Software Requirements Specification

**for**

**AI Based Career Counselling and Career Transition Recommender System**

**Version 1.1**

**Prepared by**

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**Revisions**

| **Version** | **Primary Author(s)** | **Description of Version** | **Date Completed** |
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| Version 0.1 | Fizza Mazhar | The first version of the SRS to have all the requirements included. | 30/11/24 |

# Introduction

The project focuses on developing a counseling platform for students in Pakistan who have completed their 12th grade. The platform addresses the challenges students face in deciding their career paths and understanding university admission processes. By providing personalized recommendations, university information and insights into field trends, the platform empowers students to make informed decisions about their higher education.

In this section you will find a comprehensive outline of the project's purpose and the problems it seeks to solve. This section highlights the challenges faced by students after 12th grade in Pakistan, including their lack of awareness about career options and university admission processes. It also introduces the platform's primary objectives, emphasizing how it provides tailored guidance, university recommendations and insights into field trends.

## Document Purpose

This document specifies the software requirements for the **Counseling Platform for Students in** **Pakistan** after 12th grade. The platform is designed to assist students in choosing suitable fields of study and identifying universities that match their academic credentials, interests and career goals. It aims to address the lack of career guidance and awareness among students regarding the field options available and the university admission processes in Pakistan. The platform, in its current scope, provides personalized field and university recommendations, trend analysis and field comparisons.

This SRS describes the full scope of the system, encompassing its core functionalities such as data collection, aggregate calculation, field and university suggestions and dashboard visualizations. It also defines the boundaries of this release which includes trend analysis tools and visualizations based on datasets from 2018 to 2024. The document ensures a detailed understanding of the system’s objectives, features and intended users forming the foundation for design, development and implementation.

## Product Scope

The **Counseling Platform for Students in Pakistan** is a web-based application designed to guide students after 12th grade in making informed decisions about their future education and career paths. The platform collects academic data (Matric, FSC marks and test scores like NTS or NET) and preferences (study stream and interests) to recommend suitable fields of study and universities. It also provides detailed information about university admission criteria, deadlines, and admission links. The platform features a dashboard for visualizing field trends and performing comparisons allowing students to explore growing and declining fields both locally and globally.

The platform benefits students by addressing the knowledge gap about available academic fields and admission processes, thus reducing the uncertainty and stress involved in making critical career decisions. It empowers users with actionable insights and data-driven recommendations, enabling them to align their academic choices with market trends and global opportunities. The website aims to enhance career awareness, streamline the university selection process and help students achieve their educational and professional goals.

## Intended Audience and Document Overview

This document is intended for a diverse group of readers involved in understanding, developing or evaluating the Counseling Platform for Students in Pakistan. Key audience types include:

1. **Client** to understand the scope, objectives and features of the platform ensuring alignment with their vision and requirements.
2. **Professor** to evaluate the project’s objectives, methodology, and alignment with academic standards and best practices.
3. **Developers** to use the technical requirements and system design as a reference for implementing the platform.
4. **Testers** to identify test cases and validate the system’s functionality against the specified requirements.
5. **Project managers** to monitor project progress and ensure all requirements are addressed within the planned timeline.
6. **Documentation writers** to create user guides, help manuals, and other instructional content based on the system’s features and functionality.

The document overview is explained below:

1. **Introduction** describes the document's purpose, scope, audience, platform objectives and challenges.
2. **Overall description** provides a high-level overview of the platform, its context and constraints.
3. **Specific requirements** details functional requirements and use cases for user interactions.
4. **Non-functional requirements** defines performance, security and quality attributes.
5. **Design requirements** includes architectural patterns, design diagrams and interface mockups.
6. **Data design and relationships** explains database schema, ER diagrams and data dictionary.
7. **Software planning and timeline** outlines work breakdown structure, milestones and project timeline.
8. **Quality assurance plan** lists testing requirements, acceptance criteria and test cases.

Suggested reding sequence is given below:

1. Start with Introduction to understand the project.
2. Move to Overall Description for high-level context.
3. Review Specific Requirements for detailed functionalities.
4. Refer to Design Requirements for system architecture.
5. Check Data Design for database understanding.
6. Look at Software Planning for project timeline insights.
7. End with Quality Assurance for validation strategies.

## Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations

Some acronyms and abbreviations used in document as given below

1. **AI** (Artificial Intelligence) is the simulation of human intelligence in machines.
2. **ER** Diagram (Entity-Relationship Diagram) is the visual representation of database relationships.
3. **FCS** (Faculty of Computer Science) is the study stream for computer-related fields.
4. **FSC** (Faculty of Science) is the study stream for science-related fields.
5. **GUI** (Graphical User Interface) is the visual interface for user interaction.
6. **IEEE** (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) is the standardization organization.
7. **NET** (National Engineering Test) is the entry test for engineering universities in Pakistan.
8. **NTS** (National Testing Service) is the testing body conducting standardized tests in Pakistan.
9. **SRS** (Software Requirements Specification)is the document detailing software system requirements.
10. **UML** (Unified Modeling Language) is the standardized modeling language in software engineering.

## 1.5 Document Conventions

The following standards and conventions were followed when writing this SRS:

**Font:**

1. **Text**: Times New Roman, 12pt.

**Headings**:

1. Heading 1: 16pt, Bold.
2. Heading 2: 14pt, Bold.
3. Heading 3: 12pt, Bold.
4. Figure captions: 11pt, placed below figures.
5. Table captions: 11pt, placed above tables.

**Spacing:**

1. Line Spacing: 1.5.
2. Paragraph Spacing: 12pt after Heading 1.

**Alignment:**

All text is justified.

**Margins:**

Standard 1-inch margins (Top, Bottom, Left, and Right).

**Header and Footer:**

1. Header: Project title on the right.
2. Footer: Page numbers on the right.
3. Header and footer begin from the abstract section onward.

**Section and Subsection Titles:**

1. Section titles follow a hierarchical numbering system limited to three levels (e.g., 3, 3.1, 3.1.1).
2. Titles are formatted in bold according to their respective heading levels.

**Special Text Formatting:**

1. Abstract: Italicized.
2. Comments: Italics.

**Referencing Style:**

1. APA referencing style is used for journals, conference papers, websites, and books.
2. Date and time of access are included for online references.
3. Wikipedia references are not accepted.

**Additional Conventions:**

1. Table of Contents: Updated to reflect accurate page numbers.
2. List of Figures and Tables: Included only if the document contains more than three tables or figures.
3. Figures and Tables: Properly captioned and referenced within the text.

## References and Acknowledgements

**References**

1. IEEE Software Requirements Specification Standards.
2. FYDP Documentation Formatting Style from HITEC University Taxila guidelines for documentation formatting (Version 2024).
3. APA Referencing Guidelines for scholarly citations and references.

**Web Resources**

University Admission Portals for Pakistan for links provided in the respective recommendations.

**Acknowledgments**

1. Department of Computer Science, HITEC University Taxila for providing academic guidance and formatting standards.
2. Instructor and TA for continuous support and feedback during the documentation process.
3. Data providers and contributors for sharing valuable datasets used in trend analysis and recommendation systems.

# Overall Description

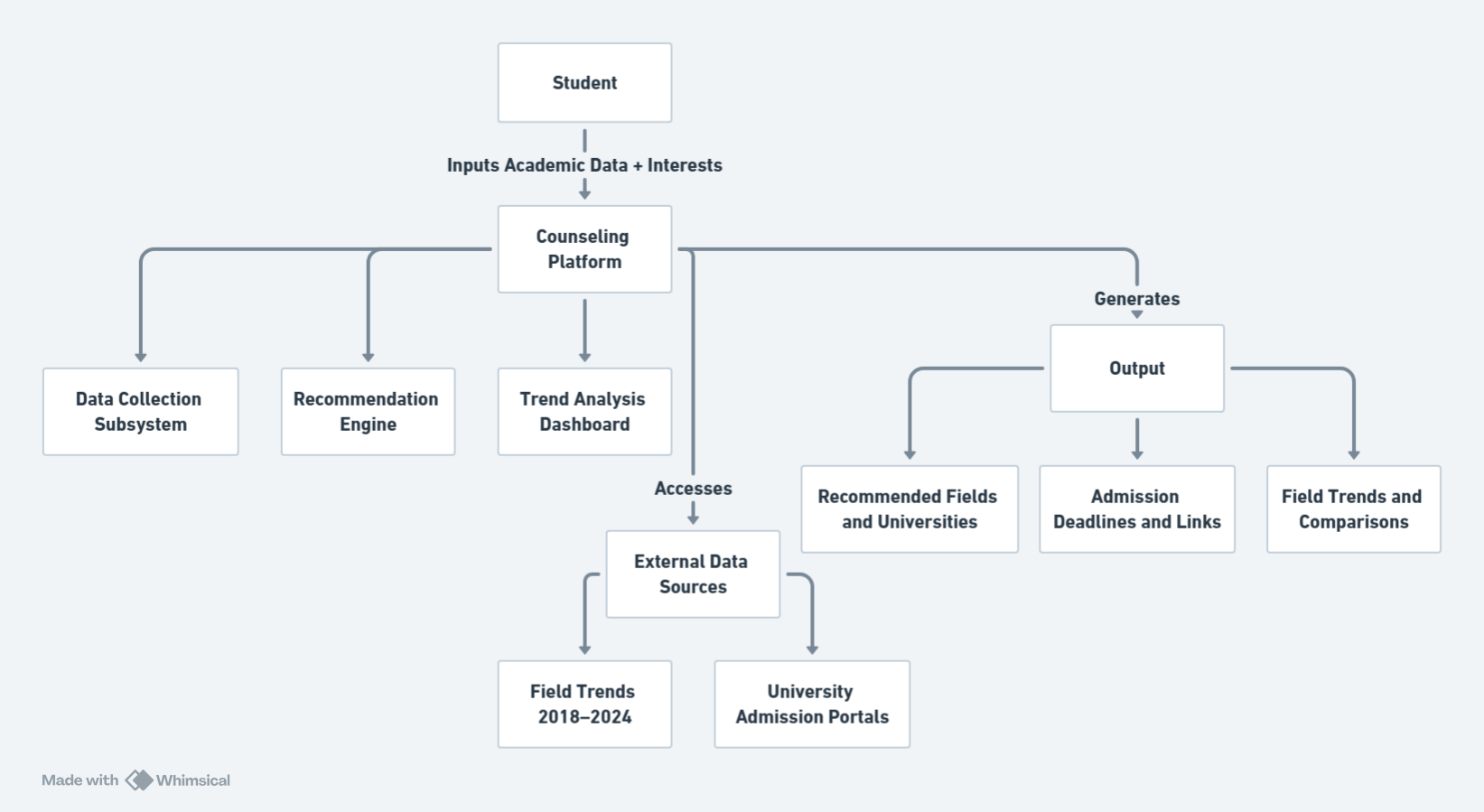
## 2.1 Project Overview

The Counseling Platform for Students in Pakistan is a self-contained, web-based application designed to address the challenges students face after completing their 12th grade. It is a new initiative aimed at providing personalized field and university recommendations based on academic performance, interests and current field trends. Unlike traditional career counseling systems which often rely on manual processes or generic advice, this platform leverages data-driven insights and visualizations to make informed, personalized recommendations.

The platform integrates multiple subsystems including user data collection, field recommendation algorithms, university matching and trend analysis dashboards. It interacts with external data sources such as historical university merit aggregates (2018–2024) and global field demand statistics ensuring relevance and accuracy. The system also interfaces with university admission portals to provide students with application links and deadlines making the admission process more accessible.

The platform operates in the following context:

1. **Input**: Student data (academic scores, study streams, interests) and external datasets (field trends, admission criteria).
2. **Processing**: Aggregate calculation, field matching, trend visualization and recommendation generation.
3. **Output**: Personalized field and university recommendations, trend insights and comparison visualizations.



**2.2 Product Functionality**

1. Collects user academic details, study streams, and interests for personalized recommendations.
2. Suggests suitable fields based on academic performance and preferences.
3. Recommends universities aligned with calculated aggregates and selected fields.
4. Displays field trends through visualizations based on historical data (2018–2024).
5. Enables comparison of multiple fields regarding growth, demand and opportunities.
6. Shows global demand for fields to explore international career prospects.
7. Provides an interactive dashboard for trend exploration and detailed insights.
8. Directs users to university admission portals with deadlines and guidance.

## 2.3 Design and Implementation Constraints

The following constraints will guide the design and implementation of the platform:

### 2.3.1 Hardware Limitations

1. The platform must function efficiently on mid-range hardware configurations with limited memory and processing power.
2. The server hosting the platform should support parallel processing to handle multiple users simultaneously.

### 2.3.2 Technologies and Tools

1. The platform will be developed using React.js for the front end and Node.js for the back end.
2. MongoDB will be used as the database to manage user data and historical datasets.
3. Data visualization will be implemented using D3.js or Chart.js for dynamic graphs and dashboards.

### 2.3.3 Interfaces

1. The system will interact with external university portals to provide admission links.
2. It will integrate with APIs or external data sources for global field demand statistics.

### 2.3.4 Programming Standards

1. The software will adhere to COMET (Concurrent Object Modeling and Architectural Design Technique) for design.
2. UML (Unified Modeling Language) will be used for system modeling including class diagrams, use case diagrams and sequence diagrams.

### 2.3.5 Language and Protocols

1. The system will be built using JavaScript.
2. Communication between client and server will use HTTPS for secure data transmission.

### 2.3.6 Security Considerations

1. User data will be stored securely, adhering to GDPR-like privacy standards.
2. All sensitive information such as login credentials will be encrypted.
3. The platform will use authentication mechanisms (e.g., OAuth 2.0) for secure user access.

### 2.3.7 Design Conventions

1. Follows the HITEC University Taxila documentation standards for consistency.
2. The UI/UX design will adhere to accessibility standards ensuring usability for all users.

### 2.3.8 Parallel Operations

The platform must support concurrent users accessing recommendations and visualizations without performance degradation.

## 2.4 Assumptions and Dependencies

Assumptions of the project are as following

1. It is assumed that users will enter accurate and complete academic and interest data for personalized recommendations.
2. Historical datasets (2018–2024) and global field demand statistics are assumed to be accurate, complete and free from significant discrepancies.
3. Users will have a stable internet connection to access the platform and interact with dynamic visualizations.
4. The platform will be accessed on modern browsers (e.g., Chrome, Firefox) with standard features enabled (e.g., JavaScript).

Dependencies of the project are given below

1. The platform relies on APIs or data files for university merit lists and global field trends. Any changes or unavailability in these sources could affect functionality.
2. Data visualization depends on libraries like D3.js or Chart.js, which must remain supported and updated.
3. The system depends on reliable hosting services for server and database deployment.
4. The use of OAuth 2.0 or similar third-party authentication protocols is assumed for secure user login.
5. Components from similar projects or open-source libraries may be reused to expedite development, assuming compatibility with the platform.

# Specific Requirements

# 3.1 External Interface Requirements

## 3.1.1 User Interfaces