

# Montgomery College's Web Redesign

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is happening with the .edu Web redesign?

On October 13, 2008, Montgomery College's Board of Trustees awarded a contract to New City Media (NCM), of Blacksburg, Virginia to redesign the .edu Web site (for more information about the criteria for selection, see the [RFP](#)).

### 2. When will the new MC website go live?

The first phase of the web redesign project is scheduled to be completed by August 2009. During the first phase of the project, the homepage and associated functional content (e.g., landing or department pages) will be redesigned. The rest of the site will be developed in the second phase of this project, which will most likely begin during calendar year 2010.

As a result of the research and data gathering to date, the consultant will recommend the pages to be included in the first phase of this project—according to the required functionality of the site. The Leadership Team will soon be analyzing the consultant's recommendations for the pages and departments affected during this first phase. For more information, please review our project page at <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/redesign/>.

### 3. How long will the web redesign project take to complete?

After the initial go live date in August 2009, it could take up to 3 years to migrate all the departments into the new design and the content management system. To accommodate this transition, the current .edu website will run in parallel with the new content management system until we have converted all departments to the new design. The Office of Information Technology (OIT) will work with each department to migrate their content over to the new design. During this period, business processes and workflows for content submission will be put into place.

### 4. Who will make the final decision on "look" and "design"?

The Executive Technology Steering Committee (ETSC) will choose the final design based on the recommendations developed by the Web Redesign Leadership Team from feedback by the Strategic Team and the college community.

### 5. Who is on the Web Redesign Strategic Team?

For a list of members, go to <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/redesign/#strategic>

### 6. Who is on the Web Redesign Leadership Team?

For a list of members, go to <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/redesign/#leader>

**7. Should my department hold off on plans to redesign our web site?**

You should continue to add and refresh the content of your site, but hold off on planning a new look and feel for your site. As part of this project, we will be developing a common design and navigation structure for all the College web pages. Until this is complete, we are asking that current web site owners keep the content updated on their current sites but do not embark on major redesign efforts. In this way we can ensure that new efforts meet our design and accessibility standards and fit into the overall theme and purpose of the site. If you do not already have a site in place, you should concentrate on developing your content. Once that is complete, the process is to contact OIT for support in getting that content published and links established.

**8. Where can I get information on the progress of the web redesign project?**

Please visit our project web page at: <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/redesign/>

**9. What can I do now to prepare my site for the changes to come?**

Work on the content of your site and desired layout of your site. Contact OIT when you are done or have any questions. You will then be notified of the timeline for your department to be incorporated into the overall site.

**10. Why can't all of MC's web pages move to the new look at the time of the Web redesign launch?**

With more than 66,000 pages of content on the Montgomery College web site, it would be impossible to have the entire site converted to the new design by our summer deadline. A phased rollout is being planned with a variety of sites chosen for rollout based on the audience research performed by our web consultant.

**11. Will I have to learn a new way to update and maintain my department's web site?**

Yes. The College purchased a web content management system (CMS) for creating and maintaining departmental sites. Part of the final product of the redesign is to eventually have all new web pages be on the content management system. The OIT Web Team will be meeting with content managers of each department as we migrate their website to the new design and onto the new content management system. This process will take some time, so please be patient. The current .edu website will run in parallel with the new content management system until we have converted all departments. Training on use of the content management system (CMS) with our business processes will be provided during this transition.

## **12. Why are we moving to a content management system (CMS)?**

The CMS has many benefits over our current .edu site. Users no longer need to learn how to code in HTML or learn how to use software like Dreamweaver in order to create a website. The content management system will automatically ensure and enforce all content posted on the website to be compliant with state and federal regulations on accessibility. All content generated via the content management system will be kept up to date and enforced by expiration and notifications mechanisms in the system. All content will be stored in a database which means each piece of content is portable and reusable. This will ensure that content will not be duplicated while keeping a single source of up to date information that can be syndicated on any department's website. The content management system will also enable users to use web 2.0 features such as Blogs, Wikis, Discussion Forums and RSS feeds on their website.

## **13. Will training be provided for the new web content management system?**

Basic training for the CMS will be available. Also, the OIT Web Team will be working with the departments to migrate their content to the CMS. Only a web browser is required to update web content.

## **14. How can I make a suggestion or give comments?**

Please visit the .edu redesign project page at <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/redesign/>. We encourage visitors to submit suggestions or comments to the team as often as possible!