More than 100,000 adults with some college but no degree have reconnected with higher education at Tennessee community colleges over the past decade. However, only 21% graduated within three years of reconnecting.

Many reconnecting students are balancing coursework with responsibilities outside of the classroom, such as caring for children or working full-time. These responsibilities may reduce the time that adult students can spend on coursework.

This project seeks to deepen the body of knowledge about when, where, and how students reconnect with college and their success across a range of flexible coursetaking options. Accelerated courses, widely available teaching locations across the state, and high-quality online courses are essential to supporting the success of reconnecting adults.

As this analysis shows, these flexible coursetaking options serve as popular access points for many reconnecting students. Additionally, high success rates in these courses suggest that flexible courses are promising options for colleges that want to support reconnecting adult students.