Tucker,

I did exactly what you are doing and I encourage you to go for it!!! I have no regrets!

I have a BS in Professional Aviation from Louisiana Tech and went back to college for a BS in Civil Engineering in the mid 90’s because I was a starving pilot, I was later 20’s, so very close to your age.

While pursuing the flying dream, achieved the certificates and ratings of CFI, CFII, MEI and ATP where I did fly charter and corporate accruing 1,800 hours, but in the mid 90’s it was tough; feast or famine. Back then the university career offices offered tests that correlated your answers with other people who had similar answers for various career fields. My answers aligned with Engineering, like I expected, but I wanted to be absolutely sure as I had no more wiggle room. It was much easier for me to make that career change at 30 something than at 50 something. I cheer and encourage you to go for it!

What would have been good to know: Since I was a non-traditional student, building community and a support system would have been much better. I was living off campus in a house, was looking after an elderly father and suffering through a poor marriage decision, so I didn’t have a good support system. I made friends and study buddies, the professors and department were great, but life really, really made everything difficult. So to you, I would encourage you to have life and your support system in place so you could better focus and concentrate on classes.

Fast forward to 2021: Throughout my engineering career, I did not need the Professional Engineering credential, so I have a goal to take the Civil Engineering PE in 2022. I may have to take it more than once, but I am going for it. So additionally to you, something good to know is take the PE earlier in your engineering career.

Best of luck from one non-traditional to another!

Karen Baskin