

System IT Board Report

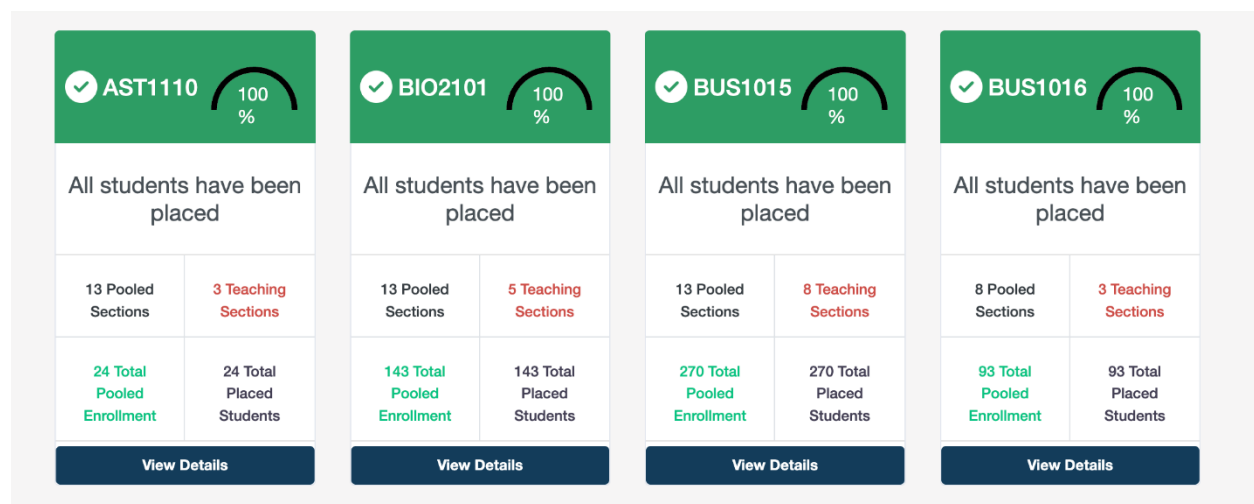
September 13, 2023

Colorado Online Milestone: Sectionizer

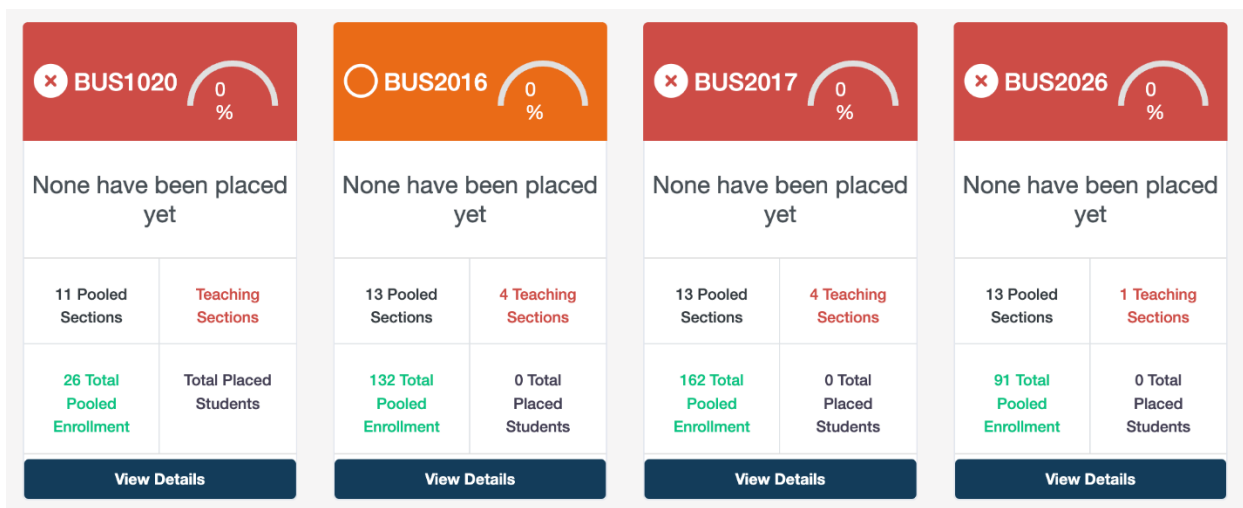
On August 22nd, System IT successfully met a significant milestone related to the Colorado Online (CO Online) initiative. The CO Online Sectionizer went live in production. The Sectionizer consists of a dashboard for viewing students enrolled in large pooled registration course sections at each of the colleges who need to be placed in smaller pooled teaching sections. These sections are called “pooled” because they are shared courses and can have students from any or all of the thirteen colleges. Processes and reports are also included in the Sectionizer to ensure appropriate placement and management of student enrollments. Teaching pooled sections are set to an optimum size for the type of course allowing for some drops prior to census date when enrollment counts are officially captured. Most teaching sections are set to a limit 34 students with a goal of an average of 25 students across all online courses at census date. The Sectionizer process is what moves the students from the pooled registration sections to the pooled teaching sections and evenly distributes students to meet the enrollment goals.

As a part of the Sectionizer functionality, integration with the Student Information System (Banner) also occurs. From the point a student registers at their home college to when grades are assigned by the teaching college and sent back to the student’s academic history at their home college, full Banner functionality was maintained with minimal customizations, primarily using campus, section and student registration codes and attributes. This allows students to register, apply for and receive Financial Aid, pay their tuition and course fees and receive advising and support all at their home college just like they do for any other course they take. They appear as a guest student at the teaching college. Faculty at the teaching college have a course roster in Banner just like every other course they teach other than the course may contain students from multiple colleges.

Sample of Fall 2023 Sectionizer Dashboard after the 15 week term has been sectionized.



Sample of the Fall 2023 Sectionizer Dashboard waiting for the 10 week term to be sectionized.



Fall 2023 15 week and first 7 week terms included 91 pooled registration sections and 228 pooled teaching sections. Over 6,200 students were successfully placed for the full term and the first 7 week part of term using the Sectionizer. There are just under 4,000 additional placements that will occur as we approach the start of the 10 week part of term, as well as the second 7 week part of term, both of which start later in the semester. A key goal of the technology was to minimize any disruption to students, staff, and faculty, keeping teaching and learning at the forefront.

In preparation for the Sectionizer go-live, System IT worked with the Implementation Strategy Team to prepare and present three Town Halls. These Town Halls were designed to ensure the colleges and system office had information they needed to support the new Sectionizer processes, understand the Banner integration and ultimately to support students enrolled in pooled registration and teaching sections.

The go-live went smoothly from the technical perspective, with only a few very minor issues reported. These minor issues were quickly resolved, ensuring minimal impact on students. Extensive use of student enrollment scenarios and testing helped to identify and address potential issues prior to the go-live.

Additionally, our Institutional Research & Business Intelligence (IRBI) department has been actively ensuring that reporting for CO Online is accessible, accurate, and consistent. Working with the CO Online Strategy Implementation team, IRBI advised on how business processes would impact reporting at both the system level and colleges. They have also been supporting the initiative by building new reports and modifying dozens of existing reports to account for CO Online courses and satisfy reporting needs not met by the Sectionizer dashboard. IRBI has also built reports to support a complex financial model that distributes exact tuition appropriate to both home colleges and teaching colleges.

The Sectionizer and reporting will continue to be enhanced as both need and business processes mature. One hundred courses were moved into the Colorado Online model for Fall 2023, 400 courses are anticipated for Spring Semester 2024. In addition, the same core technology will support the Rural College Consortium (RCC) starting for RCC courses Spring Semester 2024.