LockedIn - User Research

404 MARSJ NOT FOUND

Research Questions

RQ1: How do students balance academic tasks with taking breaks and maintaining healthy habits?

RQ2: What pain-points do students face when attempting to maintain consistent study routines?

RQ3: How do students use rewards to motivate themselves to meet their study goals?

Research Method 1 - Interviews

❖ 3 Interviewees

❖ Participants: Undergraduate and graduate U of I students from different majors/years

❖ Where: In-person at a location of their choice (For example: A cafe') or virtual

❖ Duration: Approximately 30 minutes

❖ Number of questions: 8

Interview Questions

Here are the 8 interview questions we asked:

- What resources do you use to manage your tasks and studying?
- What issues do you face with your current study planning methods?
- How do you stay motivated when studying for long hours?
- What challenges do you face when trying to stay on track with your study plans?
- How do you handle distractions during your study time?
- How does sleep or the lack of it affect your performance on exams?
- How do you balance your study plans with other extracurricular activities or personal time?
- What features would make you more likely to engage with a study planner app regularly?

Research Method 2 - Surveys

❖ Same questions as interviews

❖ Participants: Undergraduate and graduate students from different majors/years
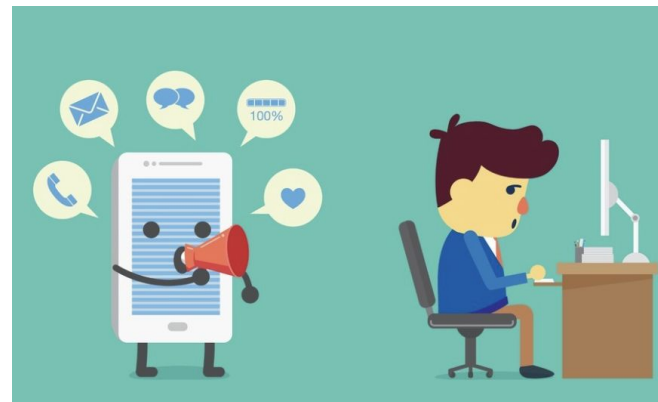
❖ We got 25 responses

Research Results + Insights

❖ Common applications: *Google Cal, iCalendar, Notion*

❖ User struggles:

- Keeping track of schedule
- Deciding how to allocate time for tasks
- Manual Input
- Lack of reminders/alerts
- Handling distractions
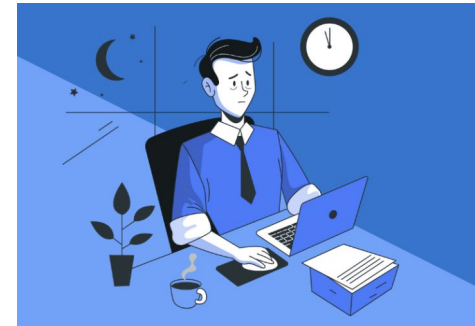
Research Results + Insights

❖ User Motivators/Rewards
  ➢ Good food, Fun plans for after studying, Social media

❖ Most users said they struggle to balance health/wellness with studying

  ➢ Sacrificing sleep/rest time to finish tasks

  ➢ Pushing meals to later

  ➢ Canceling plans with friends

Research Results + Insights

What do Users Value:

- Simple minimal interface

- Easy to use and interactive

- Reminders/Notifications (studying + breaks)

- Prioritization based on need

- In-built reward system

- Helps eliminate distractions

LockedIn Key Features

- Curate a personalized study plan based on desired total study time & Criteria
- Schedule breaks with rewards based on completed study time
- Easily modify the study plan to accommodate sleep & daily routines and adjust for last minute changes

Sarah - Perfectionist

economist.com

- Spends excessive time on individual tasks
- Difficulty prioritizing tasks and moving between topics unless mastered
- Actively job searching for full time job
- Taking CS 440 & CS 374
- Struggles to balance coursework & job hunting and falling behind on assignments due to over-focus on recruiting

Valued Features: Automatic scheduling to manage time wisely daily & dynamic rescheduling

Task 1

Sarah has midterms in 3 weeks & an interview in 2 weeks:

- Input exam dates and allocate 40 hours of study time for the exam
- Input Interview date and add daily 1-hour leetcode sessions
- Views the multiple plans generated from her specified exams and desired time
- Accept the app's generated schedule of eight 5-hour study blocks
- Accept the app's generated daily leetcode reviews fit into her schedule
- Follow the plan, update the progress

She successfully completed her interview which went great and feels prepared for exams!

Alex - Procrastinator

23 Year Old PhD Researching on Scientific Computing

- Passionate about research but finds the writing process boring and tedious, contributing to procrastination.
- Prefers spending time with friends and tutoring junior students over writing.
- A week has passed without significant progress on the paper draft.
- Feels pressure from his mentor to review his draft by Monday.
- Wants to complete the paper but lacks motivation without a sense of achievement from research breakthroughs.

Valued Features: Create a Study Plan & A Motivation System to Draw His Attention

Task 2

Alex needs to write a paper draft for his mentor by Monday.

- Input the desired rewards – to use his phone for entertainment
- Input the time of study he need to complete the paper
- Accept the app's generated schedule of 5-hour writing blocks and 2-hour tutoring blocks
- Follow the established plan closely, feeling a sense of accomplishment through finish the writing goal in time and enjoying the rewards

he successfully completes a thorough draft and enjoys quality time with friends over the weekend. His mentor is pleased with the quality of his work, reinforcing the positive outcomes of his efforts.

Jimmy - Planner

- Values structure and detailed planning
- Keeps a strict daily routine, scheduling time for studying, classes, meals, and breaks
- Feels most productive when every hour is planned
- Struggles with stress when unexpected changes disrupt his well-organized schedule
- Looks for tools that help maintain control over his time and adapt quickly to changes

Valued Features: structured scheduling, task prioritization, flexibility for last minute changes

Task 3

Jimmy has midterms coming up soon and assignments to turn in:

- Jimmy inputs his deadlines, study hours, and daily routine into the scheduling app, following the plan closely.
- When he takes longer than expected on homework and misses a study block, the app notifies him and suggests a new time.
- Jimmy accepts the new time, adjusts his schedule, and continues working to stay on track.

By following the adjusted plan, Jimmy stays on top of his assignments and prepares effectively for exams, all while maintaining his routine and avoiding any last-minute stress.