

Specification Report: IC Scheduler

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Mission

To serve Ithaca College students seeking to design a class schedule by generating all possible schedules given a list of classes.

Summary

IC Scheduler is a way of planning classes for the following semester. The IC Scheduler website will contain a database of all upcoming Ithaca College courses from which users can select their desired classes and, optionally, sections. Given this set of classes, with the option of adding additional conflicts, IC Scheduler will generate all possible schedules. The user can select, save, and share the schedule of their choosing.

Comparative Analysis

HomerConnect

Strengths:

- Lots of detailed information
- Simple UI
- All information needed on a single website

Weaknesses:

- Difficult to find items among many choices
- UI design perhaps too simple, not aesthetically pleasing
- Too many layers of navigation

Lessons:

- Include all information together
- Make a more pleasing design

MyCatalog

Strengths:

- Users can add their own info into saved folders
- Most information needed on a single website

Weaknesses:

- Hard to keep track of all info
- Actual schedule of classes, outside of semester offered, not included
- Poor search capabilities

Lessons:

- Give users interaction ability to design schedules
- Give more options than just lists of classes

Schedulizer (original)

Strengths:

- Generates schedules automatically given a list of classes
- Can save schedules if user logs in

Weaknesses:

- User may have trouble knowing where to start
- It doesn't exist anymore
- Suggests schedules that do not work with the user's needs

Lessons:

- Incorporate login for schedule saving
- Make the website less complicated-looking, more intuitive to user



Figure 1: Benny Drill.

Personas, Use Cases, and Storyboards

Benny Drill

Benny Drill, 20, junior at Ithaca College, math major, baseball player, knowledge-lover. Likes to get things done quick. Definitely not a morning person.

Benny wants to plan his schedules for next semester quickly and easily, but he has to be more meticulous than most students because of his time conflicts with baseball practice and his inability to wake up before 10 AM.

Benny sees someone on social media post a schedule from Schedulizer Reborn and decides to check it out. Benny goes to the home page and creates a login. He sees a screen to pick classes and selects the ones he has been thinking about. As he picks them, he sees what times they meet and might uncheck sections that he does not like. When finished, he goes to look at his schedules. He probably forgot to uncheck a few of the sections that conflict with his practices or sleep schedule, but he sees now that there are fields to constrict those times. He says that he does not want to have class before 11 AM. He creates an additional item on his schedule called "Baseball Practice" and makes space for practice times. Of the two or three remaining schedules, he can clearly see his favorite, which he selects. He copies down the CRNs of these classes and sections and waits for registration day.



Figure 2: Shirley U. Geste.

Shirley U. Geste

Shirley U. Geste, 18, freshman at Ithaca College, communications major (and loves it!), student worker. Now that she has settled into college life, she wants to join clubs on campus.

Shirley is overwhelmed by the number of sections for all of her required classes and electives and is having trouble designing a schedule because of all of the variables at play. Her friends tell her to pick sections based on professors, but she does not know all of them yet and can't decide. She would like to carve out a few hours every day for work.

Shirley hears about Schedulizer Reborn from her classmates, who urge her to try it. Shirley sees the login screen and creates an account. Shirley picks out the classes her advisor told her to take on the class-picking screen. Shirley goes to the schedule screen and sees a lot of schedules generated. She narrows her options by creating an event for a work shift in the middle of the day. She knows she wants to join clubs, which usually meet in the evenings, so she enters that she does not want to have class after 6 PM. Now, rather than having dozens of possible schedules to pick from, she sees only a handful, and from there she picks her favorite, copying down the CRNs. She shares the **pdf** of her schedule on her favorite social media website and posts an excited caption along with it.

Wireframes

Wireframes are attached in the appendix.