

App Planning Document

App Name: **FocusGarden**

1. Chosen Scenario

The scenario I have selected is **Scenario 6 – Student Study and Time Management App**. The problem addressed is that Lisa, a busy college student, often feels overwhelmed by tasks, assignments, and deadlines, which makes it difficult for her to stay organized and focused. Despite her efforts, she misses deadlines and struggles to prioritize effectively.

FocusGarden aims to help students like Lisa manage their study and personal goals through structured focus sessions, progress tracking, and group motivation. The app combines time management, self-reflection, and social accountability to improve both academic and personal outcomes.

This scenario is meaningful because time management challenges are common among university students, including myself and my peers. Having a tool that visualizes workload, builds consistent focus habits, and supports collaboration would be beneficial for productivity and mental well-being.

Target Audience: University students, young professionals, and individuals seeking structured focus and balance between academic and personal goals.

2. Related Apps

App 1: Forest

Platform: Android/iOS

Strengths: Unique gamified tree-planting concept; encourages consistent focus through visual growth.

Weaknesses: Limited progress tracking and reflection features; social collaboration is minimal.

Difference/Value in FocusGarden: Adds personalized focus journals and a dashboard for progress visualization; introduces small-group challenges.

App 2: Pomofocus

Platform: Web

Strengths: Simple and intuitive Pomodoro timer; customizable intervals.

Weaknesses: Web-based only; lacks motivation or engagement features.

Difference/Value in FocusGarden: Mobile-first design with mood journals, shareable progress cards, and integration of both academic and personal goal tracking.

App 3: Focus To-Do

Platform: Android/iOS

Strengths: Combines to-do lists with Pomodoro timer; practical for task tracking.

Weaknesses: Interface can feel cluttered; social and visualization features are limited.

Difference/Value in FocusGarden: Offers a clean dashboard to visualize workload; emphasizes reflection and group accountability (Heist Challenge).

3. Initial Feature List

User Features

- Create and manage academic and personal goals.
- Record reflections after each session (mood, learnings, improvements).
- Share progress reports or cards with peers/social media.

Core Features

- Pomodoro-style timer with customizable intervals.
- Focus Journal: pop-up after session ends to capture emotions and outcomes.
- Progress Tracking: visualize study hours, tasks completed, and streaks.
- **Heist Group Challenge:** join or create small groups; view team members' focus progress and stay motivated together.
- Dashboard: track academic and personal goals in one place; visualize workload balance.

UI Features

- Simple dashboard displaying daily/weekly progress and goals.
- Charts and graphs to show focus time and achievements.
- Shareable progress card (visual summary of completed sessions).
- Themes (light/dark, customizable backgrounds).

4. Learning Goals & Resources

Concept / Tool	What You Need to Learn	Link to Resource
Notifications	How to schedule reminders and push notifications for session starts/ends.	https://developer.android.com/develop/ui/views/notifications
Room Database	Store focus sessions, journal entries, and user goals locally.	https://developer.android.com/training/data-storage/room
Compose Navigation	Navigate between Timer, Dashboard, Journal, and Group Challenge screens.	https://developer.android.com/jetpack/compose/navigation
Widgets	Implement home/lock screen widget to start/stop sessions quickly.	https://developer.android.com/develop/ui/views/widgets
Background Services	Ensure timer continues running even when the app is minimized.	https://developer.android.com/guide/components/services
Charts & Visualization	Use libraries or Compose Canvas to display focus time and progress visually.	https://developer.android.com/jetpack/compose/gr