

Web Sites

Courier examines, rates local community college home pages

Web site design for the college has sparked the creation of a committee focused solely on improving COD's home page.

The committee, which formed in July, consists of 14 members including representatives from Public Information, Information Technology, and several college constituency groups.

The only group missing is Student Leadership Council, who will hopefully become involved at the next committee meeting, scheduled for about three weeks from now.

News Bureau Coordinator for Public Information Bill Troller said "My staff will have a lot of hands on work to make the changes happen, and a strong component from IT."

Troller says that he is working under the direction of College President Sunil Chand, all agree that although the college has a viable website now it is time for a change.

"We think redesign will make it more attractive and useable," Troller said, "We are trying to make as much info available with just one click from the home page."

Troller says that changes should be visible in the next few months, as soon as e-mail surveys and focus groups return results of what needs to be done.

"We want this to be a college wide effort," Troller said.

HOW WE RATED

APPEARANCE

The appeal of the website. Does it look like there was an obvious attempt to make it attractive?

FUNCTIONALITY

What the website offers in terms of content. Does it offer the necessary? Is it wasting space with unimportant info?

EASE OF USE

How easy it is to navigate the website. How many clicks does it take to get where you are going?

Legend



The website met or exceeded our expectations in this field.



The website didn't meet our expectations in this field.

OVERALL = The sum of the three scores.

College of Lake County

<http://www.clcillinois.edu/>

FUNCTIONALITY: All of the most prominent information had quick links at the top of the home page which made them easy to access.

APPEARANCE: The colors are a bit drab, but they mix in a lot of photos and their simplistic graphics are helpful and eye catching.

Appearance = Functionality = Ease of Use =

OVERALL =



College of DuPage

<http://www.cod.edu/>

EASE OF USE: They really need a quick link drop down box. There's too many links they're trying to cram on the top and bottom menu bar.

APPEARANCE: Felt lost looking at the home page.

Appearance = Functionality = Ease of Use =

OVERALL =

Elgin Community College

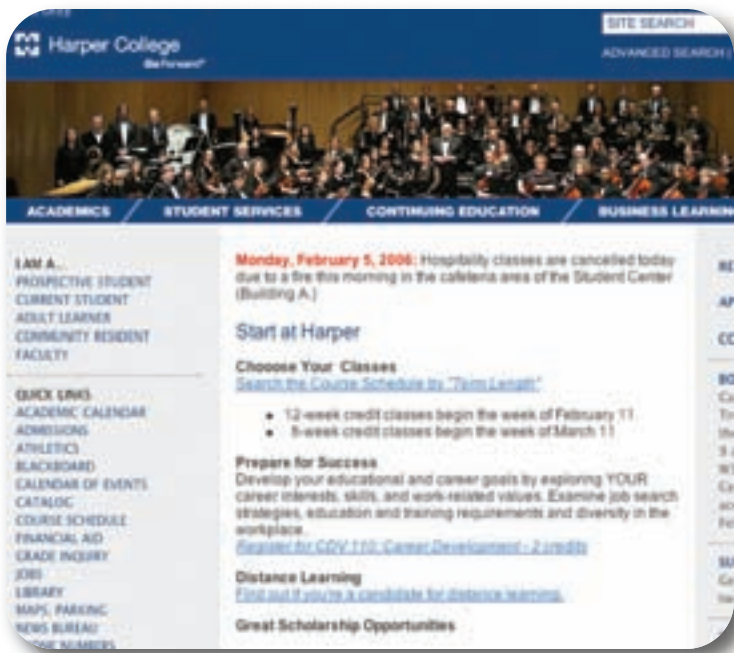
<http://www.elgin.edu/>

EASE OF USE: Why is the search engine in the middle? Different size and types fonts makes it hard to read.

APPEARANCE: We really liked how there was a banner picture of the college on the home page, it's nice to see what a prospective college looks like.

Appearance = Functionality = Ease of Use =

OVERALL =



Harper College

<http://www.harpercollege.edu/>

FUNCTIONALITY: Having Black Board and web registration on the same page is a good idea. It seems to have every thing you need listed in the quick links section.

APPEARANCE: Definately doesn't sell us on the college.

Appearance = Functionality = Ease of Use =

OVERALL =

Joliet Junior College

http://www.clcillinois.edu/

EASE OF USE: It's simple but effective. This was the only other site, besides ours, where student publication were easy to find. It's simple but has enough content to make it useful and informative.

APPEARANCE: Ugly color scheme but we like the way the site is organized.



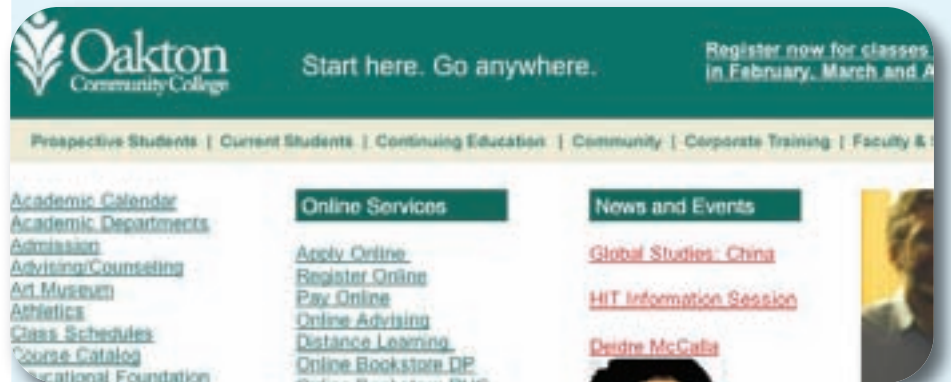
Appearance = Functionality = Ease of Use =
OVERALL =

Oakton Community College

http://www.oakton.edu/

APPEARANCE: Out of date look.

FUNCTIONALITY: Search engine should be on main page, but is located on the top menu so it's somewhat accessible. All quick links point to most frequently used links probably used by students.



Appearance = Functionality = Ease of Use =
OVERALL =

Moraine Valley Community College

http://www.morainevalley.edu/

FUNCTIONALITY: Don't use flash for academic institutions. Flash is hard to read for people who don't have a flash browser.

EASE OF USE: Being an eyesore, it took us a little longer to find what we were looking for.



Appearance = Functionality = Ease of Use =
OVERALL =

Triton College

http://www.triton.edu/

APPEARANCE: There's too much empty space on the site, and the font sizes are too small.

EASE OF USE: Drop down menus don't always drop down when you scroll over them, which is a pain.



Appearance = Functionality = Ease of Use =
OVERALL =

Morton College

http://www.morton.edu/

FUNCTIONALITY: We want to be able to find more things via one click.

APPEARANCE: The bright colors and graphics made it really attractive.



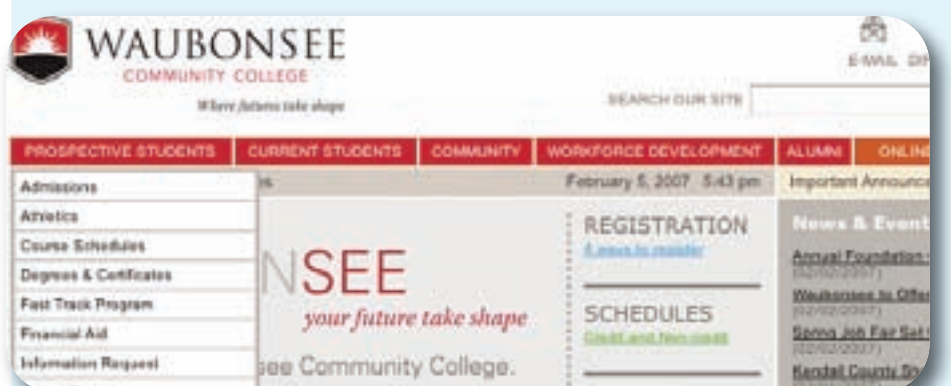
Appearance = Functionality = Ease of Use =
OVERALL =

Waubonsee Community College

http://www.wcc.cc.il.us/

EASE OF USE: Excellent use of drop down boxes for quick links and campus location. You can find a lot of information in one tight space.

APPEARANCE: In a league of its own. I can't think of any thing wrong with it.



Appearance = Functionality = Ease of Use =
OVERALL =