

ADULT 101 FAQs

FOR LIBRARY CUSTOMERS

What is Adult 101?

Adult 101 are specially designed programs for Teens that help to prepare them for the transition them not only into the just the workforce, but into adulthood as well. The programs are aimed at ages 13-18, and range from topics such as: etiquette, personal safety, and public speaking. Each library hosts Adult 101 programs, but will have different offerings, so be sure to check out your local libraries calendar.

How long has Adult 101 been around?

Adult 101 began in 2015 through a grant from the California State Library. In the beginning there were only 8 options of Adult 101 programs offered, and only 15 libraries were chosen to host the programs. After seeing the success of the programs though, Adult 101 was adopted by all LA County Library locations and the selection of topics covered has increased as well.

Does it really help teens?

After the initial pilot programs of Adult 101 back in 2015, surveys were done, and the results were conclusive: teens felt the difference! 79% of teens who said they felt “average” about being prepared for adulthood, reported feeling “good” or “excellent” after attending the Adult 101 Programs.

Why is the library teaching teens life skills?

Research has shown a significant soft skills gap among recent high school and college graduates.¹Employers are reporting new hires are unprepared to, “succeed in the workforce because they lack foundational soft skills” such as the ability to communicate in a professional manner, collaborate with others on a team, and manage their time appropriately. Libraries are traditional places of learning and saw an opportunity to help bridge these gaps with a series of programs highlighting life skills and soft skills and the resources available via the library for overcoming this gap.

Why is it called Adult 101?

Although the name may be confusing to some, the program is called Adult 101 because we want to convey the idea that these programs are meant to be life changing, life skills teaching programs. While there may be games and art activities incorporated in getting the message across, the overall goal is to provide teens with knowledge to stay healthy and safe in any environment: the workforce, at home, etc.

Can adults over 18 attend Adult 101 programs?

Adult 101 is intended for teens ages 13-18. We encourage adults who are interested in the program to check out similar programs that are geared towards adults at this or other libraries. All of our libraries regularly offer programming that will cover many of the same topics as Adult 101: resume writing, financial education, healthy living, etc.

¹ Bridging the Soft Skills Gap. US Chamber of Commerce Foundation. November 2017.
<https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/sites/default/files/Closing%20the%20Soft%20Skills%20Gap.pdf>

What are soft skills, and why are they important?

Soft skills refer to the ability to get along with others in any situation, and are often associated with communication skills. While many teens are educated in hard skills, fewer are instructed in the equally as important soft skills- how to interact with others. In life and on the job, soft skills are necessary to be successful in life and Adult 101 places a focus on teaching them.