

What to expect with your Level V online cohort

We have received permission from VolU leadership to start online Level V cohorts the first Thursday of *every other month* starting in January 2022 since our number of enrollees has decreased significantly since May / June of 2021. A cohort typically will have 4 instructors and up to 25 students from across the nation. Students will receive a welcome letter from their instructors about a week prior to the start of the cohort. Within 2-3 days, they will also receive the Student Guide. **Cohorts shut down officially approximately one year from their start date.**

So prospective students can make an informed decision, here is some additional info:

There are 21 modules and the CAPStone project in Level V. For each module, a student will have a reading assignment that is provided in the module. The student will need to reply to the initial discussion thread for their cohort created in each module plus respond to three additional posts from peers in the cohort. Eight (8) of the modules have quizzes. For each module, a student will have a written assignment that consists of a paper, PowerPoint presentation, or some other form of a document. Most students are finding each module take 5-7 hours to complete. Some students take may require more time, while some students take less.

Level V online modules are asynchronous, so one has a lot of flexibility when he does his work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In the Student Guide, we provide a suggested sequence in which the modules are to be completed so that your peers can move forward to the next module around the same time. We also suggest a schedule of one module every two weeks with the instructors typically rotating every module. While Level V online modules are asynchronous, the 22 modules are 100% moderated-- which means your instructors must engage with you through the discussion forums as well as provide input and grade each of your assignments. In order for you to be able to complete your required discussion threads for a module, you have to provide four (4) responses-- as mentioned above. So, for this purpose, it is very helpful if students will shoot toward the proposed schedule so their peers can complete those discussion requirements and be able to move forward in a timely manner.

The modules are intended for a student to work alone, until he gets to the CAPStone project, which has the option to become a group project for 2 or 3 students who are nearing completion of their Level V work. Most of the cohorts are providing office hours periodically to help students with any questions that they have or to provide additional support to them. These sessions are always optional for the student. Most sessions will be recorded and posted into the cohort's TEAMS account so that the session continues to be available to all students. Many cohorts are now offering an optional Open House to meet with their students at the beginning of the cohort so they all have the opportunity to meet one another and the instructors can review some of the critical information with their students.

All of this is to say that if you don't feel you have this amount of time to give to your Level V coursework at this time, please do not sign up for an online Level V cohort until you are ready to devote the proper amount of time. As we mentioned earlier, we start a new cohort every other month so you can apply for a cohort whenever you feel you have the time to give to it.

We are not providing this information to try to talk anyone out of being a part of a Level V online cohort, but rather it is intended to help students make an informed decision regarding the level of commitment and what is expected.