

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 5: Design Goals

In designing this system, I took into consideration both Jacob Neilson's *Heuristic Principles* and Peter Morville's *User Experience Honeycomb*. Through my competitive analysis and Needs Finding Study, I understand that, while there are quite a few digital time management tools available, high school and college students do not use them. Furthermore, I could find no planning technologies that were linked directly to a student's course and assignment list. I wanted to design a system that would be a useful companion technology to the overarching technology that the educational system provides. In addition, I would like to be able to leverage the listing of courses and assignments that are already in the educational system and import this data into Executive FollowUp, if desired. This would boost the usefulness and usability of the app.

In terms of the functionality and user interface, I chose metaphors, symbols, navigation methods and other details that were already familiar to the user from other technology and the real world. I did this to reduce the learning curve and the need to educate the user on basic functions. This boosts the usability of the app by making it easy to use --self-explanatory in most instances.

The heart of the app is the ability to break the larger task of preparing for an assignment, into smaller, more digestible time blocks. The messaging that used were selected to encourage the user to complete the creation of a plan and then follow the plan. This was done using banners, progression bars and an 'at-a-glance' dashboard. The dashboard will be the page most referred to by a user and should include all critical details of work to be done on the current day or week.