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**Initial Project Plan: Design your degree website**

## 1. Project Overview

* **Project Name:** Design your degree
* **Development Director:** Aditya Piyush Patel
* **Technical Director:**- Madhulika
* **Client Representative:** Stephanie Bernier
* **Start Date:** 26 May,2025
* **Projected Completion Date:** 01 August 2025 (roughly)

**Objective:**

To design and deliver a web-based application that enables students and academic advisors to visually see and evaluate the impact of academic choices/options including Co-op, majors, minors, certifications, and honors options on program duration, graduation timelines, and academic outcomes.

## 2. Scope

**In Scope:**

* Interactive “plug-and-play” degree planning interface
* Timeline projection based on selected program components
* Embedded descriptions and links for academic options (e.g., Co-op, honors)
* Accessibility features adhering to WCAG 2.1 guidelines
* Dual-user flow for students and academic advisors

**Out of Scope:**

* Live integration with Dal Online or internal databases (for MVP)
* Automated academic record syncing or course enrollment
* Full multi-year audit functionality beyond prototype scope

## 3. Stakeholders

| **Role** | **Name** | **Responsibility** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Client Sponsor | Stephanie Bernier | Provides strategic direction and feedback |
| Directors | Aditya Piyush Patel, Madhulika Reddavari | Leads design, development, and coordination, Oversees architecture and compliance |
| Development Team | Dusan, Harshil, Dhruvi, Andre | Implements technical solution |
| End Users | Students, Faculty Advisors | Utilize the tool for degree planning |

## 4. Milestones and Timeline

| **Milestone** | **Target Completion** |
| --- | --- |
| Requirements Gathering | 23 may, 2025 |
| Wireframing & User Flow Mapping |  |
| Prototype Development (MVP) |  |
| Accessibility Testing |  |
| Stakeholder Review & Iteration |  |
| Final Presentation |  |

**5. Key Deliverables**

* Functional prototype of the degree planning tool
* User documentation and interface guide
* Accessibility validation checklist
* Final project report and stakeholder walkthrough

## 6. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

* **Accessibility Compliance:** 100% adherence to WCAG 2.1 standards
* **User Satisfaction:** >85% positive feedback from pilot testers (students/advisors)
* **Functionality Coverage:** Inclusion of Co-op, honors, major/minor variations
* **Advisor Adoption Rate:** Use by ≥ 50% of advisors during academic planning sessions
* **Awareness Impact:** Improved understanding of academic pathways among students (pre/post survey)

## 7. Risks and Mitigations

| **Risk** | **Impact** | **Probability** | **Mitigation Strategy** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Limited development time | High | Medium | Prioritize core features and define MVP clearly |
| Accessibility non-compliance | High | Low | Conduct ongoing testing and validation |
| User confusion due to complexity | Medium | Medium | Integrate embedded tooltips and concise descriptions |
| Technical limitations without integration | Medium | High | Simulate logic with static data for demonstration |

## 8. Technology Stack (Tentative)

* **Frontend:** React.js
* **Backend:** Python
* **Prototyping:** Figma
* **Accessibility Testing:** WAVE
* **Hosting:** Dal Timberlea Server

## 9. Communication Plan

* **Weekly Stand-ups:** Internal team syncs (Mondays)
* **Client Review Meetings:** Bi-weekly with Stephanie Bernier (at the end of every sprint)
* **Status Reports:** Sent every Friday via email
* **Communication Channels:** MS Teams (Group 13 X691 Teams).