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#### Features:

- 1) A dynamic dashboard that allows users to input and compare key metrics like average standardized test scores, acceptance rates, and other admissions criteria for various graduate programs.
- 2) A built-in interview preparation tool that includes a customizable list of common graduate school interview questions.
- 3) A personal statement manager that helps students create and track multiple versions of their personal statements for different schools. The tool can include a side-by-side comparison of essay prompts, word limits.
- 4) A comprehensive calendar and task management system that helps students track deadlines for graduate school applications, including due dates for supporting documents like transcripts, test scores, and recommendation letters. The feature could send automatic reminders and allow students to mark tasks as complete.
- 5) A school comparison tool that enables users to evaluate non-academic factors such as campus culture, size, location, climate, cost of living, and proximity to home. Users can create pros and cons lists and rate schools based on personal preferences to help them identify the best overall fit for their lifestyle.
- 6) User login/register that allows users to create and login using their credentials.
- 7) Planner (to-do list) that allows users to create tasks with due dates, associated course, and assignment names.
- 8) Color coded planner for courses allows users to visual organize their task by color associated with a course.
- 9) Study group and tutoring chat rooms that allow students to join group chats related to their desired course and tutoring. These two will be separated and subcategories to allow efficient user search.
- 10) Resources page that will be categorized for specific academic related needs, allowing users to effectively find external sources to help them with the remainder of their academic career.

## Scenarios:

- Clark Kent is in graduate school after obtaining his bachelor's degree. He wants to start using the platform to help them with his graduate's process. Clark navigates to the register page and uses his information to fill in the required information. After registering, Clark can now sign with his credentials he just created.
- Matt Damon is a student in graduate school who wants to access the platform's personal planner in order to stop procrastinating. Matt navigates to the planner and creates a new task for each of his upcoming assignments that states what class, what the task is, and its due date.
- Stefan Damon is a student in graduate school and is disorganized with his course assignments. Stefan wants to color code his planner based on courses. Stefan navigates to the planner and looks for the additional color option for each of his tasks. He then picks a color for each course, which will automatically apply with tasks' selected course.
- Ashari Repend is a student in graduate school who wants to join study groups to discuss material and set up group meetups for studying. Ashari navigates to the study chat rooms feature and begins to look for study groups for her current course. She then attended a local group study session at the local coffee shop.

- Ben Snipi is a student in graduate school who has been self-isolating since he obtained his bachelor's degree. Ben would like to join mental health groups so that he can talk to people who have been in his position before. Ben navigates to the mental health chat rooms feature and writes a message explaining his situation. Ben quickly got good feedback and how to accept and get past his barriers.
  - Abby Peti is a student in graduate school who needs help understanding her complex material. She would like to have a tutoring session through chat where she can ask questions and get personalized help from tutors. Abby navigated to the tutoring chat rooms and created a chatroom looking for a tutor to answer a more in-depth question on course material. She then got a response explaining the answer to the complex question in a more digestible way.
  - Ben snipi is a student in graduate school who would like to start going to events to get out of his comfort zone. Ben navigates to the Events chat rooms feature where he looks at the upcoming events. He finds a chat room for a local networking event at the town hall, he ends up going and getting more comfortable with uncomfortability.
  - Matt Damon is a student in graduate school who wants to receive notifications for upcoming tasks that are due. He wants to receive a notification the day before it's due. Matt navigates to the planner and finds the additional notification section, he then sets a notification to send a day before its due or anytime after when the user logs in.
  - Ashari Repend is a student in graduate school who wants to access a list of resources for several topics, specifically about transitioning into graduate life. Ashari navigates to the resource page and finds the category transitioning to graduates. She then finds herself on a blog post by nc.gov about transitioning from undergraduate to graduate school.
  - Clark Kent is a student in graduate school who wants to set goals for each week and month to help plan for a financial stress free future. Clark navigates to the goals feature and creates his weekly and monthly goals about money, studying, and networking.
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- John Lark is getting ready to apply to graduate school. He wants to ensure he is applying to a wide variety of schools, including ones where he has a very high chance of getting accepted. He creates a spreadsheet and manually enters average standardized test scores of each school he considers applying to.
  - Jake Howard knows that some of the graduate programs he's applying to require an interview as part of the admissions process. He makes a list of common interview questions and practices his responses. He also researches faculty members who will interview him, noting their research interests and recent publications.
  - Emily Nguyen knows that each school she's applying to will require a slightly different personal statement. She creates a document to track each school's specific requirements, including word counts, essay prompts, and key themes she wants to highlight in each version.
  - Clara Faust is applying to eight different graduate programs, each with varying deadlines. She creates a calendar to ensure she meets each deadline, inputting not only the final application date but also reminders for submitting supporting documents, like transcripts and test scores.
  - Henry Leo is weighing factors beyond academics, such as campus culture, size, and location. He makes a pros and cons list for each school, considering whether he prefers an urban or rural setting, proximity to home, climate, and cost of living in each city.
  - Billy Lopez is concerned about future job prospects in a tumultuous market. He manually consolidates information about post-graduation outcomes for each program he is applying to.
  - Lydia Spencer realizes that applying to multiple graduate programs can get expensive. She creates a budget that includes application fees, standardized test fees, transcript request costs,

and travel expenses for potential interviews or campus visits. This helps her plan and allocate resources appropriately.

- Michael Clark needs three recommendation letters for his applications, so he starts by creating a list of professors and supervisors who can write strong letters for him. He carefully tracks when he reaches out to each recommender and follows up to ensure the letters are submitted on time.
- Jason Chen is studying for the GRE and wants to track his progress. He creates a study plan that breaks down specific topics to cover each week, alongside practice test dates and score improvements. He monitors his performance in each section to identify areas where he needs more focus.
- Alex Sparks wants to learn more about the graduate programs he's considering by attending virtual and in-person graduate school fairs. He makes a schedule of upcoming events, registers in advance, and takes notes on the programs he's interested in after speaking with admissions officers and current students.

## User Stories:

- As a new user, I want to sign up for an account so that I can access the platform's personalized features.
  - As a student, I want to create a planner so that I can stay on top of my assignments and deadlines.
  - As a graduate student, I want to use a color-coded planner so that I can categorize my task based on courses
  - As a graduate student, I want to join a study group so that I can collaborate with my peers.
  - As a graduate student struggling with a mental health problem, I want to join a mental health chat room so that I can share my situation and receive support.
  - As a graduate student, I want to access a tutoring chat room so that I can get help with complex material.
  - As a graduate student who wants to network, I want to access event chat rooms so that I continually network and stay out of my comfort zone.
  - As a graduate student I want reminders for upcoming due assignments, I want to receive notifications so that I can stay on top of my assignments.
  - As a graduate student I want to access a resource page with categorized links so that I can find more detailed support for my academic challenges.
  - As a graduate student I want to set academic and personal goals so that I can stay focused and make sure to make progress towards my goals.
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- As a prospective graduate student, I want to track the average standardized test scores of various schools so that I can apply to a range of programs, including those where I have a high chance of acceptance.
  - As a prospective graduate student, I want to create a list of common interview questions and research faculty members so that I can effectively prepare for graduate school interviews.
  - As a prospective graduate student, I want to track each school's specific personal statement requirements so that I can tailor my essays to meet each program's expectations.

- As a prospective graduate student, I want to set up a calendar with all my application deadlines and reminders so that I can submit all my materials on time for each school.
- As a prospective graduate student, I want to compare factors like campus culture, size, and location so that I can choose a school that fits my lifestyle and personal preferences.
- As a prospective graduate student, I want to consolidate information about job placement rates for each program so that I can make informed decisions about future career opportunities.
- As a prospective graduate student, I want to create a budget that tracks application fees, test costs, and other expenses so that I can manage my finances while applying to multiple schools.
- As a prospective graduate student, I want to track when I request recommendation letters and when they are submitted so that I can ensure my applications are complete and on time.
- As a prospective graduate student, I want to create a study plan for the GRE and track my progress so that I can improve my scores and perform well on the exam.
- As a prospective graduate student, I want to register for graduate school fairs and info sessions so that I can learn more about the programs I'm interested in and ask questions directly to admissions officers.