

## Cascading Style Sheets – Why use them?

Cascading Style Sheets offer Web designers two key advantages in managing complex Web sites.

- **Separation of content and design.** CSS gives site developers the best of both worlds: content markup that reflects the logical structure of the information and the freedom to specify exactly how each HTML tag will look.
- **Efficient control over large document sets.** The most powerful implementations of CSS will allow site designers to control the graphic "look and feel" of thousands of pages by modifying a single master style sheet document. The Web Development Team has created a CSS style sheet to control some of the most common HTML attributes including: font face, font size, and font color.

### Style sheets provide greater typographic control with less code

When using plain HTML you need to define the physical properties of an element such as the <H1> tag each time you use it. When you define these properties using CSS, that single definition, or *rule*, applies to every instance of the <H1> element in all documents that reference the style sheet.

In addition, style sheets offer more formatting options than plain HTML tags and extensions. For example, interline spacing, or *leading*, can be controlled using style sheets, as can text properties such as letter-spacing and background color. The text formatting properties are implemented well enough across most browsers that using CSS provides cross-browser compatibility.

Source: Web Style Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. [www.webstyleguide.com](http://www.webstyleguide.com)

## Stylesheet guide

This stylesheet guide refers to mainstyle.css which is associated with the new CSU Web templates.

Class name	Where it is applied	What it does	Notes
p	All content that is not a heading	Sets the font size to 12px, adds left and right padding	
td.area2cell	The bottom section of the left navigation	Navy background, left and right padding	This area is optional. If there's no info for this space, don't apply style.
area2text	The bottom section of the left navigation	White 10px text, left and right padding	
barnav11px	The navigation items in top.htm	Sets font size to 11px, and creates a yellow hover state	
blue10px	Small links, like in bottom.htm	Sets font size to 10px, color blue, and removes underline except in hover state.	Blue fonts should be used only for links.
blue12px	Regular links in text	Sets font size to 12px, color blue, and removes underline except in hover state	Every link should have this style class unless otherwise noted.
blue14px	Special larger links	Sets font size to 14px, color blue, and removes underline except in hover state	This will rarely be used.
bold	Adds bolding to text and links	Makes text <b>bold</b>	This class is often used with another class, like "blue12px bold". You can have up to two styles per class.
black10px	Used for very small text.	Sets the font size to 10px	Used especially in the footer

			(bottom.htm) for contact info. Limited application, this font is too small to easily view.
black11px	Used for text that is slightly smaller than the regular <p> text.	Sets the font size to 11px	
crumb	Breadcrumbs at the top of page	Sets the font size to 10px, blue	Use in breadcrumbs <p> style as well as the <a> tag for links
crumbred	Use for the page you're on	Sets the font size to 10px, red	Only the last breadcrumb should be red
grayblue10ptlink	Use for links on gray background for small links	Sets the font size to 10px.	Use this for small links, like "more info" in info area 2.
redheading	Headlines and section headings	Sets the font size to 14px, color to red, weight bold, and top padding to 4px	Preferred headline style
red14px	Section headings	Same properties as redheading, but font is slightly different (Trecuchet MS)	
white11pxplain	White text/links on dark background	White 11px text. As a link it has a yellow hover state.	Mostly used in text area 1 and 2.
white13pxnospace	White text/links on dark background	White 13px text. As a link it has a yellow hover state.	Used in left navigation <a> tag.
ul.leftnav	Use for left navigation list.	Creates a list without bullets.	Always used in left navigation (left.htm) Used with li.navlist.
li.navlist	Sets font spacing and style for left navigation.	Sets padding, indent, line-height	Always used in left navigation (left.htm)

			Used with ul.leftnav.
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