

There's a new prospective student at Pensacola State College (PSC) who has to figure out what classes they need to register for, or who has to figure out their first time-in-college checklist. One question that student might pose is, "Where do I go?"

Some may suggest just going to the PSC website to find out. While that isn't a wrong thing to suggest at all, the PSC website really isn't very helpful when it comes to guiding new, or current students to figure out what they need to do.

Sure, there's the chat with an advisor feature that can be super helpful for general or specific questions, but why should someone have to depend on that to figure out where they need to go?

Some students just aren't as tech savvy as others and have a hard time figuring out the basic functions on a computer—such as logging out or using a web browser—let alone the complicated nature of the PSC website.

Looking back in cyberspace time using online tools such as the "Wayback Machine" by The Internet Archive, it can easily be seen how the PSC website has evolved over the years—with archives dating back to over 10 years ago.

Surprisingly, the website from over 10 years ago is a lot easier to navigate and find your way around than the website now.

Starting in 2014 though, the website was overhauled and has slowly evolved over the years to become what it is now—progressively getting more cluttered and more confusing with each iteration.

An example of added "confusing-ness" is the removal of drop-down boxes for each tab at the top of the site, making it harder for people to navigate and easily find where they need to go. The clutter doesn't help much either with the confusion, as various pages throughout the website—such as the eLearning tab, or the course catalog—have inconsistent styles and URLs.

The eLearning tab changes to a style that looks similar to an older iteration of the website. The online course catalog takes you to a completely different website.

If you want to be able to find the course catalog under the actual PSC website, you first have to find the college publications tab, and then sift your way through the long PDF going back and forth trying to figure out what classes are classified as what.

You could also explore another end of the website and find that handy degree path PDF that also shows in a different way what type of classes someone should take each semester.

Not to mention the icons that live next to each section in the navigation bar in some places look like arrows but don't work as them and load a new page entirely instead of listing each page under. In others, the navigation bar on the right and left have some of the same pages and some different pages.

In short, some things have just become unnecessarily complicated on the PSC website, and given the school's resources, this could easily be fixed. For one the school could assess the website and remove the clutter or redundant navigations.

Other things such as incorporating the course catalog into an easy to follow format that is still a part of the actual website, adding back the drop-down links for tabs, or adding a responsive degree path application instead of using confusing PDF files are all things that PSC could easily get done.

Or something that wouldn't be as easy but would be incredibly helpful to everyone is to just overhaul it. Now that may require more resources than simple fixes, but it would ultimately be an investment to the sanity and encouragement of students, faculty, and staff.