



YMCA AT VIRGINIA TECH

1000 N. Main St. Blacksburg, VA 24060
540.961.9622

Open University FAQ's

What is Open University? Open University serves the community with affordable lifelong learning opportunities and fitness classes. Open University remains the area's largest and liveliest source of innovative learning and fun. We offer classes in fitness, dance, writing, literature, art, gardening, photography, foreign languages – and more!

Who participates in the Open University? People of all ages, abilities, national, social and economic backgrounds. Additionally, some of our classes are offered in partnership with the Montgomery County Public Schools, and some of our students attend class on need-based scholarships.

Where do the classes take place? What about the cost and logistics of supplies? Open U staff assumes responsibility for publicity, enrollment, and finding a location for a class (unless the instructor has a location). Many classes will be held at the Y Center, 1000 N. Main St. in Blacksburg and the Waldron Family Y in Shawsville. Photocopies/printing for class material can be made at our office, within reason. We will work out how any supplies needed will be handled when planning your class.

How will I know if my class has "made?" Once the course has been planned and promoted, Open U staff will keep you apprised and confirm with you several days before the class begins. We will send you a roster with student names and emails. Every semester, some deserving classes do not attract enough students to be viable. Weather, scheduling, sporting events or other influences can be to blame. Even if a class doesn't make the first time, we will sometimes choose to offer it again. Experimentation has always been a part of our formula for success.

Are Open U instructors paid? Many are. Because we are a non-profit service organization, some instructors generously choose to donate their time in support of the Open University. If you choose to be a paid instructor, we will negotiate an hourly rate for your class. You will receive a course confirmation with your class details that you will need to agree to. Once a class makes, you may expect to receive a check within 30 days after it ends.

What do I do about "walk-in" students who don't appear on the roster? Instructors receive a class roster from us and are asked to check attendance against it. When you have walk-ins, please gather their contact information and direct them to our office to register and pay. Most are happy to do so, especially when they understand how the Open University benefits you, them and others.

May I advertise products or my professional services in the course of teaching? Instructors agree to an Open University policy that prohibits them from advertising or selling products or services while engaged in teaching for us. Students will nonetheless find our classes a good way to meet you, consult your advice, and discover for themselves whether they wish to seek a connection beyond the classroom.

Where do the proceeds go? After expenses, Open U class fees go right back to the community through the Y's many other charitable programs. Every time you take roll or prepare a class plan, you lend your personal strength to such worthwhile endeavors as single stream, textile and electronics recycling, after school tutoring, alternative college breaks and visits to the elderly.