

COURSE HOMEPAGE DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations are based on student surveys conducted in three courses and completed by 168 students, in addition to in-depth user experience testing.

General:

- Be mindful of your students' cognitive load. Keep it simple.
- Dedicate your homepage to critical information, and keep any text brief. Students want the basics.
- Give your students a tour of your Canvas course and homepage. Do this on the first day of class or record a screencast with narration they can access at any time.

Visuals:

- If using a banner, customize it rather than using stock CU Boulder photos. If not customizing, delete the banner rather than taking up valuable space.
- Don't style the page too differently from Canvas aesthetics. It isn't a standalone page and should integrate with the default look and feel.

Organization:

- Organize your schedule by week. Include actual dates and topics in the week headers (e.g., Week 1, Aug 26-30: Introduction).
- Don't remove links from the left-hand navbar unless the tool is not used in your course.
- If you add any homework to Canvas, include all homework, so students can see all their due dates in one place. If only including some homework, make this very explicit.
- Don't nest content too deeply or require too many clicks. Three clicks is usually too many.
- Include a "Contact Information" section that's easy to find.
- If you enable the "Files" tool for students, take some time to clean it up and organize it. Alternately, you can create a tab on the homepage, or a module, and call it "Course Files."
- Put grades on Canvas and keep them updated. Your students will thank you.
- If using a "More Resources" section, tailor resources to the course.

