Interview #1

Interviewee: Soraya Chaiyakul

Position: Freshman at UMBC

Time and Location: March 14th 12:00 pm at Starbucks, On-campus

Open-ended Questions:

- Do you have trouble deciding what academic path you would like to go throughout your college career? If yes, why? If no, why?

- Yes, because I did not know what path to choose because I was unclear of what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

- Do you have trouble deciding what kinds of classes to take for your major? If yes, why? If no, why?

- Yes, because I have trouble even finding out what kind of major I’d like to be in let alone what kind of classes even after meeting with my advisor many times.

- Is meeting with your advisor convenient? If no, why?

- No, because there was many students and it was very hard to make an appointment that matched my busy schedule.

- What is your major? If undecided, why?

- I am currently undecided, because I do not know what my interests are or what I would like to do for my next years here.

Close-ended Questions:

- What are your academic interests?

-Life science and business

- What is your desired course load?

-Medium

- What is your desired income level?

-Around 100k

- What kind of level of difficulty would you be interested in? (Easy, Medium, Hard)

- Medium

- Do you know the best professors for each class?

- Not at all

- Do you have all your classes planned out for the remaining years?

- No

Concluding Questions:

- What if I told you we had an application that will be able to satisfy all your preferences to make choosing the best-fit academic pathway more convenient? Would you use it? If yes, why? If no, why?

- Honestly, that sounds like a dream come true. I would definitely use it because it seems like it would get me closer to helping me choose what academic path I would like to go on. Any help would be appreciated and all of the professors and classes that will be planned out for the years to come would be extremely useful!

- What would want an app like that to do?

I would also like to be able to edit my account throughout my career. I think it would beneficial for everyone including you if you could keep track of users completion of the courses.

- What kind of information would you want from it?

I would like to know what courses are taught by each professors and get more details on the course load of each degree and difficulty of majors.

- What kind of security would you be expecting?

I want my account to be password protected. I believe it is crucial that you make all these information confidential

- Do you think there are going to be cultural barriers or political issues?

Difficulty level of courses will be different for each student. Like someone with a spanish background might think a spanish class is easy while it might be hard for others. UMBC is a diverse campus so language barrier might play a role too.

INTERVIEW 2:

Interviewee: Jeril Varghese

Position: Freshman at UMBC

Time and Location: March 25th 9:30am pm at Starbucks, On-campus

Open-ended Questions:

- Do you have trouble deciding what academic path you would like to go throughout your college career? If yes, why? If no, why?

No I do not have trouble deciding what academic path i want to go through with.I have known since I was very young that I have a specific interest in the science field and as I grew up I realized I wanted to help people while working in the science field. In order to be in the science field and help people I decided in high school I want to work to become a doctor.

- Do you have trouble deciding what kinds of classes to take for your major? If yes, why? If no, why?

No because there is a clear template of classes required for my major on the UMBC website

- Is meeting with your advisor convenient? If no, why?

Yes, he is very helpful and very convenient to meet up with.

- What is your major? If undecided, why?

I am a Biology B.S. major and a psychology minor

Close-ended Questions:

- What are your academic interests?

I like science So I enjoy taking biology classes and chemistry classes. I enjoy organic chemistry the most.

- What is your desired course load?

18 credits per semester

- What is your desired income level?

70,000 per year

- What kind of level of difficulty would you be interested in?(Easy, Medium, Hard)

Medium

- Do you know the best professors for each class?

Yes, I make sure to look at rate my professors website before taking a class with a specific professor

- Do you have all your classes planned out for the remaining years?

I have most of my classes planned out for all four of my academic year

Concluding Questions:

- What if I told you we had an application that will be able to satisfy all your preferences to make choosing the best-fit academic pathway more convenient? Would you use it? If yes, why? If no, why?

Yes I would because knowing what pathway is very important and knowing it as soon as possible is very beneficial so that there is no need to waste time in undergraduate.

- What would want an app like that to do?

I would definitely make an account if I could. One main thing I struggle with is understanding the requirements for each degree. But I would like it to be easy to use and navigate. It would be helpful if it can be accessed through phone as well.

- What kind of information would you want from it?

I would like to get more information on my professors like ratemyprofessors and more information on courseload income, difficulty of majors and when the courses are offered etc

- What kind of security would you be expecting?

I want all my information confidential. I remember you mentioning I would have to make an account so it would also be password protected. As long as no one else has access to my information I do not mind having it open to public

- Do you think there are going to be cultural barriers or political issues?

It might be harder for some students to understand the whole process, mainly the international students. Like some classes we consider hard might be easily for them. Also, just keep in my to keep the advisors updated as some of them might not like the whole idea of giving “advice” online.

INTERVIEW 3:

Interviewee: Irene Thomas

Position: Freshman at UMBC

Time and Location: March 26th 7:00pm pm at Commons, On-campus

Open-ended Questions:

- Do you have trouble deciding what academic path you would like to go throughout your college career? If yes, why? If no, why?

No i don't have any trouble deciding what i want to do. I knew what i wanted to do right after i graduated high school.

- Do you have trouble deciding what kinds of classes to take for your major? If yes, why? If no, why?

No i don't have any problem in deciding what classes i need to take because i read the school website and the course catalog for my major. It breaks down in terms of the classes that i need for my major.

- Is meeting with your advisor convenient? If no, why?

Yes

- What is your major? If undecided, why?

Information Systems

Close-ended Questions:

- What are your academic interests?

Mathematics

- What is your desired course load?

15-18 credits per semester

- What is your desired income level?

$70-80,000.00 per year

- What kind of level of difficulty would you be interested in?(Easy, Medium, Hard)

Medium to hard because i would love to challenge myself.

- Do you know the best professors for each class?

Yes i do because i usually look up the professor that will be teaching through rate my professor.

- Do you have all your classes planned out for the remaining years?

Yes i do have it planned out through the help of course catalog

Concluding Questions:

- What if I told you we had an application that will be able to satisfy all your preferences to make choosing the best-fit academic pathway more convenient? Would you use it? If yes, why? If no, why?

Yes i would use it because it’s simple, the earlier you know it the earlier you graduate and don’t waste time. I would also use it because there can be more benefits such as graduating early.

- What would want an app like that to do?

On top of everything else we had already talked about I think it would be good if we can add/edit interests whenever we want and make changes to our account. I love using apps on my phone rather than navigating on a PC so it should be mobile friendly if possible. It would also be nice if we could use it to track my whole college career.

- What kind of information would you want from it?

I would definitely want more information on courseload income, difficulty of majors and when the courses are offered etc. Also like more information than the school offer on courses itself. It would be also helpful to know when these courses are usually taken by other students.

- What kind of security would you be expecting?

Of course I want my information to be confidential also probably password protected. You had said it might be open to public which would mean it might not be that accurate or specific and might be prone to attacks. I think it should mainly be for UMBC students.

- Do you think there are going to be cultural barriers or political issues?

There is definitely going to be language barriers among students. It is also possible that some professors might not agree with your/ your apps judgement so just be aware of that.