

## Skills classes empower students

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Every long journey begins with a small, purposeful step. Sometimes, that's easier said than done.

Finding yourself on the path you want to be on -- with a good job, a meaningful life, following the goals you set out for yourself, or perhaps trying to figure out what exactly your goals are — is a challenge.

But discovering your available resources is a huge part of meeting that challenge head-on. At the Madras campus, classes in Adult Basic Skills can help you get your journey underway, empowering you to take that first step.

These convenient, valuable and affordable classes strengthen foundational skills in reading, writing, math and proficiency in the English language — the core educational pieces that will help you prepare for what's ahead.

Maybe you've been away from school for a while. Or you're looking to take the next step in your education and get set for college. You might be trying to advance yourself in the workplace or secure a better job with more responsibilities.

Perhaps you dropped out of high school and are eager to switch gears in life by taking your GED exam.

Whether you were home-schooled or you've moved here from outside the country, no matter your story, Adult Basic Skills classes can help make a difference.

"We are always happy to assist any future students, of all ages, get their foot in the door to pursuing their education," said Anna Mewes, student services specialist at the Madras campus.

"We want to help them through the process of getting started and receiving any information they need."

Here's a snapshot of what's involved: Classes are \$25

each; in order to take a class, students must first attend an orientation which will include information about COCC and the Adult Basic Skills classes, as well as a skills assessment and registration.

Adult Basic Skills classes are available in Madras, Warm Springs, Bend, Prineville, and Redmond.

The Madras classes are led by instructors Karen Leep, Cindy Viles and Corey Taylor.

"The program is a stepping-stone for students to get into college, a better career or for personal benefit, said Taylor.

"Students who need extra time to rejoin the educational community can benefit from taking our classes. Once the students get into the groove of classes, they often feel more confident in their abilities to tackle college-level classes."

Adult Basic Skills classes in Madras are once again on



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Student services specialist Anna Mewes helps a student with information at the COCC Madras office.

the horizon; they start up again this fall term.

Schedules will be out in early September and, at that time, a quick visit to the college's website or an easy phone call is how people can learn about the class sched-

ule offerings.

"These resources located right here at our local COCC campus in Madras have given access to students who otherwise would not have been able to participate in these life-changing programs

and courses," said Jeremy Green, Madras campus administrator.

For more information on COCC's Adult Basic Skills in Madras, call 541-550-4100, or visit [cocc.edu](http://cocc.edu) for complete details on Adult Basic Skills.