

SUPPORTING OUR ADULT LEARNERS
Initially, the DLR camp was based at the DLR campus. Since the consolidation in 2013, this camp has averaged 100 students per fall and spring semester. About 75% of these are adult learners. Most students live in the DLR/Lenoir County area, as do most of the faculty and staff based at the camp. It is a commuter camp with one active student organization. Due to the limited number of faculty and the fact that most administrative staff functions at the camp are handled in one office with some considerable overlap, DLR faculty and staff have frequent opportunities to interact with a large percentage of students throughout the year. The student population consists of mostly freshmen and sophomores, largely because 60-year-olds can no longer be admitted solely at the DLR campus.

Since Fall 2013, I have been based at the DLR campus as a full-time lecturer of history and political science. I joined Dr. Stephen Svonavec, who has worked at DLR since 2005, first as a full-time member, then as camp Director, and currently as Director of Academic Initiatives. Many other DLR colleagues have provided a wealth of helpful information about adult learners and students in general. I also consulted with Tori Pitts, Recruiter for Dual Enrollment Students and Adult Learners, Dr. Brentwell, Associate Provost for the DLR and other Robeson campuses, and Dee Linsey, Executive Director of Veteran and Military Services, each contributing to the broader perspective on adult learning initiatives at DLR and other University System of Georgia (USG) institutions.

In reviewing the recent literature, I found that there is no one

preparedness, low self-confidence, and a lack of information about services available to them as students.²

For the most part, MGA's definition falls within this broad framework. The main exception is that "non-traditional first-time college students" and "non-traditional freshmen transfer students" are defined by Admissions as those who graduated high school or should have graduated high school five or more years ago. For practical purposes, then, an adult learner may be someone 23 years of age or older. Further, when we consider military and veteran students, we understand that this group can also be described as adult learners, even though they may be younger than 23. Another consideration is that the sy la3(8.5(e)-78 Tw 25.435 -

- They lack some self-confidence (the reasons vary from “I’m too old to do this” to “I’ve never taken an online class, but I have to because of my schedule” to “My children will resent the time spent away from them” to “What if the money runs out?”)
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