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.

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Email help@colorado.edu to get started