Undergraduate Programs

The McGhee Division: Preparing Adult Students For New Achievements in Work and Life

New York University has long maintained a unique mission—to link education with life experience. To this end, the Paul McGhee Division within the School of Continuing and Professional Studies was created especially for adult students who want to go back to college and earn their degrees.

The curriculum is taught in a style that supports academic and personal achievement. Classes are small, and the faculty is committed to creating a learning community that respects and builds on the life experience that adult students bring to the classroom.

While at McGhee, our students find their lives transformed in many ways—more ambitious goals, new intellectual interests, and the ability to present themselves more confidently in their careers and lives.

Whether you’ve been away from the classroom for a few years or a few decades, whether you’ve never taken a college course or need only a year or two to graduate, we give you all the help and encouragement you need to reach your goals and fulfill your dreams.

A Unique Corner of Academia

At McGhee, you’ll find a community-centered environment very different from that created for recent high school graduates. Adult learners, just like you, come to McGhee with energy, enthusiasm, a sense of having taken control of their lives, and an eagerness to learn from faculty and from their peers. They are focused on the future and the opportunity to learn how to think conceptually, so that they can combine their vast practical experience with an excellent education.

McGhee is a unique learning space—faculty and staff know who you are, and understand that you have many responsibilities managing your career and family. Our faculty and staff work with you to help you make sound decisions, and to provide the best possible education in a challenging academic environment.

Study with NYU’s Outstanding Faculty

New York University is fortunate to have a faculty second to none. McGhee professors combine the best academic training with real-world experience. They have demonstrated their expertise in diverse fields—from creative writing to diagnostic medical sonography, from business management to psychology. As evidenced by the list of credentials held by McGhee faculty, they are experts in their fields as well as outstanding teachers who make their areas of specialization accessible to their students. They bring their dedication and innovative methods to the classroom. Chosen for their ability and experience, McGhee faculty enjoy the challenge of the give-and-take dialogue that occurs in a classroom of adults. They know that McGhee students have high expectations and are serious about learning. It is axiomatic that the more demanding a student is, the better the professor teaches—and McGhee students are very demanding.
Proven Success

Graduates of McGhee attest to the excellence both of their educational experience and of the varied and rigorous programs that accommodated their wide-ranging interests. Many have gone on to advance in their current careers, others have moved to new areas in which they excel. In this fast-changing world where technology renders yesterday’s discoveries obsolete, our graduates have the skills to absorb new developments in their fields and react positively to them. Change is not frightening if you have the tools to meet the challenges presented. You leave McGhee with the confidence to face every new situation with the sure sense that you can succeed.

When your coursework is near completion, you will want to consider your future plans. Many Educational Options students take the two-credit career and education-planning course, which focuses specifically on helping you develop career choices. Also, career advice is available at the SCPS Center for Career, Education, and Life Planning. There, you meet with a career counselor who will help you assess your interests, abilities, and values, and explore the basics of a job search: researching companies, writing résumés, and interviewing effectively. The center offers workshops, information sessions specially designed for McGhee students, and has an extensive library of specially selected career and educational reference material for your use. NYU’s Office of Career Services provides these services to all McGhee matriculating students as well.

Centered on Advising

Starting college or returning as an adult is a life-changing decision. At McGhee, we help you make the choices that are right for you. Because we know course work makes new demands on your already busy life, we offer an educational program that is sensitive to the needs of working adults. At McGhee, you are assigned an adviser who orients you to New York University and guides you through the first semesters of your return to the classroom. With your adviser, you discuss your strengths, identify gaps in your learning, set goals, and map out your academic plan. You also learn registration requirements and plot your course schedules. As you progress through your degree requirements, you are assigned a program or faculty adviser to assist you with your chosen major or concentration.

You may choose to take just one course per semester or as many courses as you can comfortably handle. Classes are held in Greenwich Village at the Washington Square campus, in the Woolworth Building at 15 Barclay Street in lower Manhattan, and at the NYU Midtown Center on 11 West 42nd Street at Fifth Avenue. Courses are offered during the daytime, evenings, and on weekends. Summer courses provide an ideal opportunity for students who wish to accelerate their progress toward a degree. Summer study is concentrated, and courses meet for six, eight, or 12 weeks. Credits earned at McGhee are transferable to other baccalaureate programs at NYU and to other colleges and universities. Accepted credits may vary depending upon the different programs.