**Sahil Wani**

SUID: 466848553

Mar 15th report

**Function Definition for iSchool Course Bot**

**1. Course Schedule Retrieval - get\_course\_schedule()**

**Description:**

The get\_course\_schedule() function allows students to retrieve scheduling details for courses offered at Syracuse University’s iSchool. By providing a course name or code, students can access:

* Semester availability (Fall, Spring, Summer)
* Start and end dates (if available)
* Class timings (if available)
* Delivery mode (in-person, online, hybrid if available)

This function is designed to be seamlessly integrated into the chatbot, ensuring quick and accurate responses to scheduling inquiries.

**Why is this Function Useful?**

1. Streamlines data retrieval by reducing manual queries, ensuring the chatbot delivers accurate scheduling details efficiently.
2. Efficient Semester Planning – Helps students plan their academic schedules by providing real-time information on course availability.
3. Enhanced Chatbot Utility – Adds a crucial feature to the chatbot, allowing users to obtain semester-specific information effortlessly.

**Example Use Case:**

**User Input:** “When is IST 621 offered?”

**Expected Chatbot Response:** “IST 621 - Information Management is offered in Fall and Spring. The next session starts on August 26, 2024.”

**2. Course Description Retrieval - get\_course\_description()**

**Description:**

The get\_course\_description() function provides students with a brief yet informative overview of a course. When a user inputs a course name or code, the function returns:

* A summary of the course
* Key topics covered
* Learning objectives

This feature enhances the chatbot’s ability to guide students in their course selection process.

**Why is this Function Useful?**

1. Helps structure course-related responses dynamically, making it easier to scale the bot for future expansions.
2. Informed Decision-Making – Students can compare course content to determine which best aligns with their academic goals.
3. Quick Access to Information – Eliminates the need for students to manually browse through the university’s course catalog.

**Example Use Case:**

**User Input:** “What is IST 652 about?”

**Expected Chatbot Response:** “IST 652 - Scripting for Data Analysis introduces students to scripting languages like Python and R for handling and analyzing large datasets.”

**3. Course Credit Information - get\_course\_credits()**

**Description:**

The get\_course\_credits() function provides details on the credit value of a given course. By inputting a course name or code, students can obtain:

* Number of credit hours
* Whether the course is required or elective
* Any credit restrictions or prerequisites

This function is particularly useful for students planning their semester workloads and fulfilling program requirements.

**Why is this Function Useful?**

1. Simplifies academic planning by enabling the chatbot to fetch and validate course credit information instantly, reducing redundant database calls.
2. Academic Planning – Helps students balance their coursework by understanding credit requirements for each course.
3. Graduation Tracking – Ensures students stay on track with their required credits to complete their degree on time.

**Example Use Case:**

**User Input:** “How many credits is IST 659?”

**Expected Chatbot Response:** “IST 659 - Data Administration is a 3-credit course required for the Information Management program.”