Walk a Day in Our Shoes...
Derek Thomas

NCC Associate Degree Nursing graduate

Working towards a Bachelor’s and then Master’s degree

Educational final plans: To be a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)

Married, 2 children

Spirit Lake, Iowa

Derek Thomas enjoys biking, fishing, hunting and...NURSING! Even though he’d been out of school for a while, he found it easy to find someone at NCC to help if he had a question.

“The teachers always have time for you,” Derek said. “They will take time out of their schedules for you. They are always nice about it and want to help.”

The small school atmosphere was also a benefit of Northwest Iowa Community College. “I needed help with math because it had been a while since I had been in school,” Derek remembered, and he was able to find it.

Derek plans to continue his education to earn his bachelor’s degree and then apply for a Master’s program to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA).

Derek also discovered some fun things about NCC when he came back to school to earn his nursing degree. He liked working in the ambulance that is part of the nursing classroom and the tasty Philly Steak & Cheese available in the cafeteria!
I liked the small school atmosphere. Everyone is very helpful. I needed help with math because it had been a while since I had been in school, and it was always easy to find someone to help.

Online Classes
Online classes provide a convenient way for you to pursue your educational goals. Online learners need to be self-motivated and self-directed. These courses have the same academic standards as on-campus courses. Online learning is convenient—you do not have to commute to campus, and you can attend class at your convenience—early in the morning, late at night, or anytime in between.

Is online education for everyone? No. Many students want and need the personal interaction that a traditional classroom offers.

Good candidates for Distance Education courses are those students who are self-directed and self-motivated. This may include professionals who travel extensively, students in remote locations, or those who, for personal or professional reasons, need the flexibility to attend classes.

Get Your Degree in One Night a Week!
The Business Career Advancement Program (B-CAP) is designed for the busy working adult, who would like to complete an Associate of Science degree in Business Management one night a week. Tuition for courses in the B-CAP program will be locked in during the three year period. Contact the Enrollment Office for more information at 800-352-4907 or email studentservices@nwicc.edu.

Career Center
NCC offers a Career Center which provides help in making a career change or planning your major. All services are confidential and free of charge, even if you are not yet an NCC student. Services include individual career counseling, aptitude and interest testing, referral to area resources agencies, and instruction in job seeking skills.

Financing
Resources from the government, such as the Trade Adjustment Assistance and Workforce Investment Act have been instrumental in helping a number of dislocated workers retrain and develop new skills for the workforce.

Additional assistance for transportation, books and supplies, and child care expenses may also be available.

Contact your local Workforce Investment Office for further details at 712-324-5121.

Students should also complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine eligibility for federal and state aid.

For information about the GI Bill or part-time employment opportunities stop at NCC’s Student Services Office.

Also, be sure to fill out NCC’s Scholarship Application. More than $100,000 is available each year. Don’t miss out on these opportunities! Visit www.nwicc.edu to apply today!
"I knew I needed more—I needed a degree," Molly Bradfield realized so decided to go back to school and study Biotechnology. NCC was close to home and was a natural fit since she had originally studied Biology at Briar Cliff University.

"I knew it might be hard to get back into the swing of things, but I was determined I was going to do it!" Molly said. "The instructors are ready to help everyone. All you need to do is show that you are willing to learn."

Molly was able to take advantage of the TRiO program which offered Lunch & Learn workshops. She also took advantage of the laptops that are available for the Biotech students.

The first time Molly was in college, she didn't focus on her purpose but on the social aspects of college. Molly kept her goals in mind this time, "I needed to get it done, I needed to get it done right, and I needed to get my degree." Molly has now achieved her goal and is proud of the success she has had at NCC.
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Health Information Technology

$20,000–$30,000/yr

Job options

• Supervisor of a Health Information Management Department
• Quality Assurance Coordinator
• Clinical Coder/ Abstractor
• Medical Transcriptionist

Practical Nursing / Extended Practical Nursing

$12.00–$18.50/hour

Job options

• Hospitals
• Clinics
• Long-Term Care Facilities
• Home Healthcare
• Wellness Centers
• Schools
• Insurance Companies

Year after year the nursing students have an above average pass rate on the National Nursing Boards.

Associate Degree Nursing

$17.00–$26.50/hour

Job options

• Clinics
• Traveling Nurse
• Home Healthcare
• Industrial Nursing
• Nursing Homes
• Hospitals

Radiologic Technology

$16–$23/hour

Job options

• Hospitals
• Healthcare Facilities
• Physician Offices
• Mobile Imaging Companies
• Industrial Plants
• Research Centers
• Government Agencies
• Commercial Sales
• Education

Biotechnology Lab Technician

$15–$20/hour

Job options in public or private labs

• Ethanol Production
• Biorenewable Fuels
• Food Production
• Research and Development
• Animal and Plant Breeding
• Animal Pharmaceuticals
• Chemical Production

Professional Photography

$11–$17/hour

Job options

• Portrait Photographer
• Commercial/Industrial Photographer
• Photojournalist

YEAR AFTER YEAR THE NURSING STUDENTS HAVE AN ABOVE AVERAGE PASS RATE ON THE NATIONAL NURSING BOARDS.
Walk a Day in my Shoes...

John Kleyer

NCC Industrial Instrumentation & Control graduate
Engineering Lab Technician, Groschopp, Sioux Center, Iowa
Married, 4 children
Hometown: Sioux Center, Iowa

“I remember graduating from NCC and having three job offers to decide on,” John Kleyer said. When the swine unit he worked at closed, John took advantage of a grant that was available to go back to school.

“NCC’s Learning Center and TRiO Program were very informative and helpful throughout the transition of being employed and then returning to school,” said John. He also fondly remembers one of his instructors telling the class, “Someday the company you work for will hand you the manual and you will have to figure it out on your own.” NCC gave him the tools to succeed when he was told that on the job.

He was also part of the NCC Instrumentation team that took first place at the District Instrumentation, Systems and Automation (ISA) Student Games and went on to claim fourth place in the world.

John attributes much of his success to the support of his family. “With the support of my family I was able to go to school and keep farming during the 2 1/2 years that I was in school,” he said. “After people heard that I was returning to school many people encouraged me by saying things like: I wish I had the courage to go back to school. Even at 46 it can be done.”
Powerline / Powerline Technology
$14.50–$30.00/hour

Job options
• Electrical Utilities
• Rural Electric Cooperatives
• Municipals
• Construction Companies

NCC placement rates are 100%.

Industrial Instrumentation & Control
$13.50–$28.85/hour

Job options
• Instrumentation Technician
• Control Technician
• Maintenance Technician
• Control System Analyst
• PLC Programmer
• Process Improvement Technician
• Machine Technician
• Technical Sales Personnel

Demand will continue to increase as technology changes escalate. IIC grads are some of NCC’s highest paid alumni.

Industrial & Commercial Wiring / Electrical Technology
$11–$22/hour

Job options
• Residential Wiring
• Industrial and Commercial Construction Wiring
• Self-Employment
• Electrical Technician
• Plant Maintenance Electrician

NCC placement rates are 80% BEFORE graduation, 100% after. Five to ten companies come to NCC each year solely to recruit students from these programs.

Advancement opportunities include manager, supervisor, and estimator.

Engineering Drafting/CAD / Computerized Manufacturing Technology
$14–$18.50/hour

Job options
• Drafting Technician
• CNC Programmers
• Engineering Technicians
• Design Drafter
• Toolmaker

Almost all students choose to complete both years of the program. NCC’s placement rates are 100%.

Welding / Production Welding
$13–28/hour

Job options:
• Production Welding or Pipe Welding
• Construction Welding
• Underwater Welding
• Working in a Welding Repair Shop

Current needs far outweigh qualified applicants in all areas.

In the past several years, placement has been 100% for those graduates seeking employment in welding areas.

Students willing to take on extra training in a unique field such as underwater welding will be able to make $35,000–$50,000 in their first year.

Complete your AAS degree through NCC in Electrical Technology, Computerized Manufacturing Technology or Industrial Instrumentation & Control and then earn your Bachelor’s degree through Dordt College.
Karen Lauesen

NCC Accounting graduate

Secretary—Financial Aid, Northwest Iowa Community College Sheldon, Iowa

Married, 3 children

Hometown: Sanborn, Iowa

Karen Lauesen may be a little biased, but this NCC grad and current NCC employee highly recommends NCC to anyone who wants an education. “Whatever your education or career goals, NCC is in the business of assisting you to achieve those goals,” Karen said. “They will work day by day to help you succeed and continue to cheer you on until you win the race!”

Karen had decided to go back to school to challenge herself and improve her job qualifications. “It was a little scary getting back to the discipline needed to study and prepare for tests, but graduation day made it all worthwhile.” Karen made the day particularly special as she was chosen as the student speaker at the commencement ceremony. “I was the first in my family of 6 children to receive a college education. Coming to NCC has cultivated in me a true appreciation for the benefits of lifelong learning.”
Administrative Secretarial / Office Management
$9.00 – $12.50/hour
Job options
• Banks
• Law Offices
• Accounting Firms
• Medical Facilities
• Corporations
• Colleges/Universities

Business Diploma / Business Management
$21,000 – $36,000/yr
Job options
• Department Manager
• Assistant Manager
• Store Manager
• Upper-Level Manager in Retailing Headquarters
• Business Owner

Clerical Accounting / Accounting
$25,000 – $30,000/yr
Job options
• Bookkeeping
• CPA firms
• Banks

Computer Science & Networking Technology
$27,000 – $34,000/yr
Job options
• System and/or Network Administrators
• Help Desk Specialists
• Support Specialists
• Web Developers
• Software Developers
• Database Administrators

Natural Resources Conservation
$25,000 – $40,000/yr
Job options
• Park Rangers
• Fisheries or Wildlife Technicians
• Conservation Officers

Associate of Arts
Student profile
• A student who desires to continue on to a four-year university
• A student who is unsure of a major
• A student interested in taking general education classes

Pre-Professional Programs
• Accounting
• Business
• Criminal Justice
• Early Childhood Education
• Education
• Human Resource Management
• Human Services
• Paralegal

These programs prepare students to transfer on to 4-year institutions to complete their respective degrees.

Bachelor Degree Completion Options
• Briar Cliff University (Classes are offered evenings and weekends to meet the needs of the working student.)
• Franklin University
• Capella University
• University of Phoenix
• Bellevue University
• Dordt College
• Northwestern College

Statewide Articulation Agreements
• Iowa State University
• University of Iowa
• University of Northern Iowa

Articulation Agreements are available with other 4-year colleges and universities. Contact the NCC Registrar.

It is never too late to improve or change the career path you are on. Going back to college was the best decision I ever made and getting my education changed my whole outlook on life.
Walk a Day in my Shoes...

Paula Keehn

NCC Associate of Arts and Administrative Office Management graduate

1 son, 3 grandchildren

Orange City, Iowa

“Having watched the amazement on my friends’ faces and listening to their questions about my return to school, there is just one thing that needs to be said—for those who think they can’t do school at their age, you are completely wrong,” Paula Keehn insists. “You have a lot of knowledge that your fellow students are going to want to glean from you, so take the plunge and don’t be intimidated. You know more than you think you know.”

Paula remembers how scary her first day back at school was. “I really wasn’t scared about school itself, I was more worried about how I would fit in,” Paula said. She was worried she wouldn’t relate to “these young kids” or that her handicap would hold her back from doing her best. It was all worry for nothing, though. “The school made me feel right at home and the young 19-year-old students accepted me immediately.”

After retiring from a long career in the U.S. Army, Paula has had different jobs and volunteer positions, many centered around her support of women in the military. “I chose to go back to school because even though I knew I had the ability to excel at a job, the world had no proof as I had been out of the workforce for a long time,” Paula knew that returning to school would polish her skills, add to her repertoire, and “Make me a force to be reckoned with.”
Automotive Service/Technology
$13–$16/hour
Job options
• Working for Independent Shops
• Working at Automotive Dealerships
• Becoming an Owner, Manager, or Parts Manager
Many students work on a flat rate pay system with pay averaging over $40,000 annually.

Truck & Diesel Technology
$11–$16/hour
Job options
• Truck Dealerships
• Heavy Equipment Dealerships
• Truck Fleet Operators
• Construction Contractors
• Farm Implement Dealerships
• Independent Truck Repair Shops
Placement is 100% most years. Students should have no problem finding work in this field and most are employed before graduation.

Collision Repair & Refinishing/Technology
$10–$17/hour
Job options
• Working for Independent Shops
• Working at Automotive Dealerships
• Becoming Self-Employed in the Collision Repair Industry
After refining their skills, many graduates work on a commission basis.

Heavy Equipment Operation & Maint.
$14.00–$26.50/hour
Job options
• Machine Operator
• Shop Maintenance Personnel
The increasing demand for qualified equipment operators and maintenance technicians exceeds the present supply of personnel available.
Placement is usually close to 100%, 70% of which have found work BEFORE graduation.
Many students go on to find salaries within the $20/hour range.

Carpentry/Construction Technology
$14–$20/hour
Job options
• Commercial Construction
• Carpenter
• Contractors
Advancement opportunities lead to higher salaries.

Dairy Herdsperson
$11.50/hour
Job options
• Herdsperson
• Feed Manager
• Dairy Owner

Agriculture—Online
$11.50/hour
Job options
• Ag Sales
• Farm Management
• Ag or Farm Supplies, Service, and Production

"The school made me feel right at home and the young students accepted me immediately as one of them."
Get Involved
Many adults who return to school get involved in student organizations. These range from The Collegian newspaper, Student Government Association, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and intramurals. Be sure to check with student services to learn all the different activities available for all students.

Transitioning
NCC has resources available to make the transition back into school a smooth and easy one. The Learning Center provides a variety of services, including free tutoring to NCC students. Developmental courses are also available for prospective students who may want to improve their skills before re-entering the college atmosphere. TRIO Student Support Services is a federally funded program designed to provide opportunities and services that will increase students’ chances for academic success in college. Students will receive the support and encouragement needed to successfully complete their studies at NCC or transfer to the four-year college of their choice.

NCC...Your First Step Towards Your Bachelor’s Degree
NCC offers a great path for students who want to transfer and finish a four-year, baccalaureate degree. Within the Associate of Arts degree, NCC offers a Learning Community, designed specifically to help students find a college major and career path. Courses in this degree teach strong communication skills, cultural knowledge, critical thinking, and problem-solving strategies—skills required to be competitive in the workforce. Over the years, NCC students have had excellent success transferring college credit courses to four-year institutions (and perform well when they transfer). The College has established articulation agreements with some colleges and universities including the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, Dordt College, Northwestern College, Briar Cliff University, and many more. These agreements smooth the transition from the associate degree to a baccalaureate course of study. Advisors help students through the transfer process.

Our Grads Get GREAT Jobs!
When area employers see Northwest Iowa Community College graduate on a resume, they respect the quality of education that applicant has received. NCC has more than 40 years of experience educating the workforce of Northwest Iowa. NCC boasted a 96% placement rate last year, 93% employed in their related field of study. Find out more about NCC’s 40+ programs of study by going to www.nwicc.edu or emailing studentservices@nwicc.edu.
At NCC, THERE’S A PLACE FOR YOU!