**DegreeWorks**

***Industry: Education | Type: Academic Planning and Advising System***

**Purpose:**  
DegreeWorks is designed to assist students and academic advisors by analyzing degree requirements, completed coursework, and institutional policies to provide evidence-based recommendations for academic planning and graduation pathways.

**Key Features:**

1. **Degree Audit and Progress Tracking:**
   * Compares a student's completed courses and grades against degree requirements to show which requirements have been met, which remain, and how specific choices impact graduation timelines.
2. **Personalized Academic Planning:**
   * Allows students and advisors to create semester-by-semester plans, considering prerequisites, preferred courses, and program rules to optimize course selection and reduce time to graduation.
3. **Scenario Modeling (“What-If” Analysis):**
   * Provides interactive tools where students can simulate changes in their program, such as adding a minor or changing majors, and instantly see how these changes affect their path to graduation.
4. **Automated Recommendations:**
   * Suggests courses, majors, or minors based on the student’s academic interests, completed credits, and institutional policies.
5. **Integration Capabilities:**
   * Connects with student information systems and other campus software, ensuring data accuracy and streamlined workflows for advisors and administrative staff.

**Example Use Case:**

* A student preparing for graduation meets with their advisor. DegreeWorks audits their completed courses, identifies outstanding requirements, and generates a semester-by-semester schedule. If the student wants to add a minor, DegreeWorks models the impact and updates the graduation timeline, ensuring all degree requirements are accounted for.

**Benefits:**

* **Improved Graduation Rates:** Helps students stay on track by clearly mapping requirements and proposed schedules.IBM-Watson-Health.docx
* **Time-Saving:** Automates course auditing and planning that would otherwise require manual analysis by advisors.IBM-Watson-Health.docx
* **Student Empowerment:** Provides transparency so students can actively participate in planning their academic journey.IBM-Watson-Health.docx
* **Accurate and Up-to-Date:** Syncs with institutional records to give advisors and students reliable information.

**Limitations:**

* **Not a Replacement for Advisors:** Supports but does not replace personalized advising; Complex academic situations may require human judgment.
* **Complexity for Students:** Some students may find scenarios and planning features overwhelming without guidance.
* **Integration and Data Security:** Requires careful implementation to ensure data integrity and protect sensitive student information.
* **Customization Costs:** Tailoring DegreeWorks to unique institutional requirements may increase implementation expenses.