

CSS Nav Bar

Cascading Style Sheets can be used to achieve a mouseover effect similar to the one described above using images. This results in a much faster load time. However, you must know how to use CSS in order to use this advanced function.

To use a stylesheet in Educator to format the navigation column, go to the Customize control panel where you'll find a link to click called CSS Nav Bar.

This is labeled as an advanced function because you will have to have created a style sheet to insert here.

- Syllabus
- Resources
- Announcements
- Discussion
- Quizzes
- Exams
- Links
- E Mail
- Chat
- Profiles
- Who's Online?
- Surveys
- Support
- Projects
- Customize
- Skins
- Course Manager
- Logout

This feature lets you apply your own CSS to the Educator nav bar in this classroom. It will override any nav bar images attached to this skin.

Nav bar links with CSS applied are indicated with DIV HTML elements.

```

div id = "navbar" // reference to the entire nav bar
div id = "mainActive" // reference to currently selected main link
div id = "subLinks" // reference to the currently viewed sub links
div id = "subActive" // reference to currently viewed sub link

```

Any CSS entered into the text below will be immediately applied to your nav bar.

```

<style type="text/css">
<!--
div#navbar a {display: block; margin: 0; padding: 2px;
letter-spacing: 1px; text-align: center; font-family:arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
font-size:11px; font-weight: bold;
color: white; text-decoration: none; border: 6px solid white;}
div#navbar a:link {color: white; background-color: #336699;}
div#navbar a:visited {color: white; background-color: #336699;}
div#navbar a:hover {background: #A5CFE5; color: white; text-decoration:underline;}

div#mainActive a {display: block; margin: 0; padding: 2px;
letter spacing: 1px; text align: center; font family:arial, Helvetica, sans serif;
font-size:11px; font-weight: bold;
color: white; text-decoration: none; border: 6px solid white;}
div#mainActive a:link {color: white; background-color: #A5CFE5;}
div#mainActive a:visited {color: white; background-color: #A5CFE5;}
div#mainActive a:hover {background: #A5CFE5; color: white; text-decoration:underline;}

div#subLinks a {display: block; margin: 0; padding: 1px;
letter-spacing: 1px; text-align: left; font-family:arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
font-size:9px; font-weight: normal;
color: white; text-decoration: underline; border: 4px solid white;}
div#subLinks a:link {color: #006699; background-color: white;}
div#subLinks a:visited {color: #336699; background-color: white;}
div#subLinks a:hover {background: white; color: #A5CFE5;}

div#subActive a {display: block; margin: 0; padding: 1px;
letter-spacing: 1px; text-align: left; font-family:arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
font-size:9px; font-weight: normal;

```

At the top of the screen the stylesheet elements are defined.

div id='navbar' refers to the entire nav bar

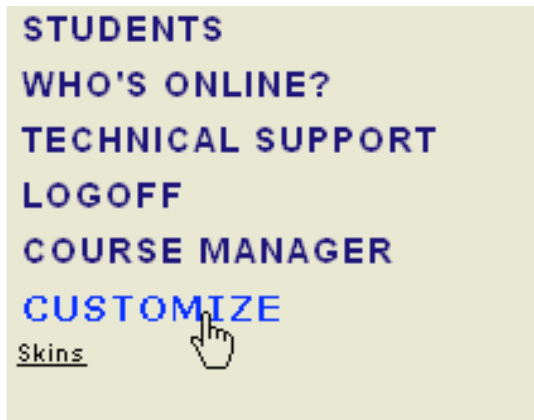
div id="mainActive" refers to the currently selected main navigation link

div id="subLinks" refers to the currently viewed sublinks

div id="subActive" refers to the currently selected sublink

The code in the sample textbox above reflects the all-text navigation bar shown to the left of the displayed screen. If you study the elements, properties and values, you'll see how the display area, fonts and hover qualities of the nav bar have been set in the code example. (This is the navigation bar in the demo.ucompass.com course.)

A simpler stylesheet may only change the font. To explain how this works, let's just look at the lines of code that establishes the base display of the navigation bar and then changes the font when the cursor hovers or clicks on the link:



At left is a section of a typical navigation column. We want to make the Customize link label change font and color when the cursor touches it. Here's a sampling of stylesheet code that will do that:

```
div#navbar a { display: block; margin: 0; padding: 2px; letter-spacing: 1px; text-align: left; font-family:Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif; font-size:14px; font-weight: bold; text-decoration:none; }  
div#navbar a:hover { font-family:verdana; font-weight:bold; color:#0000ff }
```

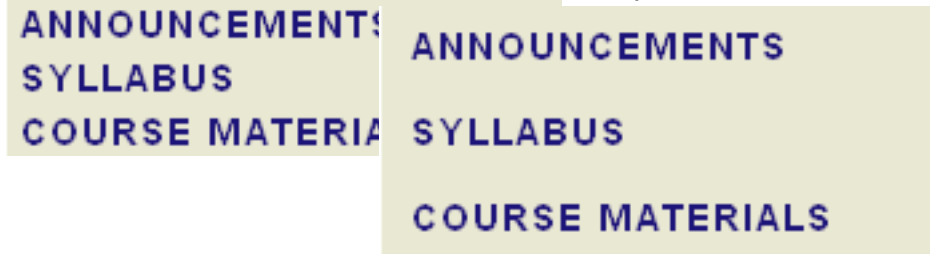
Let's look more closely at this code:

- div#navbar** The beginning is called the selection. It's the element that we want to act on; in this case, the entire nav bar base look.
- a** The a refers to the anchor just as when you create a link.

Inside the bracket is the formatting we want to use on the navbar:

display: block; Here we are specifying that the text appear in a block format with no margin...similar to a table with no border.
margin: 0;

padding: 2px; This creates space between the labels. Here's the difference between 2 pixels and 8 pixels:



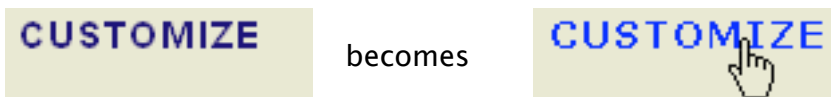
letter-spacing: 1px This refers to the number of pixels between letter.



text-align: left;	You can specify text alignment as left, center or right.
font-family:Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;	You can specify any font face you like as long as it's available on users' systems. Custom fonts will render probably as Times Roman or the like. Common web-friendly fonts are arial, helvetica, Verdana and Georgia
font-size:14px; font-weight: bold	Specify font size by the number of pixels, and weight as bold, bolder, normal or in values from 100(thin) –900(heavy), in increments of 100.
text-decoration:none;	Text decoration can be :underline :line (line through text) and :overline.

The next line specifies what happens to the nav bar labels when a cursor hovers over a label.

div#navbar a:hover	This is still referring to the anchor, but now notice the term hover.
{ font-family:verdana;	This specifies that the font should change from arial to verdana (a slightly larger font)
font-weight:bold;	This makes the verdana remain bold.
color:#0000ff }	This makes the color change from the base color specified in the customization font area, which in this case is navy to #0000ff, which is the hexadecimal value for blue.



That's a very quick overview of the way a stylesheet works. If you'd like to learn more about using stylesheets, here is a good tutorial from W3Schools: <http://www.w3schools.com/css/default.asp>