# Product Description Document

Advisely, An Education Support Application

Big Muscle Boys

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# Overview

We hope to solidify and optimize degree planning and college success by creating an application which will help manage student course planning over individual semesters, and their academic career. Students do not have a user-friendly application that allows them to manage their degree progress, leading to an overwhelming and time-consuming scheduling process. Thus, our hope is to develop an easy to use application which allows users to create and manage their schedules. We believe that this application will minimize scheduling errors, and, optimize degree planning which will save students time and money.

Advisely will be an application which will be accessible for returning and new students at the university. We will allow users to enter their desired degree, and whatever courses they have completed. Advisely will then give the user various metrics about the status of their primary degree, as well as all other degrees towards which they've made progress. This will allow the user to select which programs they would like to commit to over their college career. Once users select the programs they wish to complete, Advisely will offer overarching degree scheduling and semester by semester planning. It will do this by combining the degree requirements, course recommendations, and user elective choices.

This process will be made possible by an internally stored database of the available courses at the university. This database will store individual degree requirements, and each courses prerequisite and corequisite courses. This information will be used to verify user schedules, and assure user success in their university.

Finally, we will allow users to sign in with google email addresses using the OAuth interface, for secure account creation and maintenance. This will allow for data persistence between sessions and semesters. Further, we will allow for schedules to be exported to user-friendly formats for viewing outside of the application itself. Along with user-friendly exporting, we will allow for data exporting and importing so that users may share desired schedule plans between each other.

# Similar Applications

UMaine - MaineStreet: https://mainestreet.maine.edu/

  MaineStreet is currently the primary method for students at the University of Maine to compile their schedules and degree progress. There are many aspects of the website that are left wanting. The website puts user degree progress under several layers of links and sub-pages throughout the site, making it tedious to access and difficult to process for the user. Advisely hopes to address these issues, making all relevant degree information easy to access, and similarly easy to understand. A feature that Advisely also provides is assistance for schedule and degree plan optimization; utilities that will allow students to more effectively maximize their time and to lend ease towards collegiate success. MaineStreet lacks in this area because it has no on-board tools to help you make the most of that time: a task that often falls to professors, for better or worse. Both MaineStreet and Advisely will share OAuth login and utilize databasing for constant and readily available access to information for the user. We also hope to address MaineStreet's glaring UI problems, as the site is neither intuitive to navigate, nor pleasing to look at.

RUTGERS - Course Scheduler Planner: https://sims.rutgers.edu/csp/

  CSP (Course Scheduler Planner) is a web application built by Rutgers University. The application is built for students to enter the courses they wish to take during a semester and then discovers possible schedules that include those courses. The interface allows students to go through an easy 3 step process. Step 1 allows the student to select all the courses they wish to take in any given semester. Step 2 then has the student select course sections (including the day of week and time of day) that a student would allow for their schedule. Step 3 is performed automatically by the CSP, which takes the course and section input and generates all possible schedules containing those courses and possible sections. Thus, the student can easily choose one of those schedules that fit their preference. In essence, this would be similar to the "micro" scale of our application, which works on a semester basis. The "macro" process of our

application would take a student's major and determine the required courses they must take to complete their degree. Then, at the "micro" scale, our application would use this information to set sections for the required courses; furthermore, similar to CSP, it would allow students to enter other courses they would like to take and additionally offer suggestions of courses, merging all of these courses and sections into a succinct schedule.

Kwidil - College Schedule Builder:
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.kwidil.collegeschedulebuilder

The College Schedule Builder is a cross-University and versatile application which will build you a schedule revolving around your preferences. It takes in your preferred professors, class times, and the courses that you wish to take and builds you the "optimal" schedule. And it does this all with a very friendly and navigable user interface. This app falls short in two primary ways when compared with Advisely. Firstly, it does not offer course recommendations. To get a schedule using the College Schedule Builder you must first find a list of the classes that you'd like to take. But, in the course selection process, this is often the most daunting aspect. Selecting the best courses to take to cover all of your degree requirement in an efficient order is often a very difficult task. Advisely, on the other hand, will give you an overview of the degree intensive courses you should take at each semester, as well as suggesting supplementary courses which would help cover other degree requirements. And secondly, the College Schedule Builder only works on a semester by semester basis. At each semester students need to repeat the same arduous process of selecting courses and inputting them. Again, Advisely rises above in that it allows users to generate plans for their entire degree.