

virtual Hit the Highway

By Bethany Haegele



Imagine going to class on a Sunday afternoon, in your pajamas, with a cup of coffee in hand, your feet up on a chair in your bedroom.

Sound appealing? Then check out what's available at Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University (www.kyvu.org).

In 1997, Kentucky became the first state in the nation to offer a comprehensive package of online college-level courses and programs. Since then, it has grown to more than 14,000 students from 33 states (including Kentucky) and 10 foreign countries.

For students who choose the online classroom, it's all about flexibility. They can make college studies fit their life – especially important when job schedules or other life-complications make it difficult to take traditional college courses.

Kentucky's virtual university courses are a computer fanatic's dream: online biographies and prerecorded audio/video clips replace face-to-face introductions.

Discussions are made possible by "asynchronous chats." Students log in

when they please, read the previously posted comments and respond in the same manner.

Everything present in a traditional classroom – professor, fellow students, the syllabus, lectures and discussions – is all online.

But online courses have a downside, too. Lab science classes, hands-on courses like graphics design or video production and master-apprentice classes can't be as effectively taught over a computer screen. And you can't do after-class lunches, roommate banter, club activities, or intramural sports online. And though few at non-virtual colleges or university will make you do your homework (or even remind you about it), the virtual environment can be deadly for procrastinators.

But what's nice is that the virtual university – either as your whole degree or just a portion – is now more than science fiction. And through the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University, you can earn a college degree you might never have thought possible. 🎓

Virtually Interested?

Check out the online degree programs at these schools:

Eastern Kentucky University
 Kentucky Community & Technical College System
 Kentucky State University
 Lexington Community College
 Morehead State University
 Murray State University
 Northern Kentucky University
 Sullivan College
 University of Kentucky
 University of Louisville
 Western Kentucky University