

QUick Education for a Successful Tomorrow

Accelerated evening program opens doors for busy adults to gain college credits

By Chris Moore

“It was very convenient and I was not away from home a lot.”

—*QUEST student Shannon Sisk on the program’s accelerated pace*



Shannon Sisk was thumbing through a course schedule at her work desk, seeking an answer to the question she had just been asked by a Kilgore College student, when she saw an ad that caught her eye.

“It read, ‘Get your degree and still work full time,’” Sisk said. “It sounded like something I could really do as a working mother. It sounded very flexible.”

As a working mother of two, flexibility is what Sisk needed to finish her associate’s degree. After discussing the ad with husband Richard later that night, she made the decision that it was time to complete what she had started. And the QUEST program was her way to do so.

Quick Education for a Successful Tomorrow is the official name for the QUEST program, based and offered at the KC-Longview campus. And it was a QUEST

advertisement that introduced Sisk to a plan that made college enrollment more attainable.

With some coursework already under her belt, Sisk had been contemplating a return to the classroom since her hire at KC in late 2004. But as administrative assistant to two departments – Counseling and Institutional Research – at the school, she was saddled with a large workload.

On a daily basis, Sisk helps nearly 150 students, visitors and employees through phone calls, e-mails and in-person visits. A vital cog within her area’s infrastructure, Sisk is required not only to be at work consistently, but also to be timely and tactful while performing her duties.

She could not miss work to attain college credits. And she didn’t have to.

“Having the classes at night and accessing online materials from home didn’t affect my job at all,” Sisk said. “I was able to maintain my regular schedule and wasn’t forced to take time off, or do things like work through lunch because I was going to miss an hour on this day or that day.”

This flexible schedule that seemed to fit Sisk’s routine so well wasn’t conceived by accident. KC officials knew that QUEST’s structure and classes needed to integrate easily into the very busy lives of its target audience.

QUEST classes are designed in a variety of formats. There’s an eight-week fast track path that accelerates the process coupled with traditional 16-week semester classes. Web courses are offered, as are hybrid classes splitting classroom learning into a balanced relationship with computer coursework.

“I really liked the hybrid courses and doing class work online,” Sisk explained. “It was very convenient. You could work at an accelerated rate and access things online – PowerPoints, instructor’s notes, workbooks – and not have to wait for the next class.

“My family life was not altered very much, either, because I was not away from my home a lot. It made things a lot easier on my husband and children.”

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Is QUEST for you?

Is QUEST for you? Take this brief quiz to find out:

- I would like to earn up to 42 college credits in two years or less, attending evening classes.
- I am able to spend up to two evenings a week in class.
- I enjoy learning with other like-minded adult students.
- I have ready access to an off-campus computer with Internet.
- I want high quality courses, but with extremely affordable tuition.

If you checked all five boxes, Kilgore College's QUEST program may be a great educational solution to jumpstart your career.

QUEST (Quick Education for a Successful Tomorrow) is specially designed to provide classes for adult learners who have family and work obligations. Classes are offered in variety of formats – eight-week fast track, Web, hybrid, and traditional semester length – from 6-8:50 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

In a two-year period a QUEST student can complete KC's core curriculum which transfers seamlessly to any public state college or university – no credits will be lost. Classes are offered 12 months a year. Some students choose to continue on at KC for an additional semester to earn their associate degree with just 16 additional credits beyond QUEST.

Low Kilgore College tuition rates apply and small class sizes, coupled with caring faculty, mean you will get a high quality, high value education.

To enroll, students must meet all KC developmental requirements, with the exception of Math 0308, and have access to a computer and the Internet. Call (903) 983-8209 for more information or e-mail CareerFocus@kilgore.edu.

Even the speech class, offered in an accelerated eight-week format, didn't shake Sisk's normal routine.

"I only took speech one night a week for eight weeks," she said. "Regular speech classes are 16 weeks long, once a week if you take a night course and two or three times a week if you take a day course. That allowed me to be home more with my family, too."

QUEST is planned so that students completing the program are core complete. Once a student completes KC's core curriculum, any state college or university is required to accept it in full. No hours will be lost in transfer and students may only need 16 additional hours to complete their associate's degree, like Sisk did in acquiring her associate of arts, Summer 2006.

"I wanted to go back to school but I never thought I could go full time and get my degree quickly," she said. "I thought it would take me forever. But it didn't." **CF**



QUEST Curriculum

The QUEST program is designed to provide the Texas "Core Curriculum," which is guaranteed to transfer to any public university in the state. QUEST students follow a two-year program that ensures they will get the courses they need exactly on schedule. All courses are taught in the evenings at KC-Longview.

Year 1			Evening	1st or 2nd Eight Weeks	Credit Hours
Fall Semester	BCIS 1305	Business Computer Applications	Tuesday	1st	3
	HIST 1301	United States History I	Thursday	1st	3
	ENGL 1301	Grammar and Composition	Tuesday	2nd	3
	MUSI 1306	Music Appreciation	Thursday	2nd	3
Spring Semester	BIOL 2406	Environmental Biology	Tuesday	Full Semester	4
	HIST 1302	US History II	Thursday	1st	3
	ENGL 1302	Composition and Readings	Thursday	2nd	3
Summer	MATH 1314	College Algebra	Tuesday & Thursday	June through July	3
Year 2					
Fall Semester	CHEM 1405	Chemistry for Non-Science Majors	Tuesday	Full Semester	4
	KINE 1238	Concepts of Fitness	Thursday	1st	2
	GOVT 2306	State and Local Government	Thursday	2nd	3
Spring Semester	SOCI 1301	Introduction to Sociology	Tuesday	1st	3
	GOVT 2305	Government of the United States	Thursday	1st	3
	SPCH 1321	Business and Professional Speaking	Thursday	2nd	3
Summer	ENGL 2323	English Literature II	Tuesday & Thursday	June through July	3
Total Credit Hours:					46