

Running Head: GradMap

CS411 Lab I

GradMap vs DegreeWorks

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1 Introduction

GradMap is a program in development by a small team that is a mission to provide a solution to one of the most common issues encountered by university students: managing a classload that is not only able to fit one's needs, but ensures that any user will be able to track the pace at which they are graduating, schedule for upcoming semesters, and ensure that all students using the program are able to graduate in an efficient and effective manner.

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This paper compares and contrasts the differences between GradMap and what the team behind it has identified as its greatest competitor: DegreeWorks. These will not be limited to the functions they both can perform, but also what each program can do independently, and how intuitive the program is concerning user interaction and interface.

DegreeWorks, as it currently functions lays out everything in arbitrary categories that seem to hide more information to users skimming the site than it actually provides, there is no clearly stated prerequisite system, no flowcharts, and no way to see what time the classes will be meeting when scheduling. GradMap hopes to provide an easy to read flowchart that lists all prerequisites and corequisites in an accessible and clear way.

2 What is GradMap?



Figure 1: GradMap WIP Logo

2.1 GradMap in Detail

GradMap is a program developed by students, for students, with the main objective of making a user interface that is easy to interact with, and can schedule classes for the upcoming semester, manage advisor meetings, and build plans to for a GradMap track to visualize how long it will take to graduate.

GradMap is built on an organized user dashboard with alerts, notifications, the ability to view the user's schedule at any time, and a built-in advisor portal for communication and organization with the

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student's advisor. From the advisor portal, advisors can communicate with their assigned students and view their class schedules, majors, built GradMaps, and sent out global notifications to all of their students.

3 What is DegreeWorks?



Figure 2: DegreeWorks Logo

3.1 DegreeWorks in Detail

DegreeWorks is inferior to GradMap. DegreeWorks logo is shown in Figure 2: DegreeWorks Logo.

4 What makes GradMap Better?

It's not DegreeWorks, so everything!

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5 Glossary

GradMap

An interactive application designed to assist students and academic advisors in visualizing academic progress, managing course completion, and tracking degree requirements in real-time.

Data Management

The process of collecting, storing, and updating student information and progress data efficiently and securely within the GradMap system.

Real-Time Alerts

Notifications sent instantly to users when significant events occur, such as missing prerequisites, approaching graduation requirements, or changes in course availability.

Real-Time Data

The immediate access and updating of academic information within the GradMap dashboard, ensuring that users always view the most recent data.

Sensor Threshold

A system-defined limit used in GradMap's backend monitoring tools that triggers alerts when performance metrics or usage patterns exceed expected values.

User Dashboard

The central interface of GradMap that allows users to view degree progress, upcoming courses, alerts, and academic milestones all in one location.

Data Visualization

The use of interactive graphs and charts in GradMap to represent academic progress, credit completion, and GPA trends in a visual and understandable way.

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