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ADULT EDUCATION  
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## ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

# Sam Deckoff | Delaware

Adult education opened the door for Sam to pursue higher education, where he learned to think critically and overcome his frustration in math classes. After dropping out of high school, he enrolled in an adult education program and passed his GED® exam, but math was always his biggest weakness.

Sam then enrolled in a community college to pursue his passion in computer science. He initially felt discouraged when, due to his low math scores, he was placed in a remedial math fundamentals class. After learning the basics though, Sam began to excel. He enrolled in Calculus 1 and Calculus 2, both times scoring higher than the rest of the class. He states, “I realized I could do almost anything I put my mind to. I learned more about the type of learner I was, what my limits were, and unbelievably valuable critical thinking skills that will stay with me for the remainder of my life. [Math courses are] about critical and logical thinking, learning how to break down problems, work through them one step at a time, and structuring your work to make it readable to not just you, but others around you.” This valuable lesson helped launch him toward the career of his dreams.

After graduating, Sam stayed on at the college working as a tutor and adjunct professor, and he eventually became the senior manager of the hardware division at a corporation called SUMURI, a local digital forensics company. Here, he has not given up his lifelong pursuit of knowledge, earning a prestigious and rigorous certification in Certified Forensic Computer Examiner (CFCE) certification. ■