

Phil Perry



Phil, a Management Information Systems major, describes his story of first stepping foot on campus, and the steps he has taken for personal and professional success since. We hope you resonate with and enjoy Phil's story about his journey back to higher education at UNC Charlotte!

"As a non-traditional student, returning to school after such a long layoff can be intimidating. Before I stepped foot on campus, I sought out advice from the Office of Adult Students. I gathered as much information as I could from transfer credits to informational links to tools that would help me succeed. All the information I was able to receive helped me to put together "My First Year" plan and subsequently plans for the remainder of my schooling. When I finally got on campus for classes, I felt prepared and ready to go. However, it was still an adjustment sitting in classes with students much younger than you. But, my attitude was to have an open mind. Being in the Belk School of Business was helpful, as Business courses tend to have many group projects in which you collaborate with your fellow classmates. This process has allowed me to interact with my younger classmates and to create relationships that I would not have prior.



Throughout my time here at UNC Charlotte my experience continues to be a positive one. I set a goal when I decided to enroll in UNC Charlotte, and I've worked hard to attain that. In 2017, I applied for and was accepted into the Applied Technology Program for Bank of America. I began the program in January of 2017, and although I had to extend my graduation as a result, I would not change my decision. Between the new concepts that I am learning from my coursework and the practical experience that ATP is giving me, my future career looks very promising. My ATP experience is preparing for a career with Bank of America at a level in which I can make a difference in the company from day 1. After graduation, I am hopeful that I will receive an offer from Bank of America. The program is 17 months long and the last three classes had a 100% placement rate. Regardless, the experience and opportunity that I have with this program will translate into any company I apply to after school. I planned to stay affiliated and involved with the future ATP classes that follow and give back to them all that I am currently receiving in knowledge and support."

We ask all of our success story features to share a word of advice for adult students who may be currently attending, or considering returning to school. Phil's advice is honest and

insightful, as listed below:

"My advice is to make sure you are ready for the commitment. I personally worked full-time, attend a full-time course schedule and have a large family. Time management is key and you need to make sure you allot your time wisely. Having just said how important time management is, I also believe you have to get involved. In saying this, I feel compelled to explain. Getting involved is not simply going out with your classmates. What I mean is that you need to look for opportunities of involvement from many different places. I did not and do not have time to join a lot of clubs. But I did look for internships, networking opportunities and attended some of the meetings or mixers that work with my schedule.

While I have not needed to use the resources of the Office of Adult Students and Evening Services very much, they were key in my start at the University. The information I gathered and sitting with an advisor helped me to manage my plan. I prefer to go out and get the knowledge and information I need rather than rely on a service. The Office of Adult Students and Evening Services is a tool I recommend all non-traditional students employ whenever they have questions."

Phil's journey is one of determination, hardwork, and reaching outside of his comfort zone to achieve his goals. We are proud of adult students similar to Phil, who dive in despite fears, reservations, and challenges along the way! Bravo!

OASES sends our well wishes for success to Phil and all adult students for persisting toward graduation at UNC Charlotte! 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.