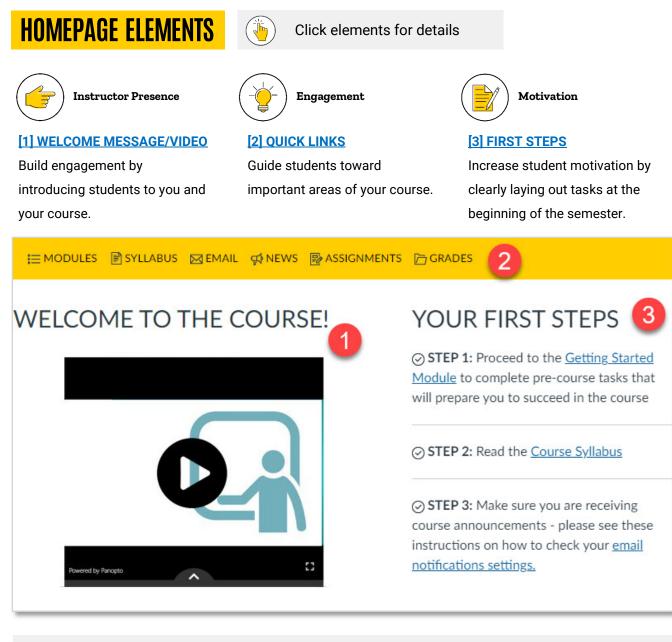
Course Homepage Quick Guide

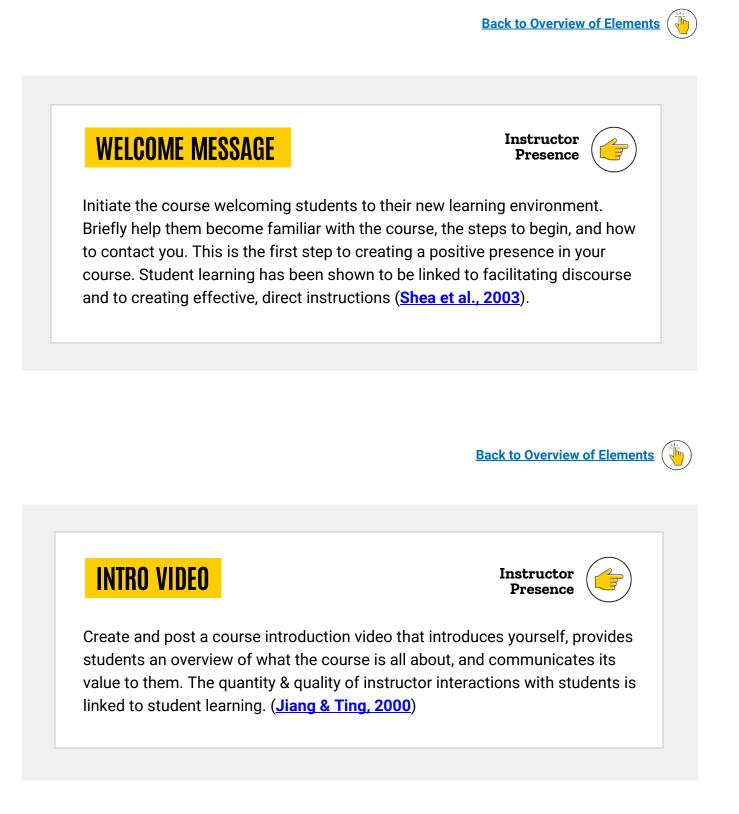
A custom course homepage provides you an opportunity to establish your presence as the course instructor, as well as increase student engagement and motivation.



STANDARDS & RESEARCH – from Quality Matters and online students at Iowa











Engagement



Design an accessible homepage that facilitates access to areas students will use most frequently in your course. Interactions with course interfaces are a real factor in learning; difficult or negative interactions with interfaces can depress learning. (<u>Hillman, et al., 1994</u>; <u>Hewitt, 2003</u>)

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Motivation

Build a supportive learning environment by providing students a list of tasks they may use to begin the course (e.g., read the syllabus). Instructional guidance designed to support the cognitive processing necessary for learning is more effective than minimal guidance that does not provide clear steps. (Kirschner, et al., 2006)



QUALITY MATTERS (QM) STANDARDS

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The DOE Course Sample Homepage addresses the following QM Standards:

1.1 Instructions make clear how to get started and where to find various course components.

1.2 Students are introduced to the purpose and structure of the course.

1.7 The self-introduction by the instructor is appropriate and available online.

7.1 The course instructions articulate or link to a clear description of the technical support offered and how to access it.

7.2 Course instructions articulate or link to the institution's accessibility policies and services.

7.3 Course instructions articulate or link to an explanation of how the institution's academic support services and resources can help students succeed in the course and how students can access the services.

7.4 Course instructions articulate or link to an explanation of how the institution's student support services can help students succeed and how students can access the services.

DOE: ONLINE LEARNING RESEARCH

At the University of Iowa, Distance and Online Learning (DOE) conducted research regarding students' preferences for online learning. One of the goals was to gather data to develop stronger, user-center design for our online course templates. The results of the study are shared within this guide.

95% of the students surveyed stated a homepage was necessary to their learning. Review this homepage as a guide to your own homepage design.

