



# Executive Education

**W**ilma Ann Anderson could have had her pick of Ivy League graduate schools after graduating from Cornell University in 1992. But after receiving a degree in English, she pursued her passion for performing, launched a company and became a mother. Eight years later, she decided to pursue an MBA at Metropolitan College of New York, a small, Manhattan-based college that caters to working adults.

"I could have gone any place else, [but] it really is about not wasting time for me and making sure you're in the right place for the right reason--and this was the right place," says Anderson, a co-founder of the Mahogany Baby Website ([www.mahoganybaby.com](http://www.mahoganybaby.com)). While riding the New York City subway, Anderson spotted an ad for Metropolitan College of New York's media-management MBA, which could be earned in just 12 months. "I'm the type of 'do it and get it done' person, so one year was perfect for me," she says. Anderson had two children at the time, and MCNY's flexible schedule met the needs of the working mother.

While typical MBA programs usually take between 18 months and two years to complete and often require full-time study, MCNY's MBA classes were held in the evenings and Saturdays. Anderson, now a mother of four, enrolled at the college in 2000 and one year later held a freshly printed MBA. Though MCNY isn't among the educational elite, Anderson says she got a good, affordable education there. Anderson's experience at MCNY was capped off by a study-abroad program that took her and other media-management majors to the Cannes Film Festival, "quite an invaluable experience," Anderson says.

"Metropolitan College's motto is education that works for people who work," says marketing director Steven Lenhart, who adds that MCNY's typical student is an urban female in her 30s. Besides the one-year media-management MBA, the college, which has 1,700 students, also offers a four-semester associate's degree and a two-and-a-half-year bachelor's program.

MCNY is part of a growing trend. Nontraditional students, defined as students over age 25, make up 39% of postsecondary students and are a growing number. And colleges are taking notice. Many are offering programs targeting the older -- and wiser -- student, by offering services like childcare, evening office hours and cafeteria service and even credit for life experience.

If you're thinking about continuing your education, these tips could help you get to the head of the class.

Decide what you want. "Know what your long-term goal is and why you wish to continue your education," says Jane Schoenfeld Shropshire, president of the Independent Educational Consultants Association, a Fairfax, Virginia-

based professional association for educational consultants. If you're unclear about your goals, taking classes at a local community college could be an affordable way to clarify them. Continuing education or professional studies programs are another option.

Study up before you study. Gather all the information you can about going back to school. There are books and Websites on everything from financing your education to college life. If you're considering going back to school, visit [www.back2college.com](http://www.back2college.com), a Website dedicated to adult education. There are also a multitude of adult education books. Take a look at 501 Ways for Adult Students to Pay for College (SuperCollege LLC; \$17.95); and A Guerrilla Manual for the Adult College Student: How to Go to College Almost Full Time in Your Spare Time ... and Still Have Time to Hold Down a Job, Raise a Family, Pay the Bills and Have Some Fun ([Booklocker.com](http://Booklocker.com); \$24.95).

Investigate accreditation. "Very often, adult learners... will grasp the path that appears easiest to take," Shropshire notes. "But sometimes that easy path may end up being a school that lacks accreditation," she warns. Check credentials with your chosen school's admissions office or the state department of education.

Give yourself credit. If you're going back to school for an undergraduate degree, the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam could save you dozens of hours of class time and thousands of dollars in tuition. CLEP is accepted at thousands of colleges and, in a nutshell, gives students of any age college credit for things they already know.

Seek help. With so many educational options for professionals and working adults, choosing the best route can be confusing. A consultant can help you wade through the selection and application process and assist you in making the right choices. Consultants can also help you package your educational and employment background to improve your chances for admission to the school of your choice. Educational consultants can be found through the IECA's Website: [www.ieca.org](http://www.ieca.org). In addition, the Association for Non-Traditional Students in Higher Education ([www.antshe.org](http://www.antshe.org)) provides information for non-traditional students.

Bring the children. Don't think you can't return to school just because you have children. It may take some digging to find them, but many colleges offer support for parents, such as on-site childcare. For example, the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland, and Bridgewater State College in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, have on-campus day care centers. In addition, Smith College's Ada Comstock Scholars program offers a part-time and full-time bachelor's degree program for women at least 24 years old (current students include women in their 60s), where children are welcome.



## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

At the University of Southern California, we empower our students to embrace the free exchange of ideas, to adhere to personal values, and to grapple with the changes in society while challenging the status quo in pursuit of their goals. Our graduates are driven to excel and become leaders in public policy, economic and business affairs, urban planning and engineering, scientific research, health care, and the arts. They form a remarkably close and supportive community that spans the globe, constantly shaping, challenging, and improving society.

The USC student population is comprised of individuals from diverse racial, ethnic, and class backgrounds. Subsequently, the academic programs are enhanced by our acceptance of one another, and we persevere to learn in an environment of positive interactions and mutual respect. The university offers its student population special services and programs representing nearly every ethnic, religious, and social group.

Additionally, USC performs a wide variety of roles in service to its communities—contributing to the welfare of central Los Angeles as well as to the nation. In particular, our network of affiliated hospitals and its partnerships with business and community organizations enables the university to make its expertise available to the community at large.

Having a talented, selective student body, as well as a faculty of intellectual stars, our academic programs are consequently of the highest caliber. They consist of thirty undergraduate departments and seventeen professional schools offering nearly 80 formal majors and 101 minors, which add breadth to the academic experience. USC currently ranks in the top ten among private universities receiving government funding for research and development support and in the top twenty among all universities.

We believe that financing a higher education is an investment in the future. While the cost of a private education is high, USC offers a wide array of financial support in the form of scholarships, grants, and need-based awards. More than 60 percent of our students receive some type of financial assistance.

For more information, please visit the following:

[www.usc.edu](http://www.usc.edu)

[www.usc.edu/financial](http://www.usc.edu/financial)

[www.usc.edu/admission](http://www.usc.edu/admission)



## METROPOLITAN COLLEGE OF NEW YORK (MCNY)

**MCNY Graduate Degrees: Innovative and Accelerated Focus on Management.**

A leader in experiential learning and innovative education for the past four decades, Metropolitan College of New York (MCNY) offers graduate students distinctive graduate programs with a particular focus on management. Here students can earn a Master's Degree in as little as one year while working!

**MBA in Media Management.** The first of its kind, this MBA provides media savvy professionals with an overview of the media business and equips them with management skills to plan, produce and promote a new media venture. Expertise in fields such as media economics and finance, multimedia design, accounting for communication arts industries, entertainment law and international business are essential to success in the media management field. Students may travel to the Cannes Film Festival in late spring each year as part of a study-abroad component and work or intern in some of the cities best known media organizations. Many graduate student entrepreneurs have inaugurated their own media start-ups.

**MBA in General Management.** This degree provides broad preparation in managerial science with coursework in finance, marketing, information systems, etc., for those who seek to advance into business leadership roles. The MCNY School for Business is preparing the corporate and entrepreneurial leaders of tomorrow. An international business component includes a study-abroad offering in London and Paris in late summer.

**Master of Public Administration.** Emergency and Disaster Management. Professionals working in the field and those interested in moving into this expanding career area, will learn the critical thinking and decision-making skills necessary to support and supervise comprehensive, integrated and effective management in the event of natural, system-wide, and human-induced crises. MCNY is playing an important role in identifying current and historical research in these fields and promoting innovative research by student practitioners. This was the first program of its kind to be offered in New York State and can be completed in sixteen months. A unique study-abroad component will bring MCNY graduate students to Israel for a ten-day review of global security issues and security training. A more generic MPA in General Administration was the first of the College's graduate degree offerings and can be completed in one year. Both programs require approved internship settings of 21 hours per week throughout the program.

Learn more and see why MCNY's graduate degree offerings are becoming a popular choice for students from around the world. For further information on Metropolitan College of New York's programs call 1-800-33-THINK, ext 5001; or visit [www.metropolitan.edu](http://www.metropolitan.edu).



**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**  
Ross School of Business

The Stephen M. Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan seeks to create leaders in thought and action who are ready to solve challenging, multidisciplinary issues facing society. Action-based learning—our unique approach to management education—is the ability to bridge scholarly theory with business practice, shaping future generations of leaders who can inspire people and implement innovative solutions that change the world.

Students are empowered by solving real business issues in real time, working in diverse teams with world-renowned faculty and business leaders. This collaborative environment embraces unique talent and challenges individual intellectual curiosity. It's a defining leadership characteristic and lives at the heart of the Ross experience.

Ross also requires its students to become stakeholders in their education by co-creating a customized, robust educational experience, actively participating in collaborative teams and tapping into the numerous resources and special programs at Ross and across the University.

Ross offers business education for leaders at every level and life stage. Students and faculty partner to explore issues from all angles on the ever-changing global state. Our top-ranked programs include MBA, Evening MBA, Executive MBA, Global MBA and Executive Education.

As the #1 business school for recruiting minority students (Wall Street 2004), we invite you to discover your place among the ranks of world-changing leaders at the Ross School of Business at [www.bus.umich.edu](http://www.bus.umich.edu).

**The Ross MBA...Leading in Thought and Action.**