

EnrollAcademia Documentation

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I. INTRODUCTION

Banner is the course registration platform for OU students. It is used by every student who enrolls each semester at OU. Despite being such a widely used platform, it has some problems. To name a few, it does not follow several HCI principles, the search feature is not intuitive, and the schedule view can be confusing. To address these, we have designed EnrollAcademia overhaul to better provide the course registration service to students while adhering to the HCI principles from class.

II. USER GOALS ANALYSIS

The first step in the creation of EnrollAcademia was identifying the user goals. Our identified users are the students at the University of Oklahoma enrolling in classes for the given semester. We used our own experience and fellow classmates testimonies to find what users wanted in their enrollment system.

We discovered that each student desired the ability to easily view their schedule which is currently hidden through a series of pages. Additionally, they wanted to find their desired classes quickly instead of having to navigate through the current cluttered and redundant search features. They also sought the ease of adding classes to their plans instead of having to go back and forth between pages to change plans and semesters. Lastly, and most importantly, they wanted to enroll in their desired classes in a streamlined manner that cuts down the current enrollment times that are bogged down by poor design choices.

These goals showed that students want a clear and simple enrollment system. Due to the nature of this being a scheduling system, the most important features are finding classes and being able to see your schedule easily. Another interesting point that kept coming up was that students are often just enrolling in their advisor recommendations, but there is no easy way for students to see their recommended classes without having to manually search. We decided that it made the most sense to have those classes as "quick adds" so that students can enroll quicker.

III. UI ISSUES

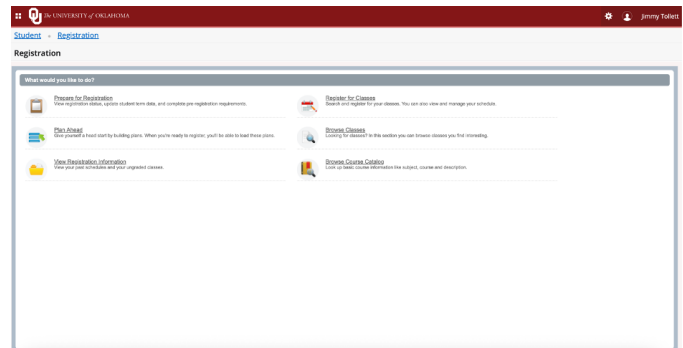


Fig. 1. Landing Page

The current landing page of the course registration site is functional but inefficient in its use of screen real estate. Essentially, it serves as six buttons: "Prepare for Registration", "Register for Classes", "Plan Ahead", "Browse Classes", "View Registration Information", and "Browse Course Catalog". We'll discuss the navigation through these options further, but even at this initial stage, we concluded that a dedicated landing page like this is unnecessary. It slows the user down, overcompartmentalizes a relatively straightforward system, and creates seemingly arbitrary divisions. These functions could easily be integrated elsewhere, either as a dropdown menu or by reorganizing the app's layout to allow smoother transitions between tasks. We chose the latter approach to avoid making users feel "locked in" to a decision from the outset.

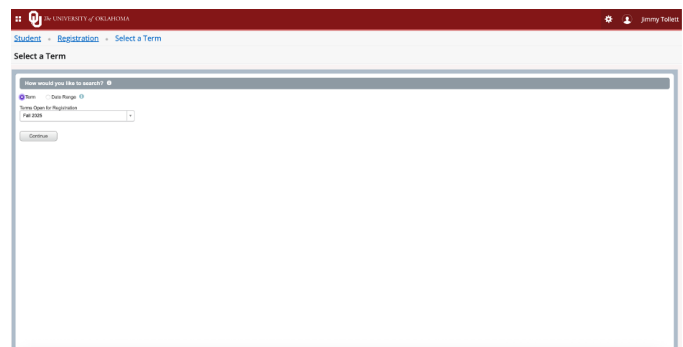


Fig. 2. Term Selection Page

Clicking "Prepare for Registration" brings up a page that asks you to select your term before proceeding. This felt

confusing and frustrating, as the page merely functions as a dropdown menu, adding an unnecessary page change that disorients users. Compounding the issue, five of the six main menu options from the landing page lead to this redundant term selection screen.

We questioned why this wasn't integrated directly into the landing page or kept visible throughout the app for clarity and convenience. Making it persistently accessible would let users change terms without navigating away or losing their place.

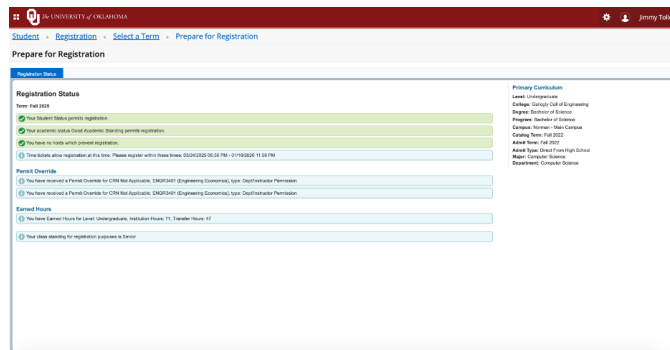


Fig. 3. Prepare For Registration Page

After selecting a term, you're brought to a page with information like registration holds, required hours, and class standing. While some of this data is useful, much of it is also available elsewhere on the university's website in a more accessible format.

Aside from the registration holds section, little of this page relates directly to class registration. Therefore, in our redesign, we chose to remove this page entirely, while still preserving essential information in more intuitive ways. For example, alerts about holds or eligibility requirements will appear contextually — such as when a user attempts to register for a term they're not yet eligible for.

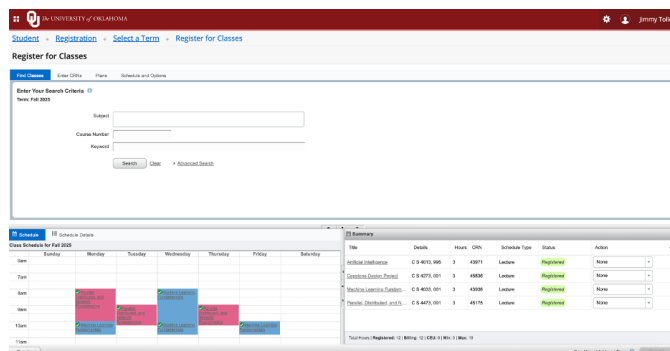


Fig. 4. Register For Classes Page

After selecting your term, the “Register for Classes” page allows you to search for classes and view your current enrollment.

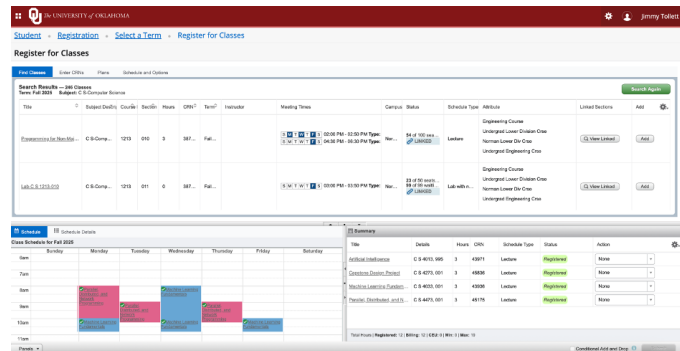


Fig. 5. Register for Classes Query

The query results page, however, felt cluttered and visually unappealing, failing to meet modern software design expectations. Despite this, we recognized its functional importance: it's the core tool for planning and registering classes. Therefore, we made this the base page of our redesigned app, as it directly supports the primary goal of the platform.

We also noted issues such as the inclusion of both the standard week schedule and finals schedule in the same calendar view, which felt confusing.

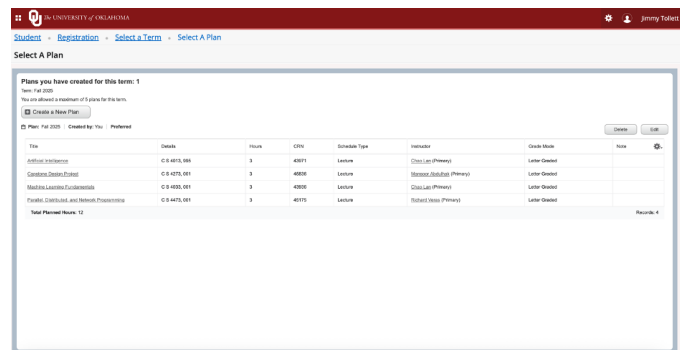


Fig. 6. Make a Plan Page

After selecting your term, “Plan Ahead” displays your academic plans for the selected term, and allows you to create or edit plans. Since the editing process is nearly identical to registering for classes, it felt natural to merge these functions. By integrating “Plan Ahead” into the main registration flow, we streamlined the experience and ensured consistency. Users can now create, edit, and save plans directly within the registration interface, making the overall process feel unified rather than fragmented.

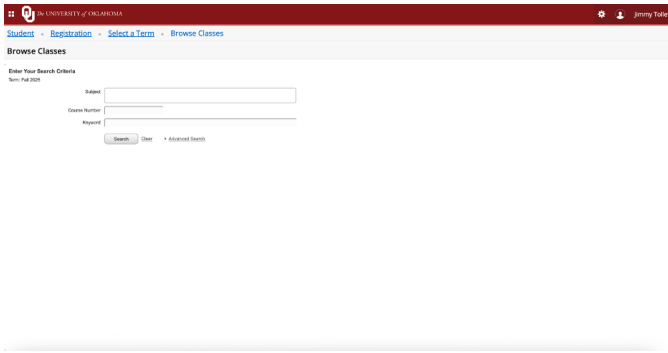


Fig. 7. Browse Classes Page

The “Browse Classes” page replicates the search functionality already present in the registration and planning pages, making it redundant. Its inclusion seems to reflect poor design flow rather than actual user need.

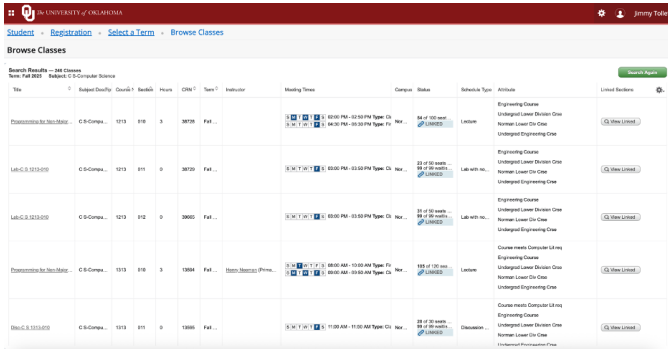


Fig. 8. Browse Classes Query

Given that we made the registration page the main hub of our redesign, we were able to eliminate this separate search page altogether, consolidating its functionality into our improved, centralized search tool that is used for planning, browsing, and registering.

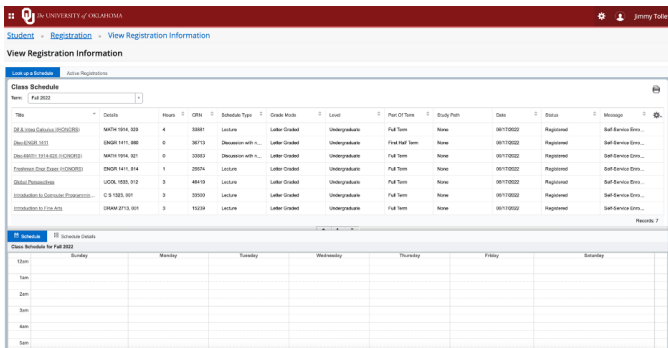


Fig. 9. View Registration Information Page

This is the “View Registration Information” page. This page shows a history of classes you’ve previously taken. However,

this information is not particularly relevant to class registration and is already available through other university services. We decided to exclude this feature from our redesign.

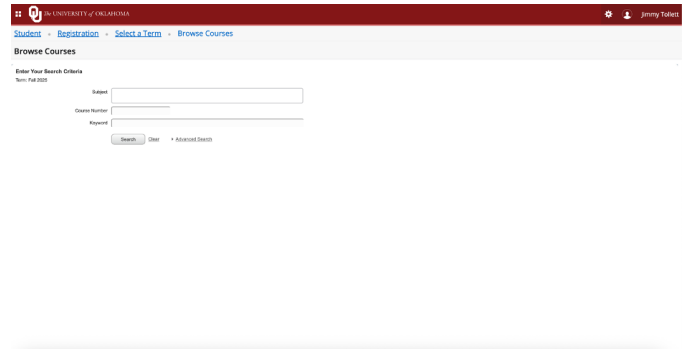


Fig. 10. View Course Catalog Page

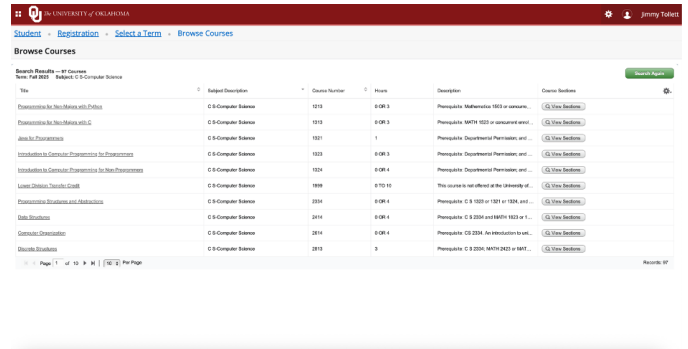


Fig. 11. View Course Catalog Query

Finally, the “View Course Catalog” page duplicates the “Browse Classes” page but with less information, lacking details about current class offerings. Early in our redesign process, we combined this with the “Browse Classes” function, recognizing it as an inferior version of the same tool. We ultimately folded both into our general search functionality.

IV. DESIGN RATIONALE

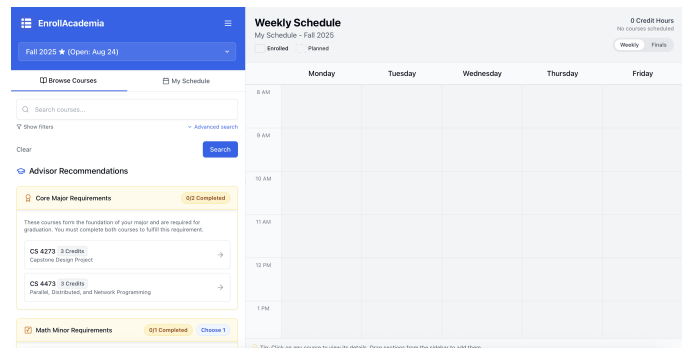
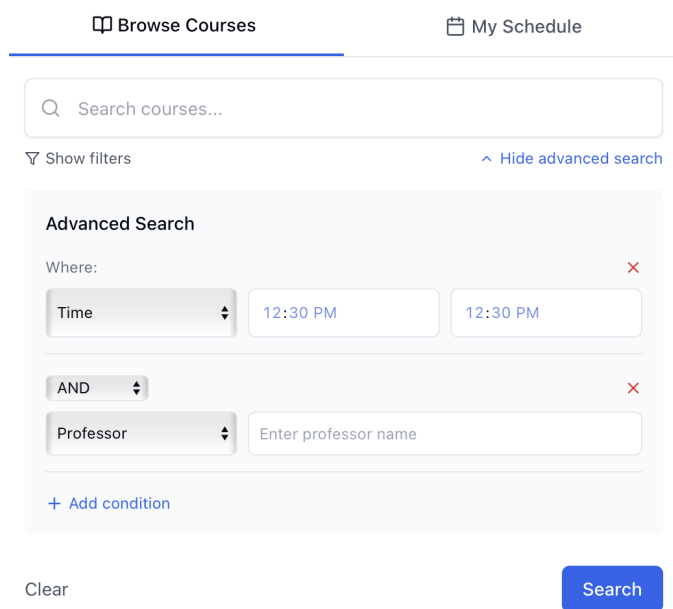


Fig. 12. EnrollAcademia Landing Page

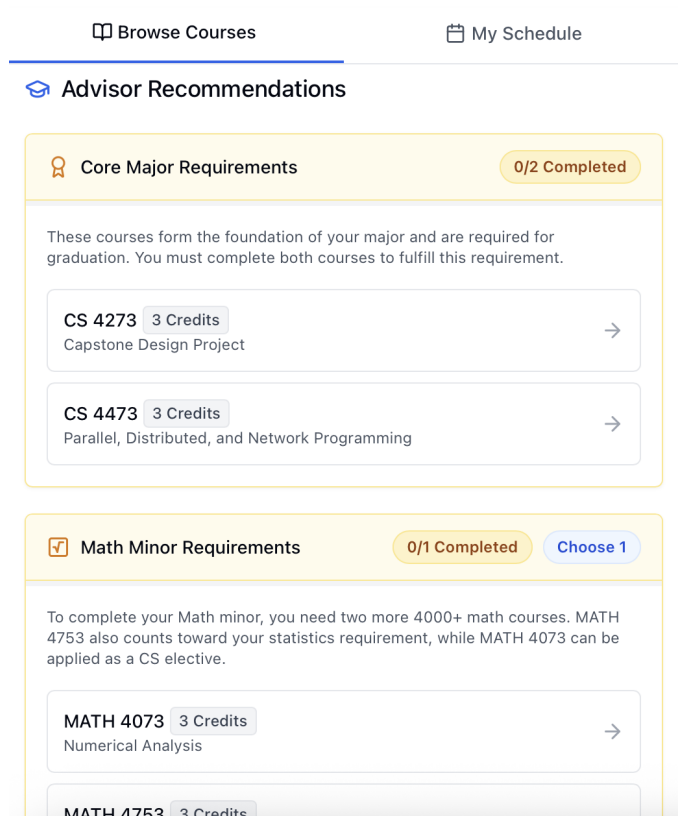
This is the landing page for EnrollAcademia. From here you can view your weekly schedule, search for courses, and see your advisor recommendations. Users are also only one click away from the planning section, where they can also enroll. This page also features a separate finals week schedule accessible via a toggle.



The image shows the 'Advanced Search' section of the EnrollAcademia interface. At the top, there are two tabs: 'Browse Courses' (active) and 'My Schedule'. Below the tabs is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search courses...'. Under the search bar, there are two links: 'Show filters' and 'Hide advanced search'. The 'Advanced Search' section is expanded, showing a 'Where:' filter with a dropdown menu set to 'Time' and two input fields for '12:30 PM'. Below this, there is an 'AND' filter with a dropdown menu set to 'Professor' and an input field for 'Enter professor name'. At the bottom of the search section, there is a '+ Add condition' link. Below the search section, there are two buttons: 'Clear' and 'Search'.

Fig. 13. EnrollAcademia Advanced Search

This is the EnrollAcademia advanced search. It allows you search with a variety of conditions including time, day, professor, etc. This was a request from many of the people that we interviewed when talking about problems with the previous iteration of the application. This essentially ties together the "Browse Courses", "Browse Catalog", and search feature from the "Register for Classes" and "Plan Ahead" pages. By using dropdown menus for the different filters that you can apply we limit user choice and give clear guidance about their options when searching.



The image shows the 'Advisor Recommendations' section of the EnrollAcademia interface. At the top, there are two tabs: 'Browse Courses' (active) and 'My Schedule'. Below the tabs is a section header 'Advisor Recommendations'. The section is divided into two main categories: 'Core Major Requirements' and 'Math Minor Requirements'. The 'Core Major Requirements' section has a progress indicator '0/2 Completed'. It lists two courses: 'CS 4273 3 Credits Capstone Design Project' and 'CS 4473 3 Credits Parallel, Distributed, and Network Programming'. The 'Math Minor Requirements' section has a progress indicator '0/1 Completed' and a 'Choose 1' button. It lists two courses: 'MATH 4073 3 Credits Numerical Analysis' and 'MATH 4753 3 Credits'.

Fig. 14. EnrollAcademia Advisor Recommendations Section

This is our final version of the advisor recommendations feature. We initially started with the idea of actually using the degree flow charts that the University had but landed on this sectioned view as it had a cleaner look and aligned with the rest of the design. We included this feature to reduce the cognitive load of users and the amount of tasks necessary to enroll for the average user. We found that most users were just enrolling in what their advisors instructed them to. Through this panel, users don't have to go through emails and papers to find what their advisors said. This flow was created to align with Neilson's Heuristic of recognition rather than recall. It also aligns with the flexibility and efficiency of use heuristic as users are able to more quickly enroll.

[Browse Courses](#)[My Schedule](#) 1

CS 4273 3 CREDITS

Capstone Design Project

Team-based capstone design project. Requirements analysis, design, implementation, and testing of a large-scale software system.

Available Sections

Fall 2025

Lecture 001

Added

Professor: Dr. Abdulhak
Mo, We • 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM
Devon Hall 150

Added to Plan

Lecture 002

18/20 Seats

Professor: Dr. Abdulhak
Mo, We • 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM
Devon Hall 140

Add to Plan

Fig. 15. EnrollAcademia Class Page

[Browse Courses](#)[My Schedule](#) 4

Schedule Plans

Enrollment Open

My Schedule (4 courses)

Enroll

Bio Major (?) (5 courses)

Enroll

Add New Plan

Compare Plans

Current Plan

4 Section(s)
12 Credits

CS 4273 3 Credits

Capstone Design Project

Section 001

Mo, We • 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM
Dr. Abdulhak • Devon Hall 150

×

CS 4473 3 Credits

Parallel, Distributed, and Network Programming

Section 001

Fig. 16. EnrollAcademia Planning Section

This is the sections list for a course. It shows all of the available sections for a course selected from the search results. In Banner, the sections were displayed in the search results, but our approach lists the courses in the search results and then lists the sections in a separate view, simplifying the list of search results and making it easier to view your options for a course. This makes it easier to compare the difference in times, professors, etc. for a class's different sections.

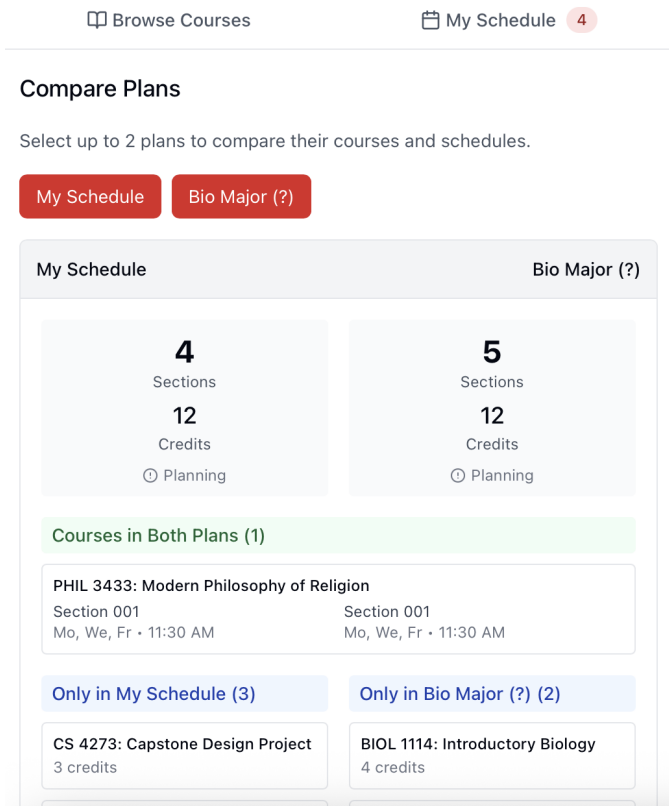


Fig. 17. EnrollAcademia Compare Plans

This is the planning section which also features the ability to actually submit your enrollment once you've chosen your plan. You can also create multiple plans from here which allow you to plan out different class options for the semester and then easily compare them using the compare plans button which will show the difference in hours and courses between your selected plans. By doing this combination of the planning, scheduling, and enrolling it simplifies the overall user experience creating a more streamlined enrollment process, the main request of people we talked to.

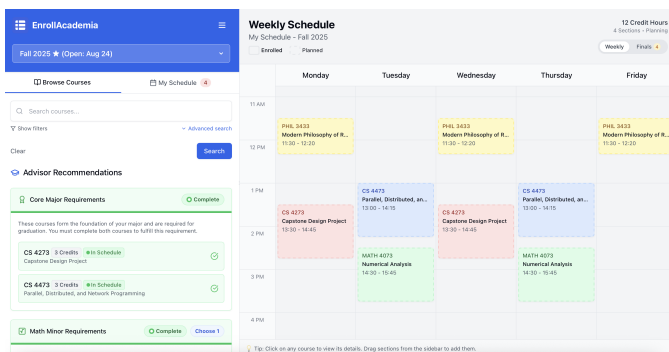


Fig. 18. EnrollAcademia Weekly Calendar

This is what the schedule view looks like full of classes.

Each class is distinctly colored to help differentiate between them. You can also click each class to go to the courses specific information page. When looking at a plan the classes have a dashed background to show they are not fully enrolled and a full border to show that they are enrolled. There is also a status message in the top right corner to show the plan's enrollment status as well.

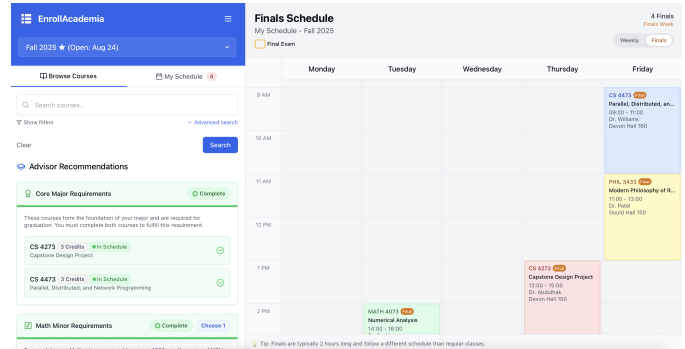


Fig. 19. EnrollAcademia Finals Calendar

This is the finals view for an enrolled semester. It is reached by using the toggle in the top right corner. This view helps keep the normal schedule view from being cluttered like it is in Banner.

V. CONCLUSION

To ice the cake, by applying the skills we have gained in Human Computer Interaction, we conducted a survey among our peers to thoroughly understand the issues with the university's current enrollment software. We then redesigned it based on HCI principles. By abstracting the functions of Banner, we analyzed the enrollment flows and processes, identified bottlenecks and shortcomings, and developed a more intuitive process for students.