

### WHAT IS THE ENERGY PROVIDERS COALITION FOR EDUCATION (EPCE)?

EPCE is a partnership of energy industry employers, unions and associations created to address critical employment needs in the energy industry through online education, founded in 2000. **Because your company is an EPCE member, you receive discounted tuition which means your tuition assistance dollars go further.** 

EPCE's online programs are developed by industry, for industry. They identify clear, attainable learning outcomes based on job responsibilities. The course materials are reviewed by subject matter experts, trainers, and managers in the energy field. This means that what you and your fellow employees learn is applicable, current, and relevant to your career, and where you want to go.

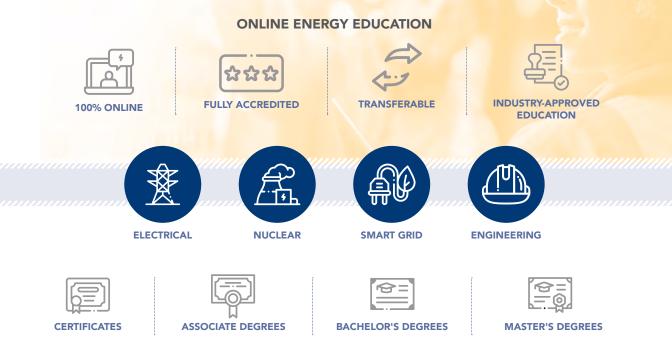
# **ADULT LEARNER TOOLKIT**

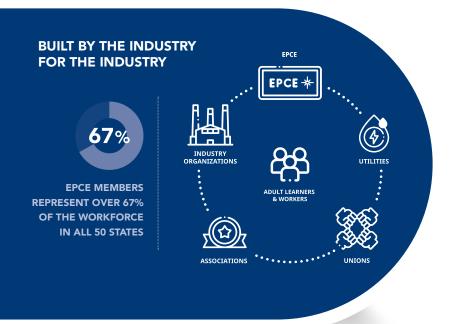
This toolkit provides an overview of EPCE, its program offerings, and tips for adult learners. It is meant for employees of EPCE member companies who are interested in earning a certificate, associate, bachelor's or advanced degree to grow their careers.

### epceonline.org









### STUDENTS ENROLL IN EPCE PROGRAMS

7,200 STUDENTS HAVE ENROLLED IN OVER 41,000 COURSES



- Enhance career options in the energy field
- Earn college credentials approved by the industry
- Available 24/7 study anytime

### MEMBERS CHOOSE EPCE

- Tuition discount for all programs
- Saves time, resources and expenses
- Members provide input to industry-sponsored education



## WHAT IS MEANT BY ONLINE EDUCATION?

- Online classroom available 24/7
- Set your own study schedule
- Instructor-led college classes
- Workplace examples
- Accredited schools, transferable credit

# WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN AN ONLINE PROGRAM?

- Willingness to further your education and knowledge
- Time management
- Discipline and motivation
- Planning ahead and logging into courses regularly
- Willingness to commit to the time required
- Asking questions and connecting with instructors

### WHO ARE EPCE'S COLLEGE PARTNERS AND WHAT DEGREES DO THEY OFFER?



#### TIPS FOR ADULT LEARNERS BEFORE YOU SELECT A SCHOOL

- Don't limit your options to schools your friends attended, but do talk to your work colleagues!
- Don't be limited to schools near your home; all EPCE programs are online, and many other institutions offer online programs.
- Know all your financial options; your company may have Tuition Assistance or Tuition Reimbursement which can help pay tuition and other fees.
- Find out if the school you are interested in welcomes working adults; colleges should offer a flexible schedule/asynchronous courses that let you study when it is convenient for you.
- Find a school that values what you've learned in the workplace; many colleges have Credit for Prior Learning, also called Prior Learning Assessment, programs that will allow you to earn college credit for credentials and experiences you've had outside of the classroom, including military experience.
- Find out the details of the program e.g. How many courses are required? How many weeks is each course? How many hours a week do they anticipate you'll spend studying?

#### TIPS FOR ADULT LEARNERS ONCE YOU ARE ENROLLED

- Advocate for yourself in the online classroom by asking questions via email or in discussion boards, especially if you have questions about class topics.
- Remember, it is difficult for faculty members to know if you need help if you don't ask (because they can't see your face or body language in an online course).
- Use the Discussion Boards to bond and learn from other students in your online classes.
- Most of the students in your class will be working adults, like you, and you can share the joys and pains of learning together through this period of your life.
- Ask your online instructor or advisor for help when you need it.
- A lot of us in the workplace haven't been writing papers in many years. Ask your advisor or faculty member if you need assistance. Many schools have writing coaches or workshops that can assist you (online).
- Set aside time to study.
- Make the commitment to study X hours a day. Maybe it is just one hour a day! Starting small is fine.

Ready to get started? Contact an EPCE educational consultant by filling out <u>this form</u>.