

Standardized Navigation Systems the Faculty of Science at the University of Waterloo:
A Cross-Faculty Analysis with Recommendations

By Sarah Forgrave
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OVERVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FACULTY TOP-LEVEL MENU ITEMS



After an analysis of the following Faculties (AHS, Science, Arts, Engineering, Environmental Studies, and Math), it became clear that there are NINE (9) key top-level navigational items that are in use across most Faculties. They are:

1. Home
2. About Faculty
3. Departments/Schools
4. People
5. Research/Graduate Studies
6. Services/Facilities
7. Prospective Students
8. Current Students
9. Alumni/Friends

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RATIONALE FOR FACULTY 2ND-LEVEL NAVIGATION SYSTEM

After examining all of the second level navigation items across faculties, a core group of potential menu items became evident. In addition to these second-level navigation items, it also became clear that in order to ensure consistency across Faculties, a 3 column page format should be used to accommodate UW or Faculty-specific items. It is *important* to note that in standardizing navigation systems; key Faculty-specific content may be buried deeper in the site than is necessary.

The following pages include a graphical representation of how the page would look, as well as a brief description and overview of the items that are recommended for each section of the site.

	Search Science <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="search"/>	
<i>Faculty of Science</i>		
		
<p>Science Home</p> <hr/> <p>About Faculty</p> <hr/> <p>Departments/Schools</p> <hr/> <p>People</p> <hr/> <p>Research/Grad Studies</p> <hr/> <p>Services/Facilities</p> <hr/> <p>Prospective Students</p> <hr/> <p>Current Students</p> <hr/> <p>Alumni/Friends</p>	<p><i>Welcome to the Faculty of Science</i></p> <p>This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. A suggestion for this area might be a "Welcome from the Dean."</p> <p>In the right hand side which is labelled "quick links", we can include anything such as links to featured people, awards, departments or schools or anything else we want to highlight.... Link to "About" Main Page...</p> <p><i>News Items</i></p> <p>Another thing we could have here is links to news items related to the faculty of Science. This could be things such as items that appear in the newspaper, the daily bulletin or anything else we want to tell our visitors about. List one or two items, and then have a.... Link to "About" News/Events Page...</p>	<p>Academic Departments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biology• Chemistry• Earth Sciences• Physics• School of Optometry• School of Pharmacy <p>Quick Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact Us• Find out more• How do I apply?
<p>Faculty of Science University of Waterloo 200 University Ave. W. Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1 519-888-4567</p>		
<p>Contact Science Website Feedback Science Home</p>		

For the home page, the following items are recommended:

- Start of "Welcome from the Dean"...links to the "About" main page.
- News Items can be special announcements, events, etc that are partially listed then linked to a detailed information page on the "About – News/Events" page.

Recommendations for the 3rd column can be anything from the most popular links, to things such as departments, schools, etc.



About Science

Science Home

About Faculty

- [Welcome from the Dean](#)
- [Fast Facts](#)
- [News/Events](#)
- [Community Outreach](#)
- [Employment](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Departments/Schools

People

Research/Grad Studies

Services/Facilities

Prospective Students

Current Students

Alumni/Friends

Welcome from the Dean

This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. A suggestion for this area might be an "Overview of the Science Faculty" or a "Welcome from the Dean".

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[Contact Science](#) | [Website Feedback](#) | [Science Home](#)

In terms of the second level navigation items, it is suggested that under the "About" item the following items would apply:

- [Welcome from the Dean \(Main Page\)](#)
- [Fast Facts \(general overview of the Faculty\)](#)
- [News and Events \(specific to Faculty as well as links from page to departmental event pages\)](#)
- [Community Outreach \(ways in which the Faculty is participating in the community\)](#)
- [Student Associations](#)
- [Employment \(general Faculty positions as well as links to Departmental postings\)](#)
- [Contact Information \(general office, phone, address and email contact information of the Faculty Office\)](#)



Departments & Schools

Science Home

About Faculty

Departments/Schools

People

Research/Grad Studies

Services/Facilities

Prospective Students

Current Students

Alumni/Friends

Overview of the Departments and Schools in the Science Faculty

This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. A suggestion for this area might be an "Overview of the Departments and Schools in the Science Faculty." This should include a brief description of each Department and School, followed by a link to the Departmental or School Page.

Biology

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Chemistry

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Earth Science

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Physics

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School of Optometry

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School of Pharmacy

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Highlighted Institutes

- IQC
IBMB
Sharcnet
Other Centres, Institutes and Groups

For the second level navigation items under the "Departments/Schools" item, it is recommended that the menu link to a separate "departments and schools" page. From that page, each department/school will have a brief description and/or the name followed by a link to specific departments and schools within the Faculty.

- Each department is listed and has a brief overview and a link to the departmental/school pages



Faculty of Science

People

Science Home

About Faculty

Departments/Schools

People

- [Dean of Science](#)
- [Department Contacts](#)
- [Graduate Officers](#)
- [Undergrad Advisors](#)
- [Graduate Studies](#)

Research/Grad

Studies

Services/Facilities

Prospective Students

Current Students

Alumni/Friends

Our People

This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. A suggestion for this area might be an "Overview Our People".

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Quick Links

- [Admissions Contacts](#)

Other Links


- [Science Faculty Council](#)
- [Personal Homepages](#)
- [Staff Resources](#)

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A discussion that arose about this section was who the audience for this section would be. Some Faculties were using this section as a "staff/faculty" only page with internal information. After some discussion, it was determined that instead of serving as a faculty and staff information resource, that this page would make the most sense as a list of faculty and staff in the Faculty with links to various departmental faculty/staff listings. In terms of additional information if a third column were to be used would include a link for searching the UW Directory.

- Admissions Contacts
- Departmental Contacts (links to departmental people Lists)
- Graduate Advisors
- Undergraduate Advisors
- Student Organizations (listing with brief description and link to organization page)

	Search Science <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="search"/>	
<i>Faculty of Science</i>		
Research/Graduate Studies		
<p>Science Home</p> <hr/> <p>About Faculty</p> <hr/> <p>Departments/Schools</p> <hr/> <p>People</p> <hr/> <p>Research/Grad Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Centres, Institutes & Groups• Featured Research• Research Areas• Graduate Studies <hr/> <p>Services/Facilities</p> <hr/> <p>Prospective Students</p> <hr/> <p>Current Students</p> <hr/> <p>Alumni/Friends</p> <hr/>	<p>Research Overview</p> <p>Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text.</p> <p>Graduate Studies Overview</p> <p>Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text.</p>	<p>Quick Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Office of Research• Research Park• Graduate Office
<p>Faculty of Science University of Waterloo 200 University Ave. W. Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1 519-888-4567</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact Science Website Feedback Science Home</p>		

Under the research/graduate section, it was determined that the following groups should be included in the navigational menu:

- Centres, Institutes & Groups
- Featured Research (profile of a researcher and their research – possibly updated once a month)
- Research Areas (links to departmental research areas)
- Graduate Studies (General overview of graduate studies in Science with links to items such as Calendar, Academic Advising, Programs)

In terms of third column items, the following items are suggested:

- Office of Research
- Research Park
- Graduate Office



Services/Facilities

[Science Home](#)

[About Faculty](#)

[Departments/Schools](#)

[People](#)

[Research/Grad Studies](#)

[Services/Facilities](#)

- [Computing Services](#)
- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Counselling](#)
- [Departmental Facilities](#)
- [Career Services](#)

[Prospective Students](#)

[Current Students](#)

[Alumni/Friends](#)

Services and Facilities Overview

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Quick Links

- [First Year Office](#)
- [Chem. Stores](#)
- [Science Technical Services](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Undergraduate Office](#)
- [Graduate Office](#)

The following group of core services were found across most Faculties:

- [Computing Services](#)
- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Counselling](#)
- [Departmental Facilities](#) (links to departmental facilities pages)

While additional third column items could include things such as First year office, Chemistry Stores, Science Technical Services, Library, etc.

	<input type="text" value="Search Science"/> <input type="button" value="search"/>	
<i>Faculty of Science</i>		
Prospective Students		
<p>Science Home</p> <hr/> <p>About Faculty</p> <hr/> <p>Departments/Schools</p> <hr/> <p>People</p> <hr/> <p>Research/Grad Studies</p> <hr/> <p>Services/Facilities</p> <hr/> <p>Prospective Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applying to Science• Scholarships/Financing• Programs/Specializations• Why Waterloo?• FAQ's• Contact/More Info• Online Application <hr/> <p>Current Students</p> <hr/> <p>Alumni/Friends</p> <hr/>	<p>Prospective Students Overview</p> <p>Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text.</p> <p>Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text.</p> <p>Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text.</p>	<p>Quick Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maps, Tours and Directions• Virtual Campus Tour• Request Information• Residences• Find Out More• Ask the Warrior• Graduate Studies
<p>Faculty of Science University of Waterloo 200 University Ave. W. Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1 519-888-4567</p> <p>Contact Science Website Feedback Science Home</p>		


While exploring the great amount of diversity for prospective students across the Faculty web sites, the following key items were identified: Applying to UW; Scholarships & financing; Programs; Why Waterloo?; FAQ's; Contact/More information. Given this, the following are a recommended list for the Faculty of Science:

- [Applying to Science](#) (Information for high school, distance ed, mature students)
- [Scholarships/Financing](#) (overview of funding and scholarship opportunities for students in Science)
- [Programs/Specializations](#) (Brief descriptions or programs/specializations and links to departments, as well information about the exchange program would be listed here)
- [Why Waterloo?](#)
- [FAQ's](#)
- [Contact/More Info](#)
- [Online Application](#)

Suggested 3rd column items:

- [Maps, Tours & Directions](#)
- [Virtual Campus Tour](#)
- [Request Information](#)
- [Residences](#)
- [Find out more](#)
- [Ask the Warrior](#)

Current Students


	<input type="text" value="Search Science"/> <input type="button" value="search"/>	
<i>Faculty of Science</i>		
Current Students		
<p>Science Home</p> <hr/> <p>About Faculty</p> <hr/> <p>Departments/Schools</p> <hr/> <p>People</p> <hr/> <p>Research/Grad Studies</p> <hr/> <p>Services/Facilities</p> <hr/> <p>Prospective Students</p> <hr/> <p>Current Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic Advising• Counselling• FAQ's• Academic Policies• Programs and Specializations• Student Associations• Undergraduate Office <hr/> <p>Alumni/Friends</p> <hr/>	<p>Current Students Overview</p> <p>Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text.</p> <p>Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text.</p> <p>Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text.</p>	<p>Quick Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calendar• Course Web Materials• Career Services• Health Services• QUEST• UW ACE• Other UW Services• Exchange Programs• Graduate Office
<p>Faculty of Science University of Waterloo 200 University Ave. W. Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1 519-888-4567</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact Science Website Feedback Science Home</p>		

After an analysis of how other faculty's organized information within this section, the following items were found to be most common among all faculties:

- Academic Advising
- Counselling
- FAQ's
- Academic Policies
- Programs and Specializations

Finally, the following items would be well suited to the third column for this section:

- Calendar
- Course Web Materials
- Career Services
- Health Services
- QUEST
- UW ACE
- Other UW Services
- Exchange Programs

	Search Science <input type="text"/> <input type="submit" value="search"/>	
<i>Faculty of Science</i>		
Alumni/Friends		
<p>Science Home</p> <hr/> <p>About Faculty</p> <hr/> <p>Departments/Schools</p> <hr/> <p>People</p> <hr/> <p>Research/Grad Studies</p> <hr/> <p>Services/Facilities</p> <hr/> <p>Prospective Students</p> <hr/> <p>Current Students</p> <hr/> <p>Alumni/Friends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Profile • E-Community • News, Events/Reunions • Supporting UW • Contact Alumni Officers 	<p>Alumni/Friends Overview</p> <p>Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text.</p> <p>Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text.</p> <p>Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text.</p> <p>Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text. Anything you want can go here. This is just filler text.</p>	<p>Quick Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alumni Awards • Job Postings • Newsletter • Office of Alumni Affairs
<p>Faculty of Science University of Waterloo 200 University Ave. W. Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1 519-888-4567</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact Science Website Feedback Science Home</p>		

Finally, the items found in the Alumni/Friends section were generally consistent across all Faculties. The most commonly used items that were found on all Faculty sites included:

- [My Profile](#)
- [E-community](#)
- [News, Events/Reunions](#)
- [Supporting UW](#)
- [Contact Alumni Officers](#)

While the items that would be well suited to the third column would be items such as:

- [Alumni Awards](#)
- [Job Postings](#)
- [Newsletter](#)
- [Office of Alumni Affairs](#)