



Bringing Order and Ease to Registration with VSB

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) is an expansive academic network made up of 16 unique accredited colleges, across over 70 campuses, all sharing a single database.



“When we created the system, we thought we were doing our students a favor by having them all in one database and allowing them to enroll in any of the colleges,” says Kimberly Barger Haydon, Director of Student Administrative Operations and Support.

Although the concept is practical, implementing it was not. KCTCS students, most of whom work while enrolled, have highly demanding schedules. It is critical that they be able to find the right courses to fit their availability. This proved to be a challenge.

All 80,000 students can select from over 16,700 class offerings, take courses on any KCTCS campus, and mix on-campus and online courses according to their needs. Clearly, the number of course combinations available to KCTCS students is tremendous and should provide unparalleled opportunity for students balancing multiple important life commitments. But in practice, the number of possible combinations was unusable. With so many options available, it was simply impossible for a student to look at all the combinations of colleges, campuses, and locations and find a schedule that worked for them.

“60% of KCTCS students study part-time and all are commuters. Our students are working, or they’re parents,” says Haydon. “Their personal commitments are hard for them to juggle with their coursework. When we saw a demo of VSB we instantly thought, ‘This is exactly what we need!’”

VSB shows students all of their available options at a glance, and allows them to customize their schedules in just a few clicks. Unlike the majority of schedule planning software, which only allow students to search for one class at a time, VSB searches for all desired courses at once and generates a tailored schedule; then allows students to enroll in all of their courses in one seamless transaction - a tremendous benefit to students, faculty, and advisors.





“Our students have busy lifestyles, many of them working with families. VSB allows them to easily create a class schedule that fits their complex needs, using an intuitive, modern interface.”

– Paul Czarapata, V.P. and CIO

“VSB allows students to find the classes that they need at the times they’re available, but also creates a relationship between students and advisors that is deeper than what they’ve had before. Advisors are talking to students about personal commitments and gaining a deeper understanding of the struggles they face to attend college.”

– Kimberly Barger Haydon, Director of Student Administrative Operations and Support

Case in Point: Academic advisor Scott Taylor needed to find a functional schedule for a student who worked night shifts. The student had believed evening classes were her only option, and was having trouble meeting all the course requirements necessary to complete her degree. Using VSB, she realized that she could attend morning classes after her night shift ended, and still get the daytime sleep she needed. Taylor credits VSB with giving him the knowledge he needed to find a creative solution. Without VSB, the focus of his advising would have been mainly on the student’s course schedule; but with the scheduling challenge resolved, he was able to concentrate on the student’s academic success.

Because Visual Schedule Builder is so intuitive and user-friendly, students and advisors are able to use the system with little to no instruction. VSB allows for easy scheduling around work, children’s schedules, commute times, and other hurdles non-traditional college students face every day. Because VSB speeds up the enrollment process, advisors and students can focus on the challenges of their academic and personal lives, rather than on scheduling challenges. VSB quickly became a seamless and integral part of the KCTCS system.

“Out of all the relationships we have built over the years the relationship with VSB has been the best. With many vendors it’s up to the client to identify something that might not work exactly as it should. With VSB it’s been the opposite – the VSB team identifies any problem before we even know it ourselves. Once the system was in place, we asked ourselves, ‘Why did it take us so long to find something like this?’ VSB is the greatest product we’ve given our students.”

– Kim Haydon