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| **Focus Mates** | About  Smart matching platform to find ideal study partners based on shared skills, goals, and academic interests.  Team X  MACATHON |

# Elevator Pitch

Smart matching platform to find ideal study partners based on shared skills, goals, and academic interests.

# Problem

In today’s academic environment, many students struggle with isolation, lack of motivation, and difficulty finding peers to collaborate with on shared learning goals. Study groups often form by chance rather than alignment of skills or interests, leaving many without the support they need to succeed. We set out to solve this by creating a smarter, more intentional way to connect learners based on their academic backgrounds and study habits.

# Solution

**FocusMates** is a web-based platform designed to match students with ideal study partners by comparing their skills, disciplines, and engagement patterns. Instead of browsing endlessly or relying on general-purpose social platforms, users can instantly find study buddies who complement their learning styles and academic interests.

# How we built it

We built FocusMates using **Next.js** for the frontend, **Firebase** for backend services with Firestore for data storage and Auth for authentication. The dashboard shows the user details. The matching algorithm ranks users based on shared skills and displays mutual strengths. A “Match Me” feature initiates a match search with a short delay to simulate advanced pairing. We tested the matching algorithm using set of **dummy user data** and emulated Firebase locally before integrating remote services. After matches are found, users can connect with each other: the Pomodoro timer starts, with chat and videocall available.

# Challenges

One of the challenges we faced was communication, since we had one team member online while the rest were in person. However, we were able to overcome the challenges by using features like Zoom’s screen control to remotely help to solve problems with VS Code.