# **M4-Prototype of MyStatus**

## **Prototyping Strategy**

The prototyping strategy I adopted for this stage is high fidelity prototype. I made the wireframes and graphics through PowerPoint in the previous stage – the design. Then I transferred the graphics into the digital interactive prototype using Invision so that users will be able to work through the task without external instructions.

In order to justify the approach I used, I plan to use the following methods in my next stage. First, the users will need to work on the tasks through my prototype. Through the process, I will ask users to perform the tasks themselves using think out loud technique (Dix, Finlay, Abowd, & Beale, 2007) to speak out what they are thinking using my prototype. In this way, I will be able to know if my prototype is presentable to show the features of the design. Also, users can give me feedback on whether there are things to be improved for the website.

Besides the think aloud technique, I will also let the users to answer some survey questions in order to evaluate my prototype. I will adopt measurement of System Usability Scale (SUS) (Sauro, 2011), a simple, ten-item attitude Likert scale giving a global view of subjective assessments of usability, and Net Promoter Score (Garrity, 2010), a management tool that can be used to gauge the loyalty of a firm's customer relationships. Through usability testing, I will analyze data extracted from the survey to know the statistical results of how effective of the prototype is.

#### **Prototype Description**

Prototype link: https://projects.invisionapp.com/share/VU6CATMTP#/screens

The prototype will have three main features. 1) Check the overall graduation status such as graduation application status, requirements to take final exam and final graduation checks; 2) Check the graduation application status; 3) Check POS form and make changes.

The persona used in the design is for Abby Brown, who is a M.S. student pursuing concurrent majors of Industrial Engineering and Human Computer Interaction. She plans to graduate in Spring 2016 for both of her majors. She has already finished her final exam for Industrial Engineering but she hasn't applied for graduation and requested the final oral exam for Human Computer Interaction major. Therefore, she wants to check her POS form to see if it's already completed. Then she needs to apply for graduation.

1) She logs in to her MyStatus page (Figure 1). The first page is her first major with her program summary listed. Buttons at the top show yellow when it is selected.

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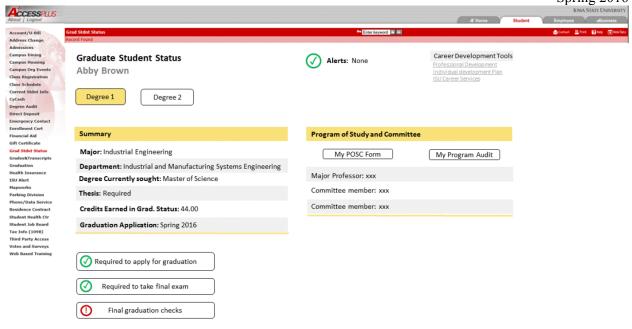
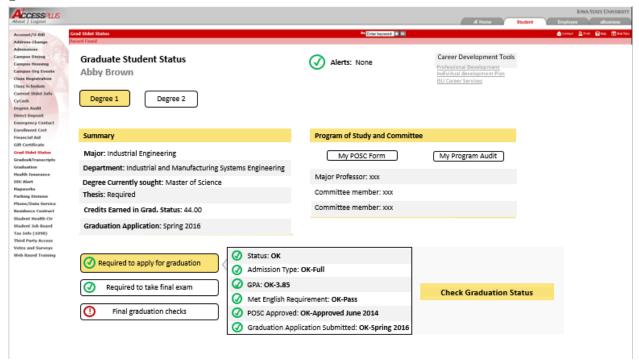


Figure 1 MyStatus Page

2) She can hover over the status buttons at the bottom of the page to check the status (Figure 2



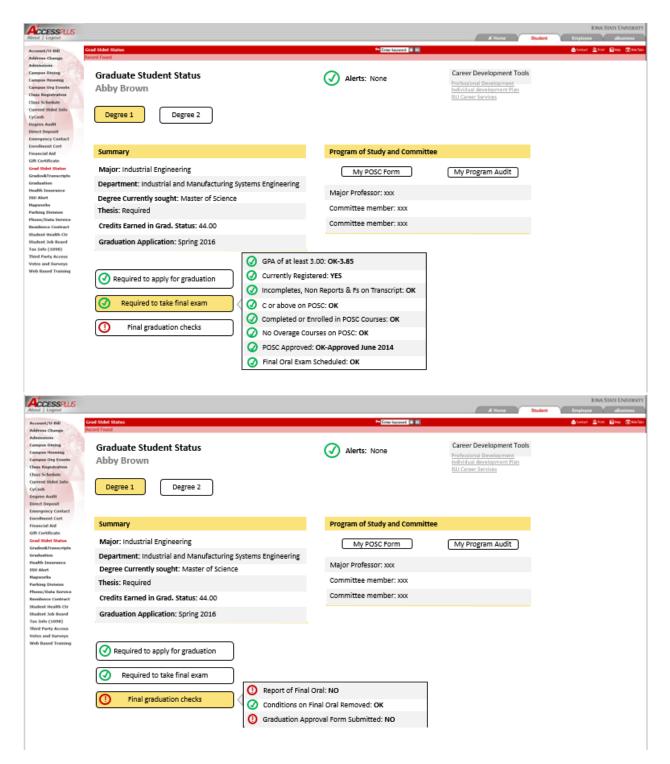


Figure 2 Check status

3) She can check her second major by clicking on button 'Degree 2'. The second major page can be seen in Figure 3.

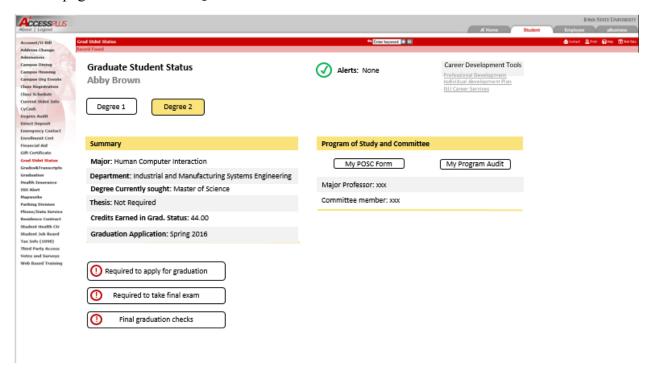


Figure 3 Second Major Page

4) When she is checking her second major information. She finds that she hasn't applied for graduation as well as requested the oral final exam, since she sees icon ① at the action button at the bottom, which means the action is needed. She wants to check what is needed. Abby hovers on the first button 'Required to apply for graduation' to check the graduation status (Figure 4), and apply for graduation.

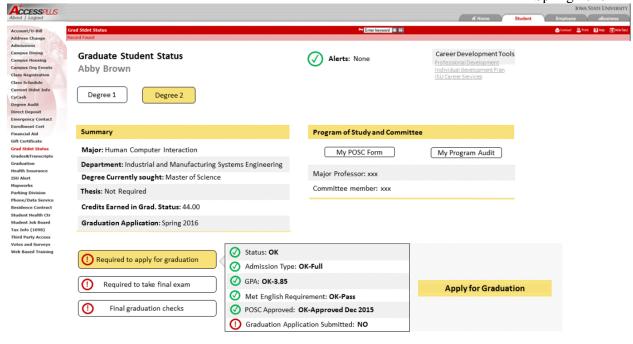


Figure 4 Check Graduation Status

5) She will be able to select the semester she wants to graduate Figure 5.

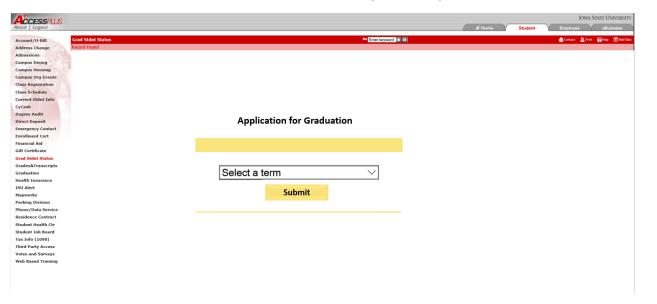


Figure 5 Select semester to graduate

6) Abby selected the semester she wanted to graduate and filled out the application form. After she submitted her application, she can easily check its status, change its information and withdraw it (Figure 6).

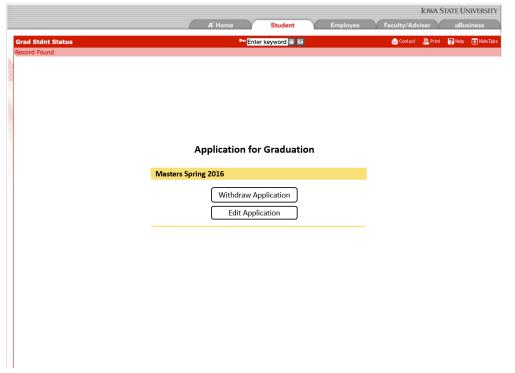
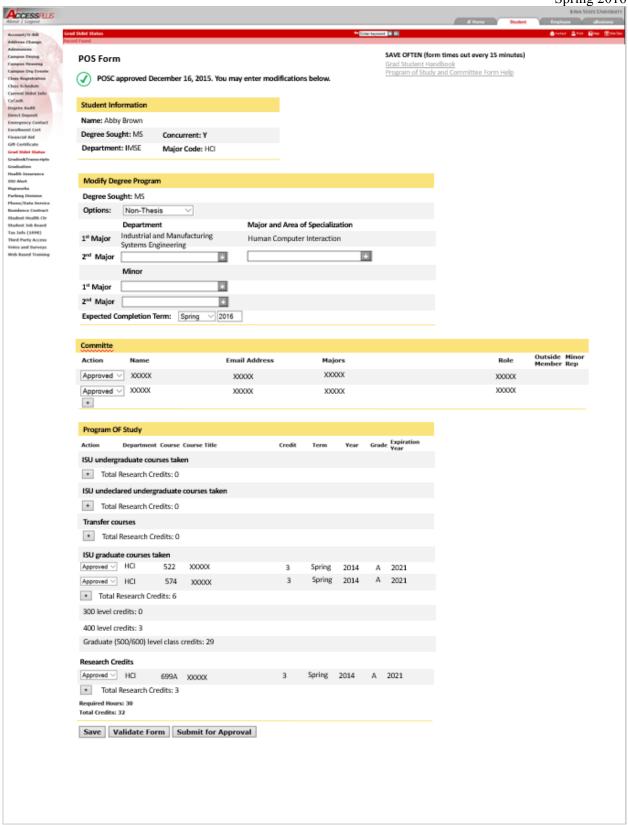


Figure 6 Check Application Status

7) After applying for graduation, she wants to check whether her POS form has already met the requirements. By clicking on POS form button, she got to see her POS form. Her POS Form has already been approved, so she just wanted to check it and see whether she needs to modify it. The POS Form can be seen in Figure 7.

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The situation for different students varies significantly. Thus, the prototype doesn't cover every aspect of graduate status as well as special requirements for specific majors. The persona used for this prototype is the most typical one so that it would be efficient to test the effectiveness of the redesigned website. In the meanwhile, the prototype doesn't have the feature of modifying the application form and POS form. Since this project doesn't take care of the back end functionality, it won't provide modification of these forms and check whether they meet the requirements as well. In addition, the way of modifying the form is the same to the current form so that it doesn't provide that feature.

#### Reflection

I think the process of building the prototype is a useful process for refining my design. When I did interaction for features and test them within my prototype, I need to think twice whether the design is appropriate and to make sure functions flow smoothly. I think it is a good experience for me in the future project.

Building the prototype is a great way to refine my design in terms of consistency, functioning well and ease of use. Prototyping actually is a self-test process before we display our work to our users or in evaluations.

At the same time, during this project, I learned a new prototyping tool invision. Compared with Axure or other similar prototyping tools, it is more easy to insert graphics directly and add hotspots to make interactions. It broadens my idea of building prototypes. However, at the same time, invision doesn't provide much capability to create single widgets to work separately and there isn't much capability to make dynamic panels or set variables as well. Thus, in my future design project, it gives me more flexibility to choose prototyping tools based on the goal, time and other resources of the project.

### Reference

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