

Curriculum Management System

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Project Description

The Curriculum Management System will be a software-as-a-service providing University faculty members the necessary tools to modify their respective University Academic Calendar. The objectives of the CMS are the following:

1. Create a database with the potential to hold all information from diverse academic calendars.
2. Implement a responsive and user-friendly user interface. This UI will contain a calendar catalog, a search bar and a text editor to provide support for dynamic change to existing data such as highlighting, before-and-after comparison, and bilingual spell-checking. It will also support the creation of new course outlines.
3. Assess change requests and provide an overview of possible impact of changes on all related aspects (programs, courses, student completion times).

4. Implement approval process pipelines and establish the necessary structure to facilitate the creation and modification of such pipelines to review calendar modification requests. These pipelines should successfully send the many types of requests to their appropriate academic bodies (councils, committees, senate).
5. Automate as much of the curriculum management process as possible.

Risk

1. One of the biggest risks of the project is building the database schema in an efficient and practical way from the start to accommodate the variety of academic calendars and be expandable to support any future alterations or modifications. Rushing it might result in a plague of scheduled maintenance.
2. Security is also a major concern since the academic calendar affects thousands of students every year and sensitive information must be kept secure. Appropriate frameworks and libraries will be used to monitor activity.
3. The project should be both rigid in terms of requirements and restrictions as curriculums are typically not changed often in major ways due to the robust approval process. The CMS should also be flexible and extensible. We intend to solve this by programming to an interface and not to an implementation.

Competition

Our competitors are every CMS used at higher education institution. One such competitor is the [curriculum tracker](#) used at Concordia University. This software contains a text editor allowing faculty members to create and update existing courses taken manually from the Concordia academic calendar.

Description of Customer and Company

For this particular project, the company and the customer are one and the same: employees at higher education institutions.

The targeted customers will be faculty members at any higher education institutions. Much of the existing CMS, used by Concordia University, outsources many labour intensive tasks to its users. The new CMS intends to automate most of these labours and relieve faculty members of any overhead concerning curriculum modification tracking. Faculty members at higher education institutions are notably industrious, high-achievers, meticulous and pioneers in their chosen fields. They are also educators and researchers who might not be too fond of inefficient systems that rely extensively on redundant tasks.