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In [1]: from PyPDF2 import PdfReader

def extract_handbook_chunks(pdf_path, chunk_size=800, overlap=100):
    reader = PdfReader(pdf_path)
    text = "\n".join(page.extract_text() for page in reader.pages)

    sections = [
        "PROGRAM OVERVIEW",
        "PROGRAM ADMISSION INFORMATION",
        "ELIGIBILITY",
        "APPLICATION",
        "PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS",
        "COMMON CORE COURSES",
        "CONCENTRATION",
        "CPT",
        "OPT",
        "THESIS",
        "CAPSTONE",
        "ACADEMIC PROBATION",
        "LEAVE OF ABSENCE",
        "FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE",
        "RESOURCES",
    ]

    chunks, metadata = [], []
    current_section = "General"

    for line in text.split("\n"):
        if any(sec in line.upper() for sec in sections):
            current_section = line.strip()
            if len(chunks) == 0 or len(chunks[-1]) > chunk_size:
                chunks.append(line)
                metadata.append({"section": current_section})
            else:
                chunks[-1] += " " + line
    return chunks, metadata

chunks, metadata = extract_handbook_chunks("2025-2026-DSAE-MS-Handbook.pdf")
print(f"Extracted {len(chunks)} chunks with metadata")
```

Extracted 87 chunks with metadata

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In [2]: import chromadb
from sentence_transformers import SentenceTransformer

client = chromadb.Client()
collection = client.create_collection("ds_handbook")

embedder = SentenceTransformer("all-MiniLM-L6-v2")

embeddings = embedder.encode(chunks).tolist()
collection.add(
    documents=chunks,
    embeddings=embeddings,
    metadatas=metadata,
    ids=[f"chunk_{i}" for i in range(len(chunks))]
)

print("DSAE Handbook indexed in ChromaDB")
```

DSAE Handbook indexed in ChromaDB

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In [3]: from rank_bm25 import BM25Okapi

tokenized_corpus = [c.split(" ") for c in chunks]
bm25 = BM25Okapi(tokenized_corpus)

def hybrid_retrieve(query, top_k=3):
    q_emb = embedder.encode([query]).tolist()
    dense_results = collection.query(query_embeddings=q_emb, n_results=top_k)

    bm25_scores = bm25.get_scores(query.split(" "))
    bm25_top = sorted(list(enumerate(bm25_scores)), key=lambda x: x[1], reverse=True)
    bm25_docs = [chunks[idx] for idx, _ in bm25_top]

    docs = list(set(dense_results["documents"][0] + bm25_docs))
    return docs
```

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In [4]: import ollama

MODEL_NAME = "llama3.1"      #"mistral", "phi3", "gemma2:9b", "llama3.1"

def llama_answer(query, context):
    prompt = f"You are an ASU academic advising assistant. Use ONLY the context below to answer the question. Do not use any other information."
    response = ollama.chat(model=MODEL_NAME, messages=[{"role": "user", "content": query, "context": context}])
    return response["message"]["content"]
```

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In [5]: def rag_chat(query):
    docs = hybrid_retrieve(query)
    context = "\n\n".join(docs)
    answer = llama_answer(query, context)
    print("Context Used:\n", context[:600], "...")
    print("Answer:\n", answer)
```

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In [7]: rag_chat("I have an internship offer for next summer, but the company wants me to s
```

Context Used:

as a Job Seeker ” to become familiar with Principles for Professional Practice. Students who accept an offer from an organization and later renege the offer will be prohibited from requesting future internship opportunities pending a meeting with the Assistant Director. Required report A two-page typed minimum final report is required before a grade and credit is given. The final report must be submitted to the internship supervisor for comments and then ...

Answer:

No, you cannot start working until the summer semester officially starts (1st day of classes). Exceptions are given to students who provide proper justification from the company supporting this request.

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In [8]: # Notice that the agent is offering real advising guidance. It's not just quoting the handbook.
# It understands the situation described in the question, retrieves the relevant policy,
# and then applies that policy to provide a clear and actionable answer.
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Because it is trained on the actual ASU student handbook, the guidance it provides is accurate and aligned with university policy – making it significantly more useful than a standard FAQ chatbot.

At this stage, the system works in a single-turn setting (ask → retrieve → answer). A more advanced version is in development where I will add conversational memory, allowing follow-up questions and continuous advising sessions across multiple turns.