A JUMPSTART COURSE IN THE HUMANITIES FOR ADULTS FACEING ECONOMIC BARRIERS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

FOR FREE

"As a single father facing financial hardship, I would have given up on finishing my education had it not been for the Odyssey Project. I hope to earn my master's in social work and help empower others."
— Brian Benford, 2007 Odyssey graduate, UW-Madison

"The Odyssey Project has taught me to think strong even when I feel weak, and prepare for the worst but also be ready for achievement. It is the trials that we go through in life that make the tribulations worth living through."
— Dominique Christian, 2009 Odyssey graduate, UW-Whitewater

"The Odyssey Project is responsible for supporting my capacity to confront my academic endeavors. Odyssey saw me in a different light than I knew myself to be."
— Mai Neng Thao, 2016 Odyssey graduate, Madison College

WHAT IS THE ODYSSEY DIFFERENCE?

Graduates of the Odyssey Project report...

See more participant comments at ODYSSEY.WISC.EDU
THE ODYSSEY PROJECT

WHAT IS THE ODYSSEY PROJECT?
If you face economic barriers, the University of Wisconsin–Madison’s Odyssey Project can provide you with a chance to start college. A team of UW–Madison faculty will lead you in lively discussions of great works of literature, American history, philosophy, art history, and music. Classes will also help you improve your skills in writing and critical thinking. The project director is Emily Auerbach, professor of English and recipient of numerous teaching, arts, and broadcasting awards. Many guest faculty and artists also join the class.

The program provides a variety of support services. You will receive individual help in writing, counseling on the process of applying to college, and guidance on financial aid.

Participants in the program are enrolled as University Special Student, with the option for advanced status at the end of the program. Students at UW–Madison. This status is not the same as regular undergraduate admission to the university, but it does carry many of the same benefits, such as library access, regular undergraduate admission to the university, but it does carry many of the same benefits, such as library access, bus passes, etc. If you successfully complete the September–May program, you will receive six college credits. Supper is provided beginning at 5:30pm. Free child care and enrichment activities for children ages 2 to 18 are available.

WHERE AND WHEN DO CLASSES MEET?
Odyssey Project classes meet at 2312 South Park St. in Madison, from 6 to 8:30pm, each Wednesday. The program runs from September to May, with breaks for holidays. Supper is provided beginning at 5:30pm. Free child care and enrichment activities for children ages 2 to 18 are available.

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE, YOU MUST:
• be at least 18 years old.
• possess a high school diploma or GED/HSED.
• have demonstrated financial need (income at or near the federal poverty level).
• possess the ability to read challenging books in English, and
• make a commitment to attend classes regularly and complete weekly assignments.

Applications will be reviewed individually to determine if a potential student’s needs match the program’s goals. If you are considered for the program, you will be invited to attend an interview. You are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Enrollment is limited to approximately 30 students each academic year. To find out more about the Odyssey Project, please call Emily Auerbach at 608-262-3733, or email emily.auerbach@wisc.edu.

ODYSSEY PROJECT APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Please complete this application online at odyssey.wisc.edu/apply or return it to: Emily Auerbach, Odyssey Project Director, 21 N. Park St., Room 7468, Madison, WI 53715-1218; fax it to 608-265-2475; or leave it at the circulation desk of the Madison Public Library, South Madison Branch. Applicants who submit their materials before July 1 will be given priority.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM?

Name:
Address:
City: Zip:
Email:
Home phone: Other phone:

Is English your first language? Yes No If no, what is:
I am a: U.S. citizen Permanent resident Other (specify):

Did you graduate from high school? Yes No If yes, year:
Did you earn a HSED or GED? Yes No If yes, year:

Have you attended college before? Yes No If yes, where, how many credits did you earn, and why did you stop?

What is your marital status? Married Divorced Separated Single Widowed

Who do you live with? No one Parents Friends Spouse or companion Siblings Other (specify):

Do you work? Yes No If yes, where?

What is your annual household income before taxes (everyone who lives with you in the same household)?

What is your annual family income before taxes (you, your spouse, and children)?

Which, if any, entitlements (such as SSI, WIC, TANF) do you receive?

Do you have children? Yes No If yes, what ages?

Will you need child care to participate in this program? Yes No

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I enrolled my three children in Odyssey Junior with the hopes that they would find their voices, like I found mine in Odyssey. My children love this program and count down the days until Wednesday.

— Nissa Uriostegui, 2015 Odyssey graduate