

Executive FollowUp

A productivity and organization tool

Design Problem

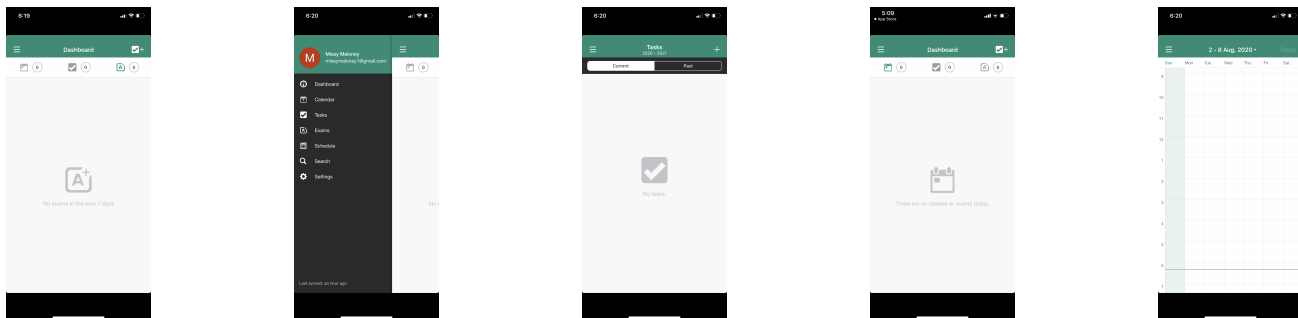
How do you provide enough structure to students in the upper high school years and early college years so that students can be successful academically? Is there a way to provide a system that students can actually grow in their ability to manage their time and workload? Can a student, then, turn these skills into success in their academic life and adulthood?

Section 4: Competitive Analysis

Available digital tools for organizing work

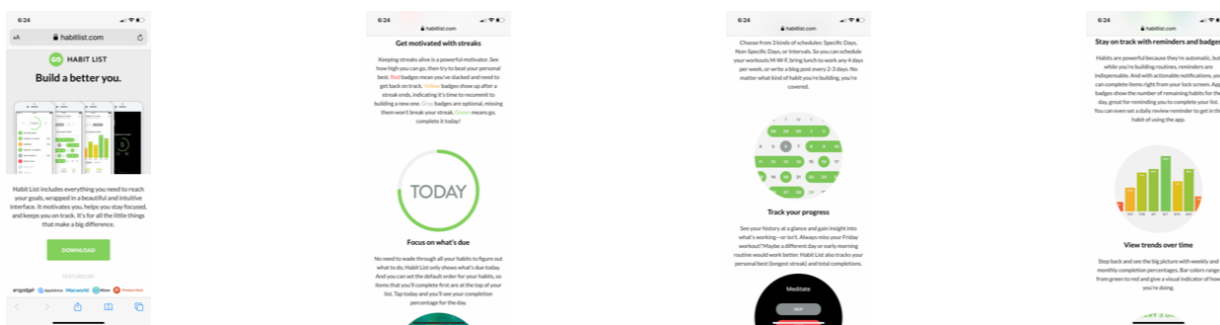
My Study Life

Available on desktop and through the App Store, this is a scheduling system that is more focused on academics. A user can add classes, exams and tasks. There are reminders, a calendar view and a dashboard where you can see what is required today, the next 3 days and the next 7 days. Data is available from all platforms.



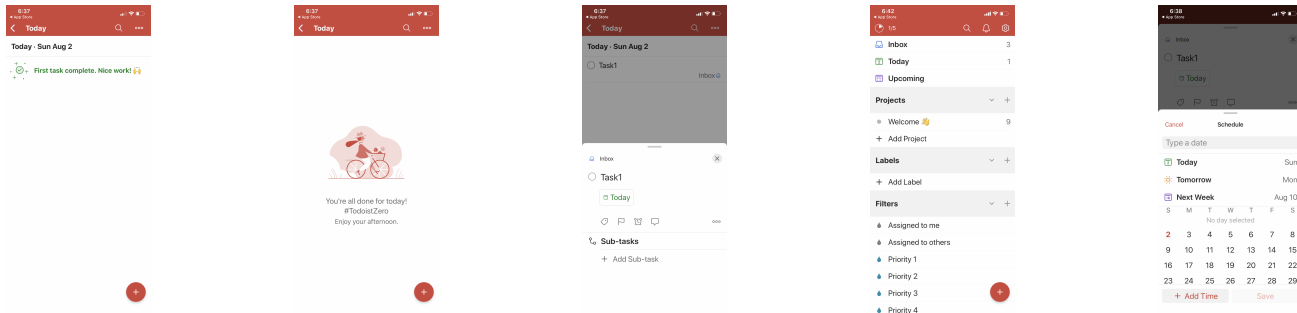
Habit List

This app was recommended by www.beyondbooksmart.com as an app to help improve Executive Functioning Skills. It is available on Desktop and a mobile app through the App Store. A user can create a list of their own set of tasks and the app helps show them how they can progress to completion of those tasks through progress bars, reminders, graphics and motivational images.



Todoist

This app, also available for desktop and mobile from the App Store, has a free and a premium (paid) version. It is a full-featured task manager that allows prioritization and subtasks. In the premium version, a user can receive a variety of notifications. This is not geared toward education.



Current practices in addressing the needs

High school students get academic and organizational support, predominantly, in the following three ways.

- Parental Help
- School-sponsored software systems
- Tutoring

For college students, the ways they get support is very different.

- School-sponsored software system
- Load balancing and course selection
- Group Study
- Friends

Summary of best practices and opportunities

Digital tools fall in several categories and each has strengths. Only a few have an affinity with the educational field, and none focus on a particular age group. All offer the possibility of reminders/notifications. In most other ways, they are a variation on a calendar app. While they each offer very appealing interfaces, they offer a long list of options which might confuse a student who already has focus issues. The opportunity for this app is to offer a narrowly tailored tool that is focused on a student's needs and continuously reinforces excellent planning and preparation habits.