

COLATA

CORDEO E. C. | LATAGAN F. G | TAMBURANI N. F.

Overview:

Transitioning to college life is a significant milestone that presents a unique set of challenges for students worldwide. One of the most common struggles is forming friendships and social connections in a new environment. This issue is particularly pronounced among international students, who often grapple with language barriers, cultural differences, and feelings of isolation. These challenges can impact their academic performance, mental health, and overall well-being. Despite these difficulties, forming friendships in college is an enriching experience that contributes to personal growth and a broader understanding of diverse cultures.

In the Philippines, the struggle to form friendships in college is also prevalent, especially among freshmen and students transitioning to a new academic environment. The shift from high school to college often brings about changes in academic standards and expectations, leading to emotional, social, and academic adjustment challenges. The recent shift to virtual learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated these issues, leading to increased stress, anxiety, and feelings of social isolation among Filipino college students. These struggles highlight the need for supportive resources and interventions to help students adapt to college life and form meaningful social connections.

At Mapúa Malayan Colleges Mindanao (MMCM), many students struggle to find their social circle. This issue is particularly acute for irregular students, those who have shifted to a different course, and newcomers from other schools. In an environment where it seems everyone already knows each other; these students often feel isolated and excluded.

Solving the Problem:

Currently, students rely on social media platforms and school-organized events to find friends. While these methods have their strengths, such as broad reach and ease of access, they also have significant drawbacks. Social media can be overwhelming and impersonal, and school events may not cater to all interests or schedules. Additionally, these systems do not specifically address the needs of irregular, shifted, or transfer students.

The Mumble app will function within the broader social and technical ecosystem of MMCM, despite the absence of existing digital platforms specifically for student connections. Currently, popular Facebook pages like MMCM Confessions facilitate student engagement. The Mumble app can leverage this by integrating features that utilize the popularity and engagement of these pages. For instance, the app can include a confession link and provide real-time updates from the MMCM Confessions page. This integration will help the app tap into existing student interactions, enhancing its effectiveness and appeal. Support from faculty and student organizations will also be crucial for the app to successfully interact with the social dynamics on campus.

Understanding the user profiles and tasks reveals the need for a highly accessible and engaging platform that fosters real connections. The app should be designed to facilitate easy group

discovery and participation, tailored to the diverse needs of MMCM students. These insights will guide the development of features that ensure every student, regardless of their background, can find their circle and thrive in their academic and social life.

The Application:

- **Application name:** Mumble
- **What it is:**

Mumble is a mobile application designed to address the social challenges faced by students at Mapúa Malayan Colleges Mindanao (MMCM). The app aims to facilitate the formation of friendships and social connections, particularly for irregular students, those who have shifted courses, and newcomers from other schools. Mumble provides a platform where students can identify and join interest-based groups, engage in conversations, and attend social events. It integrates with existing digital platforms like MMCM Confessions to enhance student engagement. The app is designed with usability criteria in mind, including ease of use, accessibility, personalization, engagement, and privacy. By fostering real connections and facilitating easy group discovery and participation, Mumble aims to ensure every student, regardless of their background, can find their circle and thrive in their academic and social life.

- **Features:**

The team will include the following features in the application:

- **Identify Interest Groups:** Users browse through various interest-based groups.
- **Join Groups:** Users apply to join groups that match their interests. Students could also form a study group.
- **Engage in Conversations:** Users participate in group chats and activities to get to know other students.
- **Attend Events:** Users attend social events organized by the groups to build face-to-face connections.

Future app enhancements will be based on users' needs, ensuring that new features and updates align with their preferences.

- **Questions about the Application:**

- **Who are the potential users?**
 - **Irregular Students:** Those who are not following the regular course schedule due to various reasons such as academic performance or personal issues.
 - **Students Who Shifted Courses:** Students who have changed their academic path and thus find themselves in new peer groups.
 - **Transfer Students:** Those who have moved from other schools and are adjusting to a new environment.

- **What tasks do they seek to perform?**
 - **Building Friendships:** Users aim to find and form long-lasting friendships.
 - **Social Integration:** Users need to integrate into existing social structures within the school.
 - **Participation in Activities:** Users seek to join clubs, groups, and social events to enhance their campus experience.
- **What functionality should any system provide to these users?**
 - **Group Discovery:** The system should provide a feature that allows users to discover and explore various interest-based groups within the college. This will help them find groups that align with their interests and preferences.
 - **Group Joining:** The system should facilitate an easy process for users to join these groups. This could include an application process or an open invitation to join.
 - **Communication Platform:** The system should provide a platform for users to engage in conversations with other group members. This could be through group chats or forums where users can discuss shared interests, plan activities, or ask questions.
 - **Event Information:** The system should provide information about upcoming social events organized by the groups. This will allow users to plan their participation and engage more actively in group activities.
 - **Personalized Recommendations:** Based on the user's profile and activity, the system should provide personalized recommendations for groups or events the user might be interested in.
 -
- **What constraints will be placed on your eventual design?**
 - **User Privacy:** The system must respect user privacy and comply with data protection regulations. Personal information should only be used for the intended purpose and not shared without user consent.
 - **Accessibility:** The system should be accessible to all users, regardless of their technical proficiency or physical abilities. This includes considerations for users with visual, auditory, or motor impairments.
 - **Scalability:** The system should be designed to handle a large number of users and groups without performance degradation.
 - **Integration:** The system should be able to integrate with existing digital platforms like MMCM Confessions to enhance student engagement.
 - **Usability:** The system should be easy to use and navigate. The user interface should be intuitive and user-friendly, minimizing the learning curve for new users.
 - **Resource Constraints:** The design and implementation of the system will be subject to resource constraints, including time and technical

resources. These constraints may limit the scope of the system or require trade-offs in the design process.

- **Cultural Sensitivity:** The system should be designed with cultural sensitivity in mind, considering the diverse backgrounds of the students at MMCM. This includes language support and respect for cultural norms and practices.

- **What criteria should be used to judge if your design is a success or not?**

- The team will determine the success of the application by evaluating how well it meets the following criteria:
 - **Ease of Navigation:** Users should be able to effortlessly move through different sections of the app.
 - **Intuitive Design:** The app should be straightforward and require minimal learning time.
 - **Engaging Aesthetics:** The overall design should be visually appealing and encourage user engagement.