

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT WEB STRATEGY

Objective

To quickly convey the department's essence, quality and energy (i.e., to give an impression of the overall value of a degree from the department) and provide easy access to more detailed information.

Audience

- 1. Robbie, Sophia, Rachel, Asami, Susan (prospective students and their parents)
- 2. Adam, Beth (current students)
- 3. Bala (prospective faculty)
- 4. Dennis, Jenny (current faculty & staff)

Navigation

Most academic department site navigation will be consistent across the college. If necessary, work with Public Affairs and Marketing to finalize your sitemap, including subpages and/or special program pages.

Key Message

The department holds itself to the highest academic standards and is personally committed to the success of its students.

Desired Action

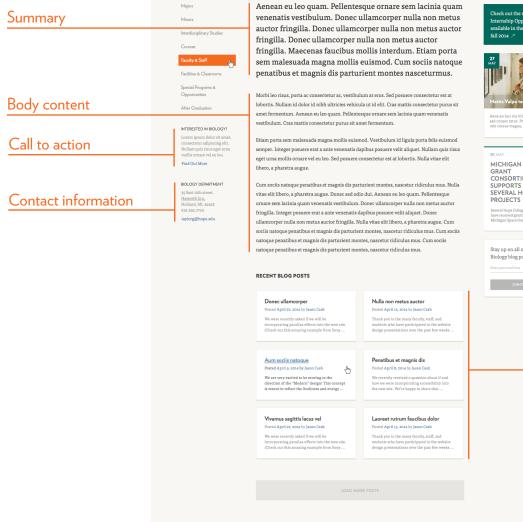
- 1. **For prospective students:** Explore the program, including program requirements; inquire, visit and apply.
- 2. **For current students:** Find program and course requirements; engage in (and successfully graduate from) the program; get involved in related groups, opportunities and events.
- 3. **For faculty and staff:** Advise and celebrate students; recruit for the program.

Maintenance

The Department showcase (banner) will require some active curation and should be updated regularly. "By the numbers" content should be reviewed and updated at least annually. Most other new content will be published through other channels (e.g., News, Calendar, Research). Someone should be assigned and equipped to oversee content for each department page. Work process should include each of the four roles (Influencer, Author, Editor, Publisher); for more information, see section 2.2 in the *Hope College Web Content Guidelines* document.



Banner/showcase



News item

Call to action

MICHIGAN SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM SUPPORTS SEVERAL HOPE PROJECTS

Event

Stay up on all of the latest Biology blog posts.

Call to action

Blog posts

Statistics

Title



Tweet/quote







CONTENT CHECKLIST

EVERY PAGE NEEDS:

	Filename Assigned when you create each page. All lowercase, no spaces. Should be unique, intelligible and descriptive (e.g., public-affairs-marketing, overnight-visits; never new-page-2 or 12erEIg0Gx).
	Meta description A one-sentence summary of your page content that displays in Google search results and helps users decide whether to visit the page. 156 characters or fewer. Example: The Center for Faithful Leadership helps students discern their gifts and calling, prepare for work and transition from college.
	Title Displayed as the page headline and navigation link. Up to 70 characters.
	Body content Provide essential information. Use stories and data to paint a picture for your audience(s). Some body content will be automatically populated from directory data (e.g., lists of courses).
M	ANY PAGES NEED:
	Banner/Showcase (1–4) Each story needs: ☐ Title or headline (70 characters or fewer) ☐ Short description (200 characters or fewer) ☐ Full-width background image ☐ Alt text (100 characters or fewer) ☐ Link to the full story or piece
	Summary Content should be able to stand entirely on its own, yet should also serve as the lead-in paragraph or set-up for the body. Up to 400 characters.
	Statistics Each "Hope by the numbers" statistic needs: ☐ Numerical expression (e.g., 12,000, 78%, 9K, ½) ☐ Descriptive label (50 characters or fewer) ☐ More information (200 characters or fewer) ☐ Link (if needed)
	Call to action Should relate to the desired actions for the page and change throughout the year. For example, "Explore available research opportunities," "Audition for Spring production of Shakespeare's <i>As You Like It</i> on March 14." 70 characters or fewer. Each call to action needs: □ Text announcement (call to action) □ Link



SOME PAGES NEED:

V	News items Automatically populated from the News page
V	Events Automatically populated from the Events page
	Block quote Use for testimonials or quotes from current students, faculty, staff or alumni. Include attribution. Up to 300 characters.
	Blog posts Automatically populated from blog, including: ☑ Author ☑ Link ☑ Headline ☑ Body text
	Image gallery/Slideshow A collection of images displayed in a grid or one at a time, whichever seems most appropriate given the number and nature of available photos. Each image needs: □ Image (use descriptive file names whenever possible) □ Caption □ Alt text (100 characters or fewer)
	Video Can be embedded from YouTube
	Table Arranges information into columns and rows
	Accordion Collapsible text content; great for scanning. Similar to an unordered list, but with additional details. □ Heading □ Details
	Social media accounts Links to official department social media accounts (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and URLs
	Tweet or quote A selected tweet (or tweets) from the department, or one that presents the department in a positive light. Copy the URL from the tweet details page. Or include a testimonial from current students, faculty, staff or alumni.



ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT CHECKLIST

DEPARTMENT LANDING PAGE		-	rtment Landing Page Pegree Programs
	Filename	• C ▼ S	Courses pecial Programs
	Meta description	•	Opportunities Special Program Detail Page
	Title The name of the department.	• F	acilities & Classrooms aculty & Staff
	Banner/Showcase Feature recent or notable faculty and student work (e.g., research, presentations, performances) or any great Hope People alumni) from the department.		Other Subpages tories (students, faculty,
	Summary Concise introduction to and overview of the department. The "e the field of study and educational/professional opportunities at I		r pitch" or ad copy for
	Body content Description of the programs and opportunities available to stude What kind of experience can a student expect to have?	ents wi	thin the department.
	Statistics (4+) Numerical facts or stats about the department, its people and its students, student-faculty ratio, average class size, notable alumni school acceptance rates, job placement and satisfaction rates, etc.	, year	
	Call to action (x2) One should target prospective students (e.g., "Interested in study Request more information") and one should target current stude student-faculty collaborative research opportunities").		
V	Contact information Automatically populated		
	Blog posts (if applicable) Automatically populated		
	Social media accounts (if applicable)		
	Tweet or quote		

▼ Department Landing Page



DEGREE PROGRAMS □ Filename ☐ Meta description ☐ Title "[Department Name] Degree Programs" ☐ Summary Concise introduction to and overview of the department's various degree programs. Should answer the questions, "Does this interest me? Will this prepare me for my desired career? How is this program unique or different from the other programs?" Example: The Chemistry Department offers 6 majors and 1 minor, including both a BA and BS in Chemistry, as well as ACS-certified BS degrees in Chemistry and Chemistry with an emphasis in Biochemistry. Interdisciplinary majors in Chemistry Education and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology are offered in partnership with the Education and Biology departments, respectively. ☐ Body content ☑ Majors List automatically populated from catalog List automatically populated from catalog ☑ Other programs (e.g., Interdisciplinary programs, Double majors) List automatically populated from catalog ☐ Custom content A paragraph or two addressing other common double majors and popular/related minors for the department, with text links to those programs. If available, also include stats like "28% of Chemistry students also pursue at least one minor" or "7% of Communications students choose to double major; 90% of double majors graduate within four years." Might also link to more information about composite major requirements. \Box Call to action (x2) Can be same as or different from the department landing page. **COURSES** ☐ Filename ☐ Meta description

"[Department Name] Courses"

☐ Title



	Summary Concise introduction to and overview of the courses offered by the department (e.g., "From the basic properties of acids and bases to neurochemistry, molecular structure and nuclear magnetic resonance, the Chemistry department offers dozens of courses for science and non-science majors"). Link to courses in the Catalog and get current and prospective students excited about studying [X] at Hope.
\square	Body content List of courses automatically populated from catalog
	Call to action (x2) Can be same as or different from the department landing page.
SP	ECIAL PROGRAMS & OPPORTUNITIES
	Meta description
	Title "Special Programs & Opportunities"
	Summary Concise introduction to and overview of the various types of programs and opportunities related or relevant to students in the department (e.g., "Join the local chapter of the national [departmental] honors society or explore student-faculty collaborative research opportunities right here on campus. From local internships to study abroad programs in [country], there are dozens of ways for you to enhance your educational experience at Hope.")
	Body content Can use paragraph text with subheadings, ordered or unordered lists, tables, or—for larger chunks of content—an accordion list. Page should address: ☐ International and off-campus study opportunities related to the department ☐ Information about internships, including some examples of past experiences ☐ Information about research opportunities within the department ☐ Information about official campus programs related to the academic division ☐ Information about student groups or organizations related to the department
	Call to action (x2) Can be same as or different from the department landing page.
SP	ECIAL PROGRAM DETAIL PAGE (as many as needed)
	Filename
	Meta description
	Title Simply state what the page is about



	Summary Provide a concise everything-you-really-need-to-know-if-you're-just-scanning introduction to/overview of the page content/core message.
	Body content Use for paragraph text with subheadings, as well as ordered and unordered lists. Supports text links. Body content can also include such optional elements as: Block quote Video Image gallery/Slideshow Accordion list Table
	Call to action (x2) Can be same as or different from the department landing page.
ΑF	TER GRADUATION
	Filename
	Meta description
	Title "After Graduation"
	Summary Concise introduction to and overview of alumni statistics and success stories (e.g., "Within three months of graduating with her Bachelor of Science in Biology, Jessica was enrolled on full scholarship to Stanford, her first choice of graduate school. Last year, 82 percent of Hope's biology department graduates were enrolled in their first- or second-choice graduate program within six months.")
	Body content Use stories and data to paint a picture for prospective and current students. Use paragraph text with subheadings and ordered or unordered lists. Page should address: □ Grad schools and acceptance rates, including what kinds of degrees grads have pursued and from which institutions □ Job placement and satisfaction rates, including the types of jobs grads have landed and at which companies □ Notable department alumni (e.g., prize-winners, authors, business owners, or other public figures) and some of their accomplishments
	Block quote
	Stories list Populated with individual profile stories of faculty, students or alumni related to the department, each of which should include: Headline



	 ✓ Person's name ✓ Person's title ✓ Excerpt ✓ Link to full story in News
	Call to action (x2) Can be same as or different from the department landing page.
FΑ	CILITIES & CLASSROOMS
	Filename
	Meta description
	Title "[Department Name] Facilities & Classrooms"
	Summary Concise introduction to and overview of the department's facilities and classrooms, including any department-specific equipment or special features. The key message is that Hope has invested significantly in its facilities; they're beautiful, well appointed, well equipped and provide an excellent learning environment.
	Image gallery A collection of exterior, interior and detail images.
V	Body content Facilities information and links to building pages are automatically populated. Provide list of facilities to Public Affairs and Marketing.
	Call to action (x2) Can be same as or different from the department landing page.
FΑ	CULTY & STAFF PAGE
	Filename
	Meta description
	Title "[Department Name] Faculty & Staff"
V	Body content Faculty and staff list is automatically populated



OTHER SUBPAGES (if applicable)

FIRST ASK: Is this page required to answer additional audience questions?
Filename
Meta description
Title Simply state what the page is about
Summary Provide a concise everything-you-really-need-to-know-if-you're-just-scanning introduction to/overview of the page content/core message.
Body content Use for paragraph text with subheadings, as well as ordered and unordered lists. Supports text links. Body content can also include such optional elements as: Block quote Video Image gallery/Slideshow Accordion list Table
Call to action (x2) Can be same as or different from the department landing page.