**MCS Advisor Competition**

Planning the future is tough and there is a particular challenge when planning your academic course schedule for future semesters. We believe the department already has the talent and expertise to produce a useful tool that will help our students figure out options for their future schedules. We would like to announce the MCS Advisor contest.

The goal is to create an advising tool that will take inputs of the degree requirements, the course offering schedule, and a list of the courses a student has completed along with the grades for each course. The output should be a potential class selection for future semesters along with any relevant recommendations that will help keep students on schedule and also adhere to the requirements of general education.

Judging criteria:

* The program must be easy to use and easy to maintain.
* The output should be clear, concise, and accurate to the requirements to the degree.
* The program should check the general education requirements are completed within the first 64 credits (with the exception of ENGL 289). A student should be half done with the general education within the first 32 credits. The program should provide accurate guidance regarding the restriction that a student must have two different prefixes for Goal 3 and two prefixes for course in Goal 4 (Goal 4 does have the exception of foreign language and a student can take two of the same prefix if it is the same prefix).
* The program should be flexible so that the changes in degree requirements and changes in schedule offering can be made into the inputs and be properly accommodated in the output.
* The program should be well documented so it is clear how to change the inputs to have the desired results in the output.
* The program should be able to incorporate what a student has completed combined with the courses they are currently taking in order to build potential future schedules.
* A bonus consideration is given to a program that can proper advise double majors in math and computer science.

Selection committee will be comprised of: Department Head, CS faculty member, Math faculty member, CSR student, CS student, and a Math student.

Deadline is close of business (4:30 pm Mountain) on **XXXX**. Grand prize is $500 for a program the department can deploy, Second Place = $200, and $100 Third Place.

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| OUTCOMES | EVALUATION |
| 1. Easy to use  * So easy a freshmen student can use the software? * So easy that faculty can use it? * So easy that the Department Head and staff use it? | /20 pts. |
| 1. Easy to maintain  * Simple structure * Easy to maintain * Easy to modify if requirements or scheduling changes | /30 pts. |
| 1. Properly check general education  * Half done in first 32 credits * All but ENGL 289 done by 64 credits * Proper advise to help finish general education | /10 pts. |
| 1. Helps build a future semester plan  * Provides help with planning future semesters based on current requirements, current offering schedule, and classes completed. * Can plan multiple semesters with up to 4 future semesters. | /15 pts. |
| 1. Provides proper advice  * Allows for priority attention for courses critical to the major   + CSC has priority to CSC 300   + Math needs CSC 251 as early as possible   + Chains in prerequisites in required courses forces students to take some courses at a particular time. For example, CSC 300 prerequisite to CSC 461 that is prerequisite to CSC 468. Students need to be encourage to take courses that belong in a chain. | /17 pts. |
| 1. Encourages student to meet with their advisor  * This shouldn’t replace the advisor meeting; it should make the advisor meeting more meaningful. * Software should be very clear this does not replace the meeting with the advisor and it should encourage students to meet with their advisor. * Does this software motivate students to meet with their advisor? | /8 pts. |
| Overall Evaluation | Total 100 pts. |
| Bonus consideration: Advise double majors | /15 pts. |

**Evaluation Rubric**