

Using a site like Grad cafe comes with some benefits seeing as it is scrape friendly but due to the nature of the site there is a fair share of problems as well. Grad cafe is not authenticity checked so the data can't really be trusted beyond that of a non enforced social contract. This poses a critical issue seeing as if we hope to get any actual actionable info from the data it needs to be genuine and gradcafe offers no such guarantee. Beyond this issue there is also the problem of how skewed the data is with some schools having far more entries than others. It's really just not actionable data.

The second limitation I want to mention comes in the form of updating the data. Due to the modularity of the site, checking last entries is not a certain way to confirm duplicates. Putting the info from this site into a dynamic flask application and having it update live comes with the issue that gradcafe doesn't have any checkers or built in tools to help in the querying. This forces the user to come up with their own way of checking data accuracy and minimizing duplicates but regardless of what you come up with the possibility of it's dependencies changing is always present on a site like gradcafe.