AutoAdvisor User Manual

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This advising tool is provided by AutoAdvisor on an "as is" basis. AutoAdvisor makes no representations or warranties of any kind concerning the safety, suitability, correctness, typographical errors, or validity of this advising tool. AutoAdvisor will not be liable for any losses, educational mishaps, or uninformed decisions arising from its use. AudoAdvisor stores a limited amount of user information which includes: email addresses, passwords, past courses, future courses, transcripts, grades, and GPA. The user/administrator assumes all risk and responsibility with using this advising tool. AutoAdvisor is in no way affiliated with the developers, owners, or administrators of (1) the Spire system or (2) the University of Massachusetts Amherst Office of Information Technologies.

Preface

AutoAdvisor overview:

AutoAdvisor is a course selection aid. It solves the problem of selecting courses that best meet the academic and lifestyle requirements of today's on-the-go student. It lets users find classes they should take that they might not otherwise have found and save time and effort that would be wasted on the inefficiencies of SPIRE. It eliminates the requirement of user expertise for class selection, allowing users to create excellent class schedules without needing to learn the eccentricities of the SPIRE system.

Using SPIRE directly allows users to add classes directly from the class search feature, but AutoAdvisor can meet or exceed the utility of this feature by giving 5-digit course numbers to use directly on the enrollment page. SPIRE's main weaknesses are that searching for anything on it takes a tremendous amount of time, and the user must already know what sorts of things might satisfy their requirements.

AutoAdvisor will provide all the information needed by the user on the main webpage through which the website is accessed.

Documents, contact infomation, and further help for AutoAdvisor can be found at:
https://github.com/Auto-Advisor/autoadvisor/wiki

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Guide Body

1. Registration and sign Up:
- First time users must register an account before using AutoAdvisor for the first time. This can be accomplished by following these steps:
    a. Go to http://autoadvisor.elasticbeanstalk.com/
    b. If the page in in full screen, click the 'Sign up' link on the upper left of the page.
    c. If the page in not in full screen, click the drop down menu on the upper right of the page, then click the 'Sign up' link on the upper left of the page.
    d. Enter a valid email address followed by a password and confirmation of that password. Then click 'Sign up' to create an account.

2. Account login and logout:
- Returning users can login to AutoAdvisor and easily log out:
    a. Login:
        i. Go to http://autoadvisor.elasticbeanstalk.com/.
        ii. Click on the 'Sign in' link on the middle right side of the page.
        iii. Enter a registered email followed by a password.
        iv. Click 'Sign in' to access the AutoAdvisor account.
    b. Logout:
        i. If the page in not in full screen, click the drop down menu on the upper right of the page, then click 'Logout' in the upper left of the page.
        ii. If the page is in full screen, click 'Logout' in the upper left of the page.

3. Upload unofficial transcript or individual courses:
- Users can upload an unofficial transcript. This will automatically add those courses to the users account. Unofficial transcripts should be in text (.txt) format. To do this please copy the unofficial UMass transcript pdf document into a text file before uploading.
- To upload a transcript or course:
    a. login.
    b. Click on 'Transcript' in the middle right side of the page.
    c. To upload an individual course:
        i. Look for the 'ADD TRANSCRIPT ITEM' box.
        ii. Fill in the year, course code, course name, and grade.
        iii. Click 'submit' to add course to account.
        iv. The newly uploaded course should be visible in the 'TRANSCRIPT' at the top of the page.
    d. To upload an unofficial UMass transcript text document:
        i. Look for the 'UPLOAD TRANSCRIPT' box.
        ii. Click 'Browse...' and select your UMass transcript text (.txt) document.
        iii. Click 'upload' to upload the transcript.
        iv. The newly uploaded transcript should be visible in the 'TRANSCRIPT' at the top of the page.

4. Schedule recommendation:
- Users can get a schedule recommendation with the advisor function. The default recommendation contains 4-5 courses with a total of 12-15 credits. The recommender does not recommend Independent Studies, Practicum, or Thesis courses (courses

ending in 96, 98, or 99), though users can request these courses manually.
- To get a schedule recommendation:
    a. Login.
    b. Click 'Advisor' in the middle right side of the page.
    c. To add a new filter constraint, select 'Add New Constraint'
    d. Choose a constraint from the drop down menu.
    e. Click 'Add New Constraint' to add an additional filter constraint.
    f. Click 'Show Me My Options' for a schedule recommendation.
    g. A recommended schedule will appear below.
    h. You have the option to remove courses from the recommender at this time.
    i. You can also click 'Save This Schedule' to the recommended schedule to your schedules (see: 6. view and edit schedule)

5. View and edit schedule:
- Users can view and edit their schedule:
    a. Login.
    b. To created a schedule see: .4 Class recommendation.
    c. Click 'Schedule' in the middle right of the page.
    d. To delete the current schedule, click 'Delete Schedule'

6. Edit personal profile:
- Users can edit or delete their personal profile:
    a. Login.
    b. If the page in not in full screen, click the dropdown menu of the upper right of the page, then click 'Edit account' in the upper left of the page.
    c. To edit the profile, change the required information and click 'Update'
    d. To delete an account, click 'Cancel my account'.

Glossary

Description of terminology found in this document:
- Unofficial transcript - University of Massachusetts Amherst unofficial transcript.
- Course code - The official University of Massachusetts Amherst course code in the form DEPARTMENTXXX (E.G MATH131).
- Grade - Letter grade of the course.
- Course name - Official University of Massachusetts Amherst course name.