COMP 3603 Tutorial 2: Solution

Interaction Design My Advisor App

Persona

this-person-does-not-exist.com

Persona Name: Emily Turner

Age: 21
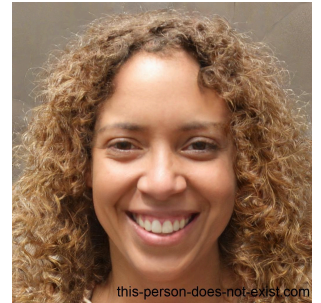
Background: Emily is a 2nd year Computer Science major at the university. She's been studying for two years and is passionate about it. Emily is tech-savvy and regularly uses digital tools for both her coursework and personal life. She does not yet know what field of CS she would like to specialize in and favors finishing her degree at a manageable pace so that she can keep a good GPA.

Goals:

- Successfully graduated with her degree.
- Explore her options for courses and possible career goals.
- Balance her course load to maintain a high GPA while also having time for extracurricular activities.

Frustrations:

- Difficulty navigating the university's course catalog and registration system.
- Confusion about prerequisites, antirequisites and course requirements.
- Unsure on current progress of their degree

Characteristics about the User:

- Detail-oriented and organized.
- Enjoys exploring new technologies and apps.
- Active member of the psychology club.
- Values flexibility in her schedule.
- Strives for academic excellence.

Key Quote: "I want a course selection app that simplifies the process and helps me make informed decisions about my degree."

Explanation:

Emily Turner represents a persona created based on the user research insights for the course selection application. As a CS major, she faces specific challenges related to selecting the right courses. Designing with Emily in mind means creating an intuitive and user-friendly interface that simplifies the course selection process, provides clear information on prerequisites, and helps her balance her academic and extracurricular commitments.

This user persona serves as a valuable tool for guiding the development of the course selection application, ensuring that it caters to the needs and preferences of students like Emily.

Scenario

1. Emily logs into the university's course selection application, eager to explore her course options for the upcoming semester. She's looking for a mix of foundational and exploratory courses to help her narrow down her interests.
2. The application's homepage offers a clean and intuitive interface. Emily sees a personalized welcome message and a prominent search bar where she can start her course exploration.
3. Emily begins her search by entering keywords related to Computer Science topics she finds interesting, such as "machine learning" and "web development." The search results quickly provide a list of relevant courses.
4. As Emily explores individual course listings, she appreciates the clear and concise descriptions that include information about prerequisites, antirequisites, and course objectives. This helps her make informed decisions about course selection.
5. Emily's favorite feature is the "Add to Favorites" option, allowing her to bookmark courses she's interested in for future reference. This feature simplifies her decision-making process.
6. To ensure a balanced schedule, Emily uses the application's scheduling tool. She inputs her preferred time slots for classes and receives suggestions for course combinations that fit her schedule.
7. Emily finalizes her course selections with confidence, appreciating the user-friendly and efficient registration process. She receives a confirmation email with her class schedule and important dates.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the user persona, Emily Turner, influence the design of the course selection application?
2. What specific features in the scenario address Emily's goals and frustrations?
3. How might the design team further enhance the user experience to better assist students like Emily?

This interaction design scenario focuses on Emily's course exploration journey within the course selection application, emphasizing the importance of clear information, user-friendly navigation, and tools for making informed decisions.