each college or university you have attended. To make sure we receive the right transcripts in the right format, fill out our [transcript request form](#). Using this form gives Point's admissions staff permission to request transcripts on your behalf.

Students with no prior college experience or whose earned credits total fewer than 12 semester hours must also submit an official high school transcript that includes the date of graduation. Applicants with a General Education Development (GED) cer-

tificate can submit the certificate in lieu of a high school transcript. Make sure the GED certificate includes your standard score for each of the five tests in the battery.

SUBMIT A CHARACTER REFERENCE

The final step in Point's admission process is to submit a character reference from someone who knows you and is not a relative. Try to identify a character reference early in the application process. That way he or she will be able to complete the form in a timely manner and not delay your enrollment! Employers, teachers and church leaders are examples of people who may be willing to provide a character reference on your behalf.

If you're looking for more information about applying to Point University as an adult student, [schedule a campus visit!](#) We'd love to learn about your past professional and educational experiences and your aspirations for the future.

LOCATIONS

Point University has five locations in addition to our main campus in West Point, Georgia. Even if West Point isn't convenient to you, we have locations across Georgia and Alabama that offer our degree programs, along with all the local perks and flavor that each city has to offer. Here is a look at our Point University locations and what you can expect to find while you're pursuing your adult learning experience at each one.

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Let's start with the only Point University location

currently outside of Georgia. Our off-site Birmingham, Alabama location is based at the Church of The Highlands Greystone Campus, where adult learners have the option to take day or night classes. There are dozens of dining and retail options in the immediate area along Highway 280, and students can always make the short trek to the city center for even more variety. Adult learners who want to take to the great outdoors with family and friends can visit nearby Oak Mountain State Park for camping, hiking, or to enjoy a petting zoo and recreational lakes. Additional area attractions include the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum, the Vulcan Park and Museum, and the Birmingham Zoo.

PEACHTREE CITY, GEORGIA

Serving Fayette and Coweta counties, Point University's Peachtree City off-site location sits at the intersection of Highways 54 and 74. There are plenty of recreational opportunities for adult students, including the ever-popular mixed-habitat Line Creek Nature Area on Lake McIntosh. If you're looking for an outdoor experience, take a boat out on Lake Peachtree, enjoy a round of disc golf at Village Green or participate in a variety of sports at Braelinn or Glenloch recreation centers. There are also plenty of musical entertainment options at the Frederick Brown Jr. Amphitheater.

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Adult students at the Savannah off-site location can visit the nearby Georgetown or Richmond Hill areas for fantastic shopping. For recreational activities, the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm offers history and horticulture, while Kings Ferry Park gives you fishing access to the Ogeechee River. Students who want

to go further afield can take in some of the former Georgia colonial capital's sites in downtown Savannah's Historic District. For students seeking more natural settings, the city is surrounded by wetlands including the Savannah, Tybee, and Wassaw national wildlife refuges.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Located in the uptown Buckhead district of Atlanta, Point University's new Lindbergh City Center location offers an exciting assortment of extracurricular opportunities. The only problem you may have will be deciding what to do in your free time! Three of the area's prime attractions are even located adjacent to one another. You can check out the Georgia Aquarium, one of the world's largest, and home to 100,000 animals from 500 species in 10 million gallons of water.

After you've seen all the fish you can see, your next two stops are just across the street. Visit the Center for Civil and Human Rights to review the inspirational achievements of the United States civil rights and international human rights movements. You can also learn all about the history of Coca-Cola at the World of Coke. When you need a break, visit the shops at Atlantic Station for a little "retail therapy." As an added bonus, this location is conveniently close to downtown, midtown, and other surrounding areas of Atlanta.

MCDONOUGH, GEORGIA

Located in picturesque Henry County, a part of the greater Atlanta metropolitan area, our McDonough location offers easy access to the same great extracurricular activities as our other Atlanta locations. In addition, check out the Geranium Festival, a

springtime event that celebrates McDonough's beautiful flora. You can wander through open-air craft markets, enjoy live musical performances, and generally make a day of it!

WEST POINT, GEORGIA

Home to the main campus of Point University, West Point and the Greater Valley area offer adult learning students a variety of athletic and cultural activities. Located a few blocks from the Chattahoochee River in one direction and the Alabama state line in the other, the campus is convenient to the numerous recreation areas surrounding nearby West Point Lake. The city's Visitor Center directs students to points of interest like the town's historic railroad depot and museum. Adult learning students with an interest in local and national history won't want to miss the Hawkes Library or Fort Tyler.

No matter which Point University location or online learning experience you choose as your adult learning destination, you'll have no problem finding lots of attractions and pastimes for whenever you need a study break.

If you are a prospective adult student, the best place to begin your Point University experience is by visiting one of our campuses. During your visit, you'll meet one-on-one with a program staff member who will explain what to expect from your adult-learning experience. To schedule a visit, visit the [Campus Visit](#) page, and select the campus you'd like to see — preferably the location where you plan to attend classes. You'll be contacted directly by a dedicated site representative to schedule your visit.

TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

Financial concerns can be especially significant for older students. If you're already earning a living, do you want to risk loss of income while you go back to school? What's more, you're probably not anxious to incur new debt at this point in your life. Understand that as a returning student, you are not alone in wondering how you will pay for school.

Tuition and fees for each academic year are published on [Point's website](#). It's important to remember that everyone at Point wants you to succeed; many financial aid options are available to you, including:

- Federal programs like PELL
- Loans
- Grants
- Work-study programs
- Scholarships

Be sure to contact the [Office of Financial Aid for the Access Program](#) if you think you'll need assistance. We're ready and waiting to talk to you. ▶

***Financial aid is out there,
and we'll help you find it.***

Point University
makes adult
education possible.

If it's time for you to achieve
your dreams, reach out.

We can't wait to talk to you.