

M1-Your Idea

Project Title:

MyStatus - Redesign of Graduate Student Status

Project Overview

As graduate students complete their graduate studies at Iowa State University, there are requirements and specific deadlines associated with graduation. Students can check their graduation status on the graduate student status page through Accessplus. The idea for redesign grad student status page started from what I encountered in my own experience as well as other students and advisors.

First, students who are trying to graduate need to submit Program of Study (POS) forms, apply for graduation, request for Final Oral Examination (for thesis students), and etc. Each step has specific deadline for different semester. Program coordinators always give reminders to students. But students and their advisors may want to be able to check their graduation status and also see the updates once they make actions. The current status page (see Figure 1) sometimes can confuse students by not emphasizing the things they need to do. Meanwhile, as the green and orange colors are in use for a large area, it could distract users from knowing which they should focus on and which has already been taken care. Especially for green red color blind people, it may pose further vision difficulty for them.

Secondly, for students who are about to graduate, they need to check whether their coursework or research credits meet the requirements. Especially for those who are pursuing double majors or multiple majors, they need to make sure their coursework and committee approvals and everything on their POS form is correct. However, the current POS form is not very clear at the course and research credit classifications. Also, selecting the course in order to fill out POS form from the drop down menu takes a lot of effort and time. It should be simplified to save time.

Collectively, the current page is comparatively confusing and couldn't better assist students during they studies, and even pose more stress for students who are busy preparing for graduation. The strategy to address this problem is to redesign the graduate student status page that can solve the problems aforementioned and to make

it a more consolidated and usable tool for students, faculty and staff.

Users

The main users are graduate students, no matter how many majors they are pursuing, whether they are thesis or non-thesis students, whether they are online or on campus students. Other users can also be faculties and staff of the university, especially for advisors or graduate coordinators who need to instruct their students. I have several potential target users, both students and faculties, in my program and academic department. The queries and evaluations can be down through observations and interviews. I also can contact the online students for queries through emails or video interviews.

Graduate Student Status		Next Degree
Jingyu Liu		
Required to Apply for Graduation		Alerts
All the items below need to be done before Applying for Graduation.		None
Status:	OK - Active	
Admission Type:	OK - Full	
GPA:	OK - 3.76	
Met English Requirement?	OK - Pass	
POSC Approved by Deadline:	OK - Approved June 2014 <i>Note - 7 year time limit for Master's POS Courses</i>	
Graduation Application Submitted	OK - Spring 2016	
Apply for Graduation		
Required to take Final Exam		Dept, Major, and Minor Information
All the items below need to be done before Applying for your Final Exam.		Dept: Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering Major: Industrial Engineering Degree Currently Sought: Master of Science Thesis: Required Credits Earned in Graduate Status: 44.00 First Registered: Fall 2013 Graduation Application: Spring 2016
GPA of at least 3.00?	OK - 3.76	
Currently Registered?	YES	
Incompletes, Non Reports & Fs on Transcript	OK	
Below C on POSC	OK	
Completed or Enrolled in POSC Courses?	OK	
No Overage Courses on POSC?	OK	
POSC Approval?	OK - Approved June 2014 <i>Note - 7 year time limit for Master's POS Courses</i>	
Final Oral Exam Scheduled	OK - Requested final for 11/19/2015	
Final Graduation Checks		POSC
Report of Final Oral	NO - Requested final for 11/19/2015	My POSC Form My Program Audit
Conditions on Final Oral Removed	OK	
Graduation Approval Slip Submitted	NO	
		Committee Members
		GILBERT STEPHEN IMSE MAJOR PROFESSOR DORNEICH MICHAEL IMSE COMMITTEE MEMBER HEGELHEIMER VOLKER H ENGL COMMITTEE MEMBER
		Career Development Tools
		Professional Development Individual Development Plan ISU Career Services

If any of the requirements for Final Exam have not been met, Graduation can be canceled.

Figure 1 Current Graduate Student Status page