How to Use the Catalog

Browsing

Each department's page will show a listing of their currently offered undergraduate programs, along with course requirements and elective options. Some important features are listed below:

Tab Buttons

Each page contains a row of red or grey buttons just below the page title to let you jump quickly between different sections of the page. The button in red shows which tab you're reading.

Back to Top Button

As you scroll down a page, you will see a red arrow button appear, pointing upwards. You can click it to go back to the top of the page.

Pop-Up Course Descriptions

Wherever you see a course number (e.g. 76-101) displayed as a link, you can click on it to bring up the course's description, number of units, the semester(s) in which it is offered, and any prerequisites. Please remember that these descriptions are accurate as of the publication of the Catalog; details for some courses, especially "special topics" courses, may change from semester to semester. You can also check the Course Schedule tab in Student Information Online (https://s3.as.cmu.edu/sio/#schedule-home) for current descriptions and prerequisites.

"In this Section" Links

The tan box near the top-left corner of every page, labeled "In this section," provides quick links to major subsections of a page. Once one of these links is clicked, you will also see "Back to Top" links at the beginning of each subsection which will take you back to the top of a page.

Course Description Pages

Each department section will have a tab containing course descriptions, etc. for each course offered by the department. As with the pop-up course descriptions, these are accurate as of the date of publication. **Note:** College interdisciplinary courses can be found by going to the college's main page and clicking on the Course Descriptions link.

You can also view the overall Course Descriptions (http://coursecatalog.web.cmu.edu/coursedescriptions) page, which has links to all department-level course descriptions pages.

Faculty Listing

Each department page contains a tab with a list of its current faculty, showing for each faculty member the following: official title, degree, alma mater, and the year he or she started at Carnegie Mellon University. This list will be the next-to-last tab on each page.

Breadcrumb Navigation Links

Near the top of each page, just under the banner graphic, you will see navigation links which go back up through the levels of the catalog page hierarchy. For example, on the Department of English page, You can go back up to the Dietrich College of Humanities & Social Sciences page or all the way up to the Catalog Home page.

Searching

There are several ways to search for a college/department page in the online Undergraduate Catalog:

Search Box

The Search Box in the upper right-hand corner allows you to search for a college or department by name or keyword. Type in the name of the department (e.g. "history," "physics," "computer science," etc.) and click Go. You will be taken to a Search Results page, from which you can visit the desired college or department. You will also find a link under each department in the Search Results page to go directly to that department's Course Descriptions. You can also unclick the check box to search all of CMU.

Most departments also allow you to search via keywords, such as "math" for Mathematical Sciences or "biology" for Biological Sciences, in case you cannot remember the full name.

Catalog Navigation

The catalog main page, all college pages, and the About CMU page all have navigation links below the "In this Section" box, to allow you to navigate quickly to pages under their heading (for example, from the catalog main page, you can choose "Mellon College of Science" to go to the college main page, then choose "Department of Biological Sciences" to go to that department). These are listed in alphabetical order according to the name of the page.

Catalog Contents

The Catalog Contents page can be viewed by clicking the "Catalog Contents (http://coursecatalog.web.cmu.edu/catalogcontents)" link in the grey bar near the top of each page. It features a list, grouped by college or topic, of each page in the catalog. You can also find this list at the bottom of the Catalog Home (http://coursecatalog.web.cmu.edu/) page.

A–Z Directory

The "A–Z Directory (http://coursecatalog.web.cmu.edu/azindex)" link in the grey bar near the top of each page will take you to an alphabetical index of all pages in the current catalog, sorted by title. Note that many pages will begin with "Department of."

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Finding Course Descriptions

There are several ways to find course descriptions in the online Undergraduate Catalog:

Pop-Up Course Descriptions

Wherever you see a course number (e.g. 76-101) displayed as a link, you can click on it to bring up the course's description, number of units, the semester(s) in which it is offered, and any prerequisites. Please remember that these descriptions are accurate as of the publication of the Catalog; details for some courses, especially "special topics" courses, may change from semester to semester. You can also check the Course Schedule tab in Student Information Online (https://s3.as.cmu.edu/sio/#schedule-home) for current descriptions and prerequisites.

Course Description Pages

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You can also view the overall Course Descriptions (http://coursecatalog.web.cmu.edu/coursedescriptions) page, which has links to all department-level course descriptions pages.

Search Box

If you know the number for a course (e.g. 21-111) and want to see its description, you can type the number (hyphen included) into the Search box at the top-right of each page. Pressing "Go" will bring up a Search Results page that includes the following:

- The full course description, including number of units, the semester(s) in which it is offered, and any prerequisites.
- A link to the page of the department which offers the course. The department entry will also include a link to the full Course Descriptions listing for that department.

Finding Prior-Year Catalogs

The "Previous Catalogs (http://coursecatalog.web.cmu.edu/previous)" link in the grey bar near the top of each page will take you to a page containing links to several Undergraduate Catalogs from years past (from 2004 to the present). All of these can be downloaded as PDFs for viewing or printing.

Catalogs from 2010 and later can be viewed as archived webpages, with all search functionality intact. You will see a note at the top of each page to note that you are viewing an archived catalog, along with a link to the current catalog.