How Stuff is Organized in Confluence

The Confluence Home Page

You may have arrived at this site through a link someone sent you. Or, you may have come through Confluence's Home Page by typing "wiki.canisius.edu." Either way, you can go (back) to the Confluence Home Page by clicking "Confluence at Canisius College" in the blue bar above, lefthand side. The Confluence Home Page shows you all spaces are available to you in Confluence.

Spaces

Spaces are areas within Confluence dedicated to particular subjects, departments, offices, programs or resources. They are created by Confluence administrators. Within spaces, content is organized and presented on pages, like other websites. Basic visibility restrictions for each space are established by your Confluence administrator, limiting the space to a particular office or department, or certain users. For example, you can see this space in Confluence because it has been configured to allow anyone to see it. Alternatively, a space can be restricted to certain users.

Pages

Within spaces, Confluence content is on linkable pages. These pages may be organized in a multitude of ways, depending on the content. Every space has a home page, like this one. Other pages within a space are called "child pages." By default, they are listed at the bottom of the home page screen. But when you create content in a space, you have a variety of visibility options that allow you to link between pages in helpful, practical, and clever ways, to better arrange your content.

The Child Pages for a space are listed at the bottom of the page, but can also be installed within this portion of text. For example, here a link to a page that explains how to add content to Confluence pages, and another link to a page that explains how to add pages to Confluence spaces.

Restrictions

Pages, and in some cases whole spaces, can be restricted so that only certain people can view or edit them. Some pages are visible to all Canisius employees, but no one else - not students, nor the rest of the world on the web. Others are limited to just a few faculty or staff. Probably most pages on the wiki are visible to the entire world, since they are used by divisions, offices, or departments to broadcast information that is not sensitive but is helpful to everyone at Canisius, and maybe beyond. If you cannot find a particular page you believe exists in the Canisius wiki, start by logging in. Then, if you cannot find it via search or navigation, contact someone whom you believe may be able to grant you access to it.

Navigation Options
In most cases visitors arrive at the wiki through a link that was shared with them via email or social media, or installed on another internet resource. But it is possible to browse or navigate the wiki to find what you need.

**The Landing Page**

At wiki.canisius.edu, you'll find a home or landing page for the entire Canisius wiki. On the left hand side you'll find various buttons that point to menus specifically for students, faculty or staff, or the basic organization of the college: divisions, schools, and so on. On the right hand side you'll see a list of spaces, that are subdivisions of the wiki. Depending on your position at the college, you may or may not see certain spaces. (So, too, with pages within spaces.)

**Breadcrumbs**

Within any space, you can use the links up top, arranged between slashes, to go back up the chain of parent pages. So, for example, if I see Getting Started in Confluence / Dashboard / Canisius Wiki: the Basics / How Stuff is Organized in Confluence at the top of a page, I can click "Canisius Wiki: the Basics," to return to that page, and "Getting Started in Confluence" to return to the space’s home or top-level parent page.

**In-Page Menus**

A lot of pages will have lists of links to other pages. Here's an example:

- Center for Online Learning and Innovation
- ITS HelpDesk Documentation
- Canisius Wiki: the Basics

If you are using a desktop or laptop computer, or some mobile devices, you may see a collapsible left hand menu that also contains page navigation within a space. This will work if you see it, but many mobile devices do not display it. If you are building and maintaining Wiki pages, we recommend you add menus within pages, too.

**Search**

The wiki has a search feature (in the upper right of any screen) that frequently returns helpful results. However, the wiki is a continuous work in progress, so page titles, especially on older pages, can often be non-descriptive and unhelpful when searching. So please be patient; search results should improve over time.

<< Back to the Beginning

Time to start building content in Confluence? Here's the Basics >>