Topic: Study Areas Webapp for RUM   **Authors:** Fabiola Montañez Rodríguez   **Date:** August 31, 2022
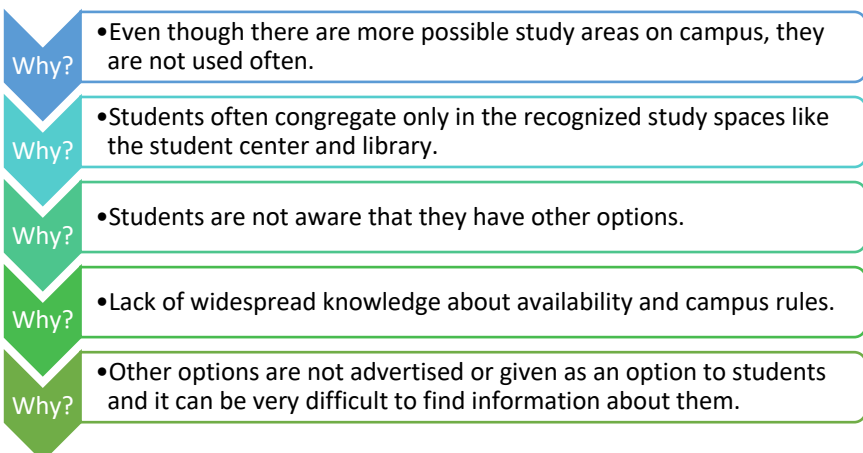
1. Problem

The University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez (UPRM) Campus lacks numerous designated study areas, only having a few big areas like the library and the student center. These areas tend to be noisy and do not allow for students to focus. These circumstances negatively affect academic performance because students are not able to concentrate in an environment that is not suitable for learning or cannot gain access to one.

2. Target

- Reduce overcrowding of common areas and encourage the development of quiet spaces for students to focus in.
- Make students have access to other areas for individual studying, virtual classes, meetings, and class discussions with classmates. Enough so that students report satisfaction with their on-campus focus experience.
- Align with the UPRM's administration's code and established ways while expanding services and versatility.

3. Causes

Problem: Even though there are more possible study areas on campus, they are not used often.

- **Why?** •Even though there are more possible study areas on campus, they are not used often.
- **Why?** •Students often congregate only in the recognized study spaces like the student center and library.
- **Why?** •Students are not aware that they have other options.
- **Why?** •Lack of widespread knowledge about availability and campus rules.
- **Why?** •Other options are not advertised or given as an option to students and it can be very difficult to find information about them.

4. Countermeasures

- Create an online platform for use in UPRM.
- Allow for students to rate, add features and leave comments on classrooms.
- Distribute classroom recommendations evenly across campus considering various metrics like distance, schedule, and classroom ratings so that no individual classroom is crowded, and every user gets the best classroom for their needs.
- Promote the platform so that all students and administrators know they can make use of it, it will also make it more effective.

5. Check / Evaluate

Success will be determined by a number of factors in various dimensions. First, it will be measured by a reduced number of students in the most popular designated study areas such as the Student Center. This measure will be tested via in-person examinations of chosen areas crowding to compare the current number of students using it vs previous use. Another measure will be the frequent use of the website by a sizable amount of students. This category will be measured in two ways: first; by website metrics, second; a pop-up survey feature that studies user satisfaction with the platform.

6. Act / Standardize

- Implement the websites administrator controls to be easily used by people with a non-tech background. This will allow for the website to be easily updated and maintained for a long time without requiring specialized knowledge.
- Standardize and expand design so that it can be applied to similar domains like other universities.