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DegreeMate

Winter 2026

Founders

Omeed Enshaie

Profile complete

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Omar Youssef

Profile complete

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How long have the founders known one another and how did you meet? Have any of the founders not met in person?

We met two years ago as CS undergrads at Cal State Long Beach and have worked together since.

Who writes code, or does other technical work on your product? Was any of it done by a non-founder?

Please explain.

Both of us code. The original prototype was built with classmates for our college capstone, but all current work is done by us.

Founder Video

None uploaded

Company

Company name

DegreeMate

Describe what your company does in 50 characters or less.

College Degree Planner and AI-Powered Advisor

Company URL, if any

Unanswered

Demo Video

None uploaded

Please provide a link to the product, if any.

Unanswered

Unanswered

What is your company going to make? Please describe your product and what it does or will do. Our company's product is DegreeMate: a web app that builds and maintains customizable degree plans for college students. It basically creates complete roadmaps of classes to take based on a student's major, transfer credits, and completed courses, then adapts when plans change. Whether they switch majors, take a semester off, or change how many classes they want to take, students can adjust their plan anytime and DegreeMate just figures it out. You'd think this would already exist, but it doesn't. Schools still depend on outdated systems that can't plan effectively, leaving advisors to handle a lot of things manually for each individual student.

Where do you live now, and where would the company be based after YC?

Irvine, CA, USA / Irvine, CA, USA

Explain your decision regarding location.

After YC, we'd stay in Irvine because we have strong connections with students and universities across Southern California. California has the highest number of colleges in the US, and Irvine is a fast-growing tech hub.

Progress

How far along are you?

We built an early prototype during our capstone for a few majors at our school. It wasn't as good as we wanted it to be, but it proved the concept. We've now started building our MVP to test with students and generate data universities will care about.

How long have each of you been working on this? How much of that has been full-time? Please explain. We worked on it part-time for about a year during our capstone, doing a lot of research and building a small prototype. We've been focused on it full-time for about a month.

What tech stack are you using, or planning to use, to build this product? Include AI models and AI coding tools you use.

Next.js + TypeScript, Node.js, PostgreSQL (Neon), Drizzle ORM, and Redis (Upstash). For AI, we use the OpenAI API with a RAG pipeline to build degree plans from each school's catalog, and Claude Code for faster AI-assisted development.

Are people using your product?

No

When will you have a version people can use?

By the end of January.

Do you have revenue?

No

If you are applying with the same idea as a previous batch, did anything change? If you applied with a different idea, why did you pivot and what did you learn from the last idea?

YC first-timers.

If you have already participated or committed to participate in an incubator, "accelerator" or "pre-accelerator" program, please tell us about it.

None so far.

Idea

Why did you pick this idea to work on? Do you have domain expertise in this area? How do you know people need what you're making?

We lived this problem and for four years, everyone around us lived it too. Omar: I was told by advisors I couldn't transfer schools in under three years, so I built my own plan and transferred in one. Since then, I've helped others do the same, including my sister, which inspired DegreeMate. While working at my college's enrollment center, I reviewed countless transcripts and saw how outdated and manual the current ERP and degree planning systems are. Omeed: I looked everywhere, there's still no intelligent tool that actually helps students plan their degrees - so we're building it.

Who are your competitors? What do you understand about your business that they don't?

Existing tools like Ellucian's DegreeWorks and Stellic focus on compliance, not students. They're hard to use, need manual updates by advisors, and don't adapt when plans change. We're building DegreeMate to be the opposite: student-first, adaptive, and powered by real intelligence instead of static checklists.

How do or will you make money? How much could you make?

We'll sell to universities on a per-student license (\$5-10 per student per year). In the short term, targeting universities and community colleges in California (around 2.9M students) could generate \$15-30M in annual revenue. Expanding nationwide to reach 20M students brings the potential to \$100-200M a year. Globally, there are over 150M college students in systems similar to the US, representing a \$750M-\$1.5B annual opportunity.

Which category best applies to your company?

B2B SaaS

If you had any other ideas you considered applying with, please list them. One may be something we've been waiting for. Often when we fund people it's to do something they list here and not in the main application.

My previous startup, an intercity carpooling app that connects verified Car owners and Passengers traveling between cities, helping them share rides and split costs safely. The model is huge in Europe and proven by companies like BlaBlaCar. Adoption in the U.S. and other countries is real but still in early stages for dedicated intercity carpool platforms, creating a large growth opportunity.

Equity

Have you formed ANY legal entity yet?

no

If you have not formed the company yet, describe the planned equity ownership breakdown among the founders, employees and any other proposed stockholders. If there are multiple founders, be sure to give the proposed equity ownership of each founder and founder title (e.g. CEO). (This question is as much for you as us.)

Omar Youssef - CEO - 60% Omeed Enshaie - CTO - 40% We plan for a 10-15% employee option pool and expect around 25% dilution for investors over future funding rounds.

Have you taken any investment yet?

no

Are you currently fundraising?

no

Curious

What convinced you to apply to Y Combinator? Did someone encourage you to apply? Have you been to any YC events?

We've followed YC for years, it's been a dream to build something worthy of it. No one specifically encouraged us to apply, and we haven't been to any YC events yet.

How did you hear about Y Combinator?

We honestly can't remember. YC has been part of our startup vocab for years!

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