

Careers & Education



A supplement to

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SSCC offers variety of technical degrees

Submitted article

Throughout the years, Southern State Community College has gone through many changes, but one thing will never change—our commitment to our students. Keep your eye on us, as we continually strive to offer you an accessible, affordable, high quality education. Learn more about your community college at www.sccc.edu, and check out a quick summary of our technical degrees:

AGRICULTURE

“Biotechnology is a brand new program at Southern and many wonder exactly what biotechnology is. Biotechnology is a growing industry that uses living organisms to develop new products,” says Dr. David Garippa, SSCC Assistant Professor in Biology. “By using principles of biology, technology, and DNA science in the lab to solve scientific problems, we can make advances in the agriculture, food production, forensics, pharmaceutical, and medical fields.”

For more information on Agriculture/Biotechnology programs at Southern State, visit www.sccc.edu/academics/departments/agriculture.shtml. Agriculture/Biotechnology majors include:

- Agriculture Production (A.A.S. Degree)
- Biotechnology & Laboratory Science (A.A.S. Degree)
- Horticulture (Certificate)

BUSINESS

“The business programs offered at Southern State can create a career pathway for the future,” says Jeff Tumbleson, SSCC Assistant

Professor. “A business degree can help you get a better job, advance you at your current job, or serve as the foundation for a bachelor’s degree. We help students prepare for the opportunities that are available today.”

For more information on Business programs at Southern State, visit www.sccc.edu/academics/departments/business.shtml. Business majors include:

- Accounting (A.A.S. Degree)
- Business Management (A.A.S. Degree)
- Entrepreneurship (A.A.S. Degree)
- Logistics Management (A.A.S. Degree)
- Real Estate (A.A.S. Degree) – also offered as a short-term accelerated three-class path that qualifies students to sit for the licensure exam

COMPUTER SCIENCE

“We are here to provide the impact and insight to our students for their future opportunities and occupations,” says Julia Basham, SSCC Associate Professor in Computer Science. “Our hope is to pass our passion for computer science on to each and every student.”

For more information on Computer Science programs at Southern State, visit www.sccc.edu/academics/departments/computer-science.shtml. Computer Science majors include:

- Computer Support Specialist (A.A.S. Degree)
- Computer Information Technology (A.A.S. Degree)
- Cyber Security & Forensics (A.A.S. Degree)
- Interactive Media & Simulation (A.A.S. Degree)
- Office Information



Provided photo

The new campus of Southern State Community College at Mt. Orab has helped attract even more students to the college.

Technology (A.A.S. Degree)

- Office Services (Certificate)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

“It takes a special person to consider a lifetime role of protecting his or her community,” says Robin Roche, SSCC Assistant Professor in Criminal Justice. “The criminal justice program at Southern State will fully prepare that student to enter a challenging yet rewarding career. Criminal justice personnel offer valuable contributions to making our communities safer places to live. But education doesn’t end with a degree or certificate from Southern State; it’s an ongoing journey. We encourage our graduates to enter their careers with enthusiasm, and always seek new education and training opportunities.”

For more information on Criminal Justice programs at Southern State, visit www.sccc.edu/academics/departments/criminal-justice.shtml. Criminal Justice majors include:

- Criminal Justice (A.A.S.)
- Law Enforcement (A.A.S.)

EDUCATION

“Many of our students enrolled in the education degree programs here at Southern State also choose to teach in our local schools and child learning centers after graduation,” says Becky Storer, SSCC Associate Professor in Education. “It is so rewarding to see former students in action when I visit various classrooms. Our students are well prepared to either transfer with an

A.A. degree or to immediately enter the field of education with an A.A.S. degree. Regardless of whether students want to eventually work as teachers, paraprofessionals, or administrators, Southern State is a great place to start.”

For more information on Education programs at Southern State, visit www.sccc.edu/academics/departments/education.shtml. Education majors include:

- Early Childhood Education (A.A.S. Degree)
- Paraprofessional Education (A.A.S. Degree)

ENGINEERING

“Engineering can take you as far as your imagination will allow,” says Jim Barnett, SSCC Assistant Professor in Engineering. “We cover electrical, electronics, mechanical, computer-assisted design (CAD), and our program is versatile to the industry demands and the changing profession. Southern State is a great place to begin your engineering career. Classes are convenient, close to home, and you have the option to transfer to a four-year degree from Miami University while attending their virtual classes on SSCC’s Central Campus in Hillsboro.”

For more information on Engineering programs at Southern State, visit www.sccc.edu/academics/departments/engineering.shtml. Engineering majors include:

- Computer Assisted Design (A.A.S. Degree)
- Electrical/Electronics Engineering (A.A.S. Degree)
- Electro-mechanical Engineering (A.A.S. Degree)

Degree)

- Electronic Information Systems (A.A.S. Degree)
- Engineering: Aviation Maintenance (A.A.S. Degree)

HEALTH SCIENCES

“We work diligently with our community partners to prepare nurses to serve our community by teaching them to provide care that meets the needs of the body, mind, and spirit,” says Dr. Julianne Krebs, SSCC Director of Nursing.

“Our goal is to provide our program graduates with the education and skills needed to prepare them to be competent, caring members of our health care teams in the fast growing medical industry,” says Rhonda Davis, SSCC Medical Assisting Program Director.

“Our graduates are competent respiratory therapists working in small, rural community hospitals, as well as regional and large healthcare systems, including trauma centers and pediatric hospitals,” says Chyane Collins, SSCC Respiratory Care Program Director.

For more information on Health Sciences programs at Southern State, visit www.sccc.edu/academics/departments/health-sciences.shtml. Health Sciences majors include:

- Billing & Coding Specialist (Certificate)
- Medical Assisting (A.A.S. Degree)
- Medical Transcription (Certificate)
- Nursing (A.A.S. Degree)
- Pharmacy Tech (Certificate)
- Phlebotomy (Certificate)

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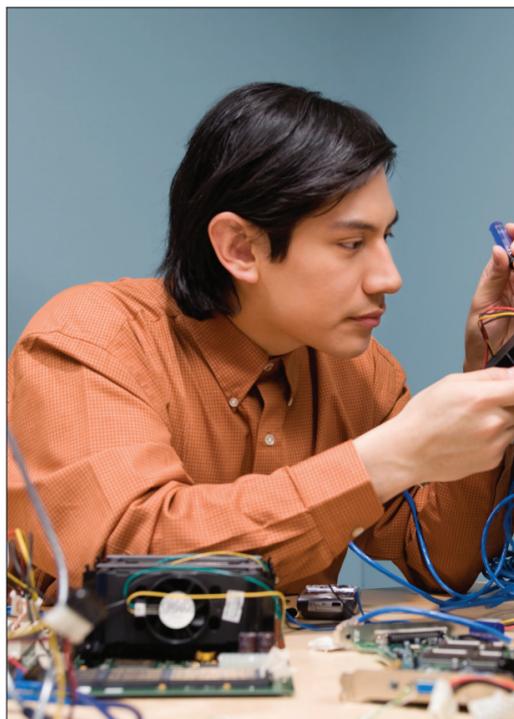
- Practical Nursing (Certificate)
- Respiratory Care (A.A.S. Degree)

HUMAN & SOCIAL SERVICES

“Students will find this degree path to be very practical,” says Charlie Gorman, SSCC Associate Professor in Human & Social Services. “It is all about helping students to develop the people-helping skills necessary to work in the human services field. This field continues to expand and many opportunities await our graduate. There are not many programs that lead to state certifications. Our graduates are eligible to become Social Work Assistants (SWA) and/or Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistants (CDCA). The Ohio Counselor Social Work and Marriage Family Therapist Board and Ohio Chemical Dependency Board oversee the granting of these licenses, respectively. Students will find the faculty to be highly qualified and very involved in their education. Our small classes create a great learning environment and strong cohorts. Our students leave SSCC with enduring personal friendships and professional credentials.”

For more information on Human & Social Services programs at Southern State, visit www.sccc.edu/academics/departments/human-social-services.shtml. Human & Social Services majors include:

- Human & Social Services (A.A.S. Degree)
- Human & Social Services: Chemical Dependency (A.A.S. Degree)



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Tips for professionals returning to school

When a new school semester starts, children and young adults may not be the only ones who are returning to the classroom. Many adults resolve to expand their professional horizons by returning to school even after they have established themselves in their professions. Some may aspire to develop skills specific to a particular job, while others may want to make it easier to transition to a new career.

The number of adult undergraduates continues to grow. The National Center for Education Statistics says 33 percent of the 18 million undergraduate students in the United States are over the age of 25. Students over the age of 30 make up 22 percent of the student body in colleges and universities. The NCES also projects a continued rise of older students through 2020.

Going back to school can be an exciting time, but one that also comes with a bit of trepidation. Many adults may not have been in a classroom in more than a decade. Many things have changed with regard to academia in recent decades, and adults may need some extra time and help to make their transition back to student go smoothly.

• Schedule a campus visit.

Choosing a school is an important decision, and even though you might not be spending as much time on campus as you did when you were younger, don't overlook the importance of a campus visit. A member of the admissions faculty or even a current student may be able to offer a guided tour, explaining the layout of the campus, amenities and resources. He or she also may point out parking areas, study locations and the best way to navigate the campus. This will help alleviate a fish-out-of-water feeling the first day of class.

• Secure financial aid if necessary.

School is expensive, but keep in mind that scholarships and other forms of financial aid are not exclusive to younger learners. Speak with a financial aid counselor about programs that might be available to you. In addition, check with your employer to see if they offer incentives for returning to school.

• Brush up on school skills.

Start reading more to refresh your vocabulary and other language skills. College involves critical thinking and reasoning, so explore free online courses or games that cover critical thinking skills. Refresh your memory on basic writing rules if essays and reports will be part of your curriculum. Honing your academic skills in advance of returning to school can help you start off on the right foot.

• Create a support system.

Going back to school will require you to rearrange schedules and make certain sacrifices. Such adjustments may require the assistance of friends and family. Stop by your school's student services department and ask if they have help in place for nontraditional students. They may have guidance on balancing work, life and school. Such departments may also assist you with scheduling classes at the times of day that fit best with your work schedule.

Many adults return to school for personal reasons or to advance their careers. Having a plan in place can make the transition go smoothly.



Adult learners now comprise a significant portion of college and university student bodies.

New Heavy Equipment program at Laurel Oaks

Submitted Article

Heavy construction equipment will soon be seen at the Laurel Oaks Career Campus near Airborne Road. But it won't be for new buildings; the equipment is for high school students involved in the new Heavy Equipment Operations and Engineering program, starting this fall.

The program teaches students to operate earthmoving equipment, conduct land surveys and read site blueprints, identify and measure soil qualities, and do site preparation. When they graduate from high school, these students will be qualified to use heavy machinery on construction and road sites.

"Heavy Equipment Operations and Engineering has been a popular career major at the Live Oaks Career Campus for a number of years, and there are good jobs waiting for qualified operators in our area—so it makes sense to begin the program here in Wilmington," said Laurel Oaks Dean Mike Thomas.

Another innovative career program starting at Laurel Oaks in the fall is College Agriculture. Designed for high school seniors preparing for an agriculture career, College Agriculture is offered in conjunction with Southern State Community College. Classes will be taught by Southern State instructors, and students will earn dual high school and college credit.

But preparing students for life after high school is more than career knowledge and college readiness. "Whether our students begin working right away or go to college first, they need to have professional skills and the maturity to be successful," said Thomas. With that in mind, Laurel Oaks is focused on teaching those skills.

To help students learn professional skills—and to help dem-



Provided Photo

The new Laurel Oaks program teaches students to operate earthmoving equipment, conduct land surveys and read site blueprints, identify and measure soil qualities, and do site preparation.

onstrate to employers that Laurel Oaks students have these skills—school administrators have developed a Professional Skills Score. Students are rated each quarter on such standards as working collaboratively, accuracy and meeting deadlines as well as personal characteristics like attendance, timeliness, and behavior. A printed report is available for students to include with resumes or to take to job interviews.

Clean for My Career, another new initiative for 2016-2017, encourages students to be prepared for drug-free workplaces. "Employers tell us that they sometimes have trouble finding good candidates who can also pass a drug test," said Thomas. "So, we help students learn the importance of being ready to work." Through Clean for My Career, students volunteer to be randomly drug-tested throughout the year. At the end of the year, they receive a certification that shows employers their commitment to being drug-free. To date, every one of the 77 initial volunteers are on track to earn that certification.

Article submitted by Laurel Oaks.

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Deciding if a career change is for you

While losing weight and quitting smoking remain among the most popular New Year's resolutions each year, many more people resolve to change careers at the dawn of a new year.

Changing careers is a significant step, especially for men and women who are firmly established in their fields. A career change can be just as rewarding and life-changing as losing weight or quitting smoking, and there are some things professionals might want to consider before resolving to change careers in the new year.

Changing careers vs. switching jobs

Changing careers and switching jobs are not the same thing, and some people may want the former while others may only be in need of the latter. A full-fledged career change may require returning to school and a willingness to start from the bottom. A job change typically allows professionals to stay in their fields and move on to another position, whether it's with their existing employer or with another company.

Career trajectory

The direction of a person's career may also influence whether or not they want to make a career change. Established professionals mulling a career change should consider their willingness to start anew. Many mid-career professionals have worked for years to establish themselves in their fields and within their companies. Switching careers does not mean that experience and reputation is invaluable, but neither attribute may carry as much weight in a different line of work, and that can affect career trajectory and future earnings.



Effects on others

Established professionals must also consider the effect that a career change may have on their families. Married mid-career professionals should discuss changing careers with their spouse, and even their children if the kids are old enough to understand. Discuss the pros and cons of changing careers and the impact that making such a change may have on your family's daily life. Will the family have to move? Will the family lifestyle change dramatically, if at all? Spouses and children may feel better about the change knowing they were involved in the decision, and talking things through with family may help working professionals determine if changing careers is the best decision for them.

Long-term goals

Long-term goals are another thing to consider before making a career change. That's especially true for mid- or late-career professionals who may already have made significant progress toward achieving their long-term goals. Discuss long-term goals with your spouse or significant other and how changing careers might affect those goals. Long-term goals can change, and while the ability to realize those goals might not weigh heavily in your decision regarding a career change, understanding how such a change might affect your retirement or other late-life plans can only help you make the most informed decision possible.

Many people resolve to change careers at the dawn of a new year. But such a decision requires the careful consideration of a host of factors.

How to earn a college scholarship

The cost of a college education continues to rise. The College Board says the average cost of tuition and fees for the 2015-2016 school year was \$32,405 at private colleges, \$9,410 for state residents at public colleges, and \$23,893 for out-of-state residents attending public universities. In 2013 and 2014, the average cost of a year's tuition at a Canadian university was \$5,772.

The high cost of education compels many students to find ways to finance their education. For many, that means exploring available scholarships.

Scholarships come in different forms and are usually offered to students as a gift to be put toward college or university costs. Some schools offer scholarships, while other scholarships are sponsored by outside organizations.

Students who meet certain requirements may be eligible for scholarships. While academic or athletic skills are the first criteria associated with scholarships, they are not the only avenues by which students can pursue scholarships. Scholarships may be offered to students of certain ethnic groups; children of employees at particular companies; or to students who live in particular states. Local branches of organizations like the Rotary Club or Kiwanis also may give out scholarships.

To improve one's odds of getting a scholarship, consider the following tips.

- Get involved with the community. Many scholarship sponsors seek individuals who are committed to volunteerism. Plus, volunteering for various

groups puts students in the path of information about scholarships from these organizations.

- Use scholarship search engines. Those who search for scholarship sponsors should find plenty of results if they peruse scholarship search engines such as Scholarships.com, CollegeBoard.com and FastWeb.com.

- Check the local newspaper. The coupon section of the Sunday newspaper may feature scholarships, as might the classified section. This is a great resource for finding locally based scholarships.

- Use networking contacts. Students should ask anyone they know if they are aware of any scholarship opportunities. Students who develop a rapport with guidance counselors or the financial aid department at their prospective colleges or universities may learn about scholarship opportunities that are not highly publicized. These people may have the inside track on scholarship information.

- Apply for all available scholarships. Now is not the time for students to become lazy. Students should apply for as many scholarships for which they meet the eligibility requirements.

Scholarships can help students offset the rising costs of a college education. Those who are willing to put in the research, time and effort to apply may find a wealth of scholarship opportunities at their disposal.

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