

Melanie Buck



Melanie shared with us her original college journey and path to return after taking time to start and grow her family. Her drive to provide for her family and set an example for her children led her to choose UNC Charlotte to complete her degree in Business Administration. Enjoy Melanie's story about her journey below:

"I originally started at Winthrop University and York Technical College straight out of high school, but did not know what I wanted to do as a career. While taking some time off to gain work experience to help me determine my career path, my life suddenly changed.

At that very moment, I realized I was privileged to have the greatest job title I could have: Mom. As she grew, I knew that I wanted to spend as much time with my daughter as possible, but still wanted to contribute to our family. So in 2014, my family and I made an investment in me to finish my Bachelor's Degree so that I could stay home and set our family up for later and greater success.

A year later, I had to withdraw as our family grew once again. At that time, I was fortunate to have my second daughter born! This ultimately proved to be a hard transition, as I was finally getting closer to reaching my goal. Instead of letting this knock my dreams down, I felt a push to work even harder to finish what I started. As you may recall, I originally returned to school to have the best of both worlds with staying home and contributing to my family. Now, my decision to return is to finish was for myself, my family, and to set an example for my daughters.

At UNC Charlotte, I am seeking my Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (B.S.B.A). in Management with a concentration in Organizational Management. At first, I was very apprehensive about my return, and was fearful that things may have changed so much that I would not be able to adapt well to the climate. However, once I got through the first few classes I was ready to go.

Coming from previous colleges, UNC Charlotte is the most diverse campus. I feel like this makes people more open minded and are more willing to converse and be friendly. In terms of services, I'll be utilizing the Career Center now that I'll be searching for some job opportunities, but the amount of resources that are available here at UNC Charlotte is amazing! I really enjoy how students are made very aware of these resources through email, staff, and campus sites. As I continue my studies and approach graduation in 2017, I plan on trying to secure an internship and researching companies or industries to help build my resume and become successful in my career.

My advice for adult and nontraditional students who are considering returning to school is: Don't give up! There are hard days and there are easy days, just take it one day at a time and try to enjoy the ride. No matter what happens, if you're willing to work hard enough for something you can make it happen!"

We hope you feel inspired and have enjoyed reading more about one of our many talented adult students. If you are interested in sharing your journey or success story with us, please visit: <http://oases.uncc.edu/student-information/student-success-stories> to learn how.

To learn more about [North Carolina Community College's \(NCCC\) Pathways to Degrees](#) and the [admissions process as a transfer student](#), consider [reading more here](#) about how you can complete your degree from UNC Charlotte today.