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## Web component available for all classes

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

Oakland University faculty have the option of introducing a Web component to any class beginning in the winter 2002 semester. The option allows faculty to place a variety of materials on the Web for their students ranging from a course syllabus to video files.

"We're really responding to a desire to make students' lives more convenient," said Mark Ludorf, interim director of the **Information Technology Institute**. "We've integrated our Web course management software with Banner. As a byproduct of that process, each class will have a course site created. There's no requirement that it be used – it's up to the faculty member to decide."

The Web option offers various benefits for both faculty and students.

"The quality and depth of the interaction between faculty member and student can be enhanced," Ludorf said. "Depending on the course, you could include a discussion forum, use online assessment, add notes, and post handouts, exercises or other homework. Anything you can do in a classroom can be put online. The difference (from the online-only courses) is that the instructor will still see the student. The most important thing is that students feel connected to the faculty member."

OU students are increasingly using the Web to access course materials, Ludorf said. In the fall 2001 semester, 20 percent of OU students used the Web component in one or more courses and 2,700 students had unique online student accounts. Surveys have shown that over 90 percent of all OU students have access to computers either at home or at work. Ludorf conservatively estimated that over 3,000 students will have accounts to access online materials in the winter term.

"We had 10 Web-only courses up and running last winter term, and when people saw what it was capable of doing, there was a level of openness," Ludorf said. "There's real value added when you take the traditional classroom and use these electronic tools. We had over 100 courses with a Web component last semester."

OU is offering 17 online-only courses in the winter 2002 semester. Courses that have a required Web component are designated as such in the **Schedule of Classes**. See the **e-learning** Web page for more information on online learning at OU.

### SUMMARY

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