Graduation Placement Service (GPS)

**Overall Description**

Wouldn’t it be nice if we have a Graduation Placement Service (GPS)? Such a service would help students to decide which postgraduate (PG) universities and places of employment to apply upon graduation. Students can draw from the knowledge of the many graduates who have treaded this path before them. Most students generally do not know much about PG application. So they hire agents for help, which often wastes a lot of time and money.

When a student enters his or her GPA, the GPS app would show a list of universities and programs that have previously accepted UIC graduates with GPA and major similar to the user’s.

Similar if a person is interested in employment after graduation. The app can show what type of jobs our alumni similar to him or her had obtained.

**Requirements**

1. The software focuses on postgrad (PG) program application. The type of degrees include: taught masters, research masters and others (e.g. Ph.D. and professional degrees).
2. The software can collect information on students’ offers and analyze the information with the students’ GPA.
   1. The software can generate a report for each year on the graduate program applications.
3. There are three types of students: students who received offers, students who want to apply for postgraduate programs or jobs, and alumni.
   1. Students who got offers (including alumni)
      1. Enter the information for their offers, including university name, program name, the date the offer is given, and a photocopy of the offer.
      2. If the university name is not in the list, the software will ask the user to input the details.
      3. Different type of info is required for taught master and research master program.
      4. We will send the photocopy of the offer to the UIC database. They will determine if the offer is genuine or not. We only enter the offer information into the system if the offer is declared as genuine by the UIC database.
   2. Students who want to apply to postgrad
      1. If a student enters his or her GPA, the software returns a list of universities and programs that had accepted our alumni with GPA similar to the user’s GPA.
      2. If a student enters a university program, the software returns the GPA range of our alumni and students that had received offers from that university program.
      3. A student can get a rough idea on the period during which the offer was given.
      4. The results can be categorized according to year and major.
   3. Alumni can share knowledge points related to undergrad courses required by the program they are taking or have taken, so that other students can know more about the postgraduate programs of the alumni.
4. The system can access the relevant AR databases, such as the GPA of students (including alumni) who received offers.
   1. For code development purpose, a simulated AR database will be used.
5. The system has access to relevant UIC databases, such as login accounts and passwords.
   1. For code development purpose, a simulated UIC database will be used.
   2. For students applying to postgrad program, we can require the users to enter their student IDs or UIC email address as the usernames. Then the users can set up their own and password.
   3. When students become alumni, they can keep their account names and passwords. Alumni can be differentiated from current students by the first letter in their student ID. (Note: If we have an alternate way for alumni account name, we will give an update.)
      1. Advantage: The software can be used and improved without the support from the college.
      2. Disadvantage: The software needs to maintain the login information and decide if the user is from UIC.
6. This application can be expanded to include offers from industries or organizations. We need to process information such as company name, country, job title, qualification and so on.

Additional Requirements:

1. Taught master versus research master program: The research master program has all the requirements of the taught master program. Furthermore, to be admitted to the research master program, a student must find a professor willing to be his or her research supervisor, based on the research potential of the student. For example, the student may have published a paper or participated in a research project.
2. The yearly report: In addition to showing a list of colleges and universities that had accepted UIC students that year, there must be some indication of the GPA of the students accepted. However due to privacy issues, we cannot show the GPA of individual students. So the report may only show aggregate information on the students’ GPA. For example, a plot may show the colleges or universities in the horizontal axis and the range of GPA of the accepted students in the vertical axis.
3. In the previous requirement, the displayed range of the GPA cannot be smaller than a minimum value, say 0.2, for each college or university. In the situation where an (elite) university only accepted 1 or 2 students, the exact GPA of the student(s) is not shown. Randomly impose the minimum range over the actual GPA of the student(s), so the actual GPA is not always located in the middle or end points of that range.
4. Alumni knowledge points: Some alumni may be reluctant to give their names in the knowledge points. So allow alumni the options to show (a) their actual names, (b) their graduation year, (c) their gender, etc. Hence attached to a knowledge point, we may have 2020M (for anonymous 2020 male graduate) or Alice Wong 2015F (for Alice Wong 2015 Female graduate), etc.