Chapter 1: Problem

1.       Introduction - Aaron

When registering for courses in a new semester at UMSL, students are expected to operate within guidelines to graduate in an expected timeline. Over their education, many classes are contingent on previous skills and knowledge to progress so that proper context can be gleaned from the material. In order to meet these requirements, UMSL provides maps to visibly show general order that courses should be taken along with additional credits necessary to fulfill criteria to achieve a B.S. in Computer Science. This task can be confusing however and may not account for discrepancies in both competency and performance in cases where courses may need to be retaken or credits have been transferred from other departments or schools, or cases where students cannot attend classes in particular semesters. Additionally, courses will be identified as core courses, general education, and electives while meeting the course and credit requirements for each of these categories.

Our system will focus on recognizing individual student requirements and preferences within their map towards graduation and fetch an editable map that can accurately recommend order in which courses should be taken.

1.5   Significance of the Work - Aaron

This software would effectively help provide clearer guidelines toward graduation maps while helping students streamline their path to success. In educating students and allowing them to communicate their individual needs, we can mitigate potential fiscal damage and help ensure they graduate in a manner appropriate to their expectations. Additionally, this serves to save students time and pressure in deciding what courses they need to take each semester and provide them additional adjustable guidance in the event their academic career goes off track for whatever reason and provide them the knowledge required to forge a path forward.