

Elentra Article for Curriculum Reform Newsletter

Elentra's New Name at CU – North Star

The University of Colorado's School of Medicine Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) program selected a new CMS/LMS system from a vendor named Elentra. Instead of using the vendor's name, the Implementation team decided the CU instance of the software should have a unique identity that resonates with its users. The Student Organization for Curriculum Reform (SOCR) developed a list of options and surveyed the MD Program student body to identify the most popular name. The votes are in, and **North Star** is the new name for the system!

Training is coming!

Training Approach:

To support first-time users, occasional users and those looking for more advanced features, we will offer training in small bites to allow people to learn as much as they need or want at a time. These bites will serve as both initial training and as a reference tool to be used as needs arise. This will not be classroom training; it will be computer-based training so people can take lessons when convenient.

Training Delivery:

To facilitate the self-serve aspect of our training design, the “bites” will be available on North Star and delivered through videos, how-to documents, open lab sessions and champions available to share their experience and approaches. We are even going to place solutions to common issues on help desk receipts that people receive when submitting a ticket. (Did you know that Help Desk Tickets for UME are now submitted through the SOM IS Help Desk? To submit a ticket go to medschool.zendesk.com)

Training Launch Schedule

Training is currently being developed and will be rolled out to populations as they need to start using North Star. Here is the schedule for launching training:

- Staff Training March
- Faculty Training April
- Plains Students Late May into June

We will send out communication as training becomes available. We will also post announcements on the project website: <https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/education/current-students/curriculum/elentra>

What is North Star?

UME is implementing a new CMS/LMS system named North Star and here is what it's all about.

Curriculum reform involves a complete redesign of the current curriculum content and learning modalities. One focus of the new curriculum is self-directed learning and student-defined learning tracks. This involves providing students real-time access to their learning and performance information and will require a fully integrated curriculum, assessment, and evaluation data model.

While curriculum-related milestones involving data integration have been met over the past few years, UME is currently at an impasse regarding the expansion of the existing curriculum management system (CMS) and learning management system (LMS) needed for curriculum reform. UME currently uses several disparate systems for curriculum management (iLios), assessment (ExamSoft), learning management (Canvas), Oasis (scheduling and evaluation), and student personalized calendars (Enrollment Manager). The objective of this project is to replace the multiple systems with a single integrated system that is specifically designed to meet the unique needs of a medical school.

An integrated curriculum data system and associated technologies are central to meeting the demands of contemporary education. The Elentra Platform™ (North Star) supplies this level of functionality. It is an integrated teaching and learning platform that addresses our current limitations and gaps.