System IT Board Report

May 8, 2024

CO Online Sectionizer

Colorado Online Sectionizer is a custom application that was built to automate and streamline the CO Online Program's business processes and workflows. The Colorado Online IT Implementation Strategy Committee oversaw this application's design, implementation, and testing.

The first version of the application went live in August 2023, before the beginning of the Fall 23 term. This release included the main functionality and tools needed to sectionize students into their teaching sections from the pooled registration sections. It included other functionalityand features for reporting, Banner integration and other support information for the process.

The sectionization process refers to the steps taken to place a student who registered in a pooled registration section at their home college into a teaching section, which can be at a different college. In such a case, the Sectionizer performs all the steps the student would have taken to apply for the teaching school, a quick admit process and then registration for the desired course. All of these steps are done seamlessly via the Sectionizer to maximize student access, improve student experience, and improve school collaboration.

Here are some highlights for the sectionizing process for the last two terms:

	Courses	Pooled Enrolments	Unique Students	Pooled Sections	Teaching Sections	Avg. Teaching Sections Size	Med. Teaching Sections Size
Fall 2023	91	8,477	6,574	1,230	459	19	20
Spring 2024	263	23,889	15,483	3,757	1,119	22	22

Over 30,000 enrolments were successfully processed via the Sectionizer during the last two terms, Spring 2024 and Fall 2023. We expect to double this number over the coming three terms.

The second version of the application is expected to be released during the summer 2024 term. This version includes functionality and tools to automate the section distribution process. This includes

projecting how many sections of each course are needed to meet system-wide demand and which of the 13 colleges will teach each section. The following are some of the automated functionalities of the second release:

- The total number of sections will be calculated as home college or pooled teaching sections using historical online enrollment data for each college. The Sectionizer automatically creates and distributes those sections.
- Stakeholders (usually discipline and department chairs) at the colleges review the initial section distribution and submit information that confirms or declines the assigned sections.
- Stakeholders can submit a volunteer request to teach sections that other schools declined.
- The central team can quickly review and finalize the distribution details.
- Efficiently build the sections in Banner, leaving sufficient time for other stakeholders to complete tasks (e.g., enter course material fees in Banner) before registration begins.
- Tools to facilitate collaboration and communication to make necessary adjustments until students are placed in pooled teaching sections the week before classes begin.

Below is a screenshot of the course planning page, which shows the sections created for the course AAA1001.