CS Advisory Planner User Manual

Introduction

The CS Advisory Planner is an online tool that allows you to plan out each semester of the computer science major offered by the Metropolitan State University of Denver. You can use this tool to ensure that you will graduate by a certain date, or to keep track of your overall progress through the major. You can also use it to make sure that you get to take all the cool electives you're most interested in!

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Arrows indicate subsections.

System Requirements

The CS Advisory Planner is a web application, which means it runs in your web browser. You

must have an Internet connection and a modern, standards-compliant browser. The following browsers are known to work with the application:

- Mozilla Firefox 3.5 or higher
- Internet Explorer 8 or higher
- Google Chrome 4 or higher
- Opera 12.14 or higher
- Safari 5.17 or higher

While the application *does* work *without* JavaScript, we strongly recommend you enable JavaScript for the optimal experience.

Signing Up and Logging In

Before you can use the CS Advisory Planner, you must create an account and log in. The sections below explain how to do these things.

→ Creating an Account

Creating an account is the first thing you must do in order to use the CS Advisory Planner. Fortunately, the process is very simple. Enter your **first name**, **last name**, **MSU Denver email**, and **900 number** in the fields provided. See Figure 1.0.
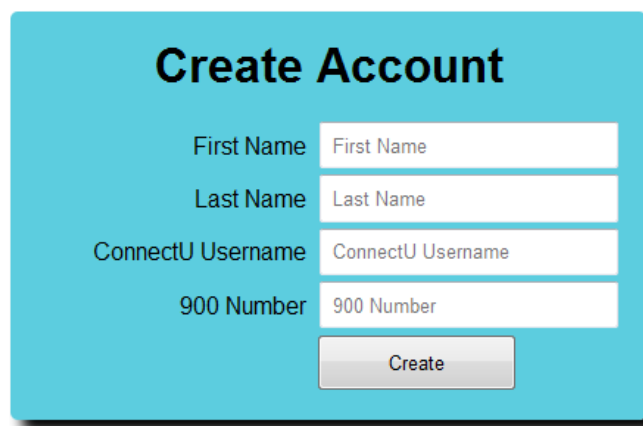

Figure 1.0.

If you are enrolled at Metropolitan State University of Denver, you should have a school email and a 900 number. If you do not, please contact a school administration staff member for assistance.

Once you click the **Create Account** button, an email will be sent to the school email address you entered. Open that email and click on the link inside to complete your registration (see Figure 1.1 for an example email).
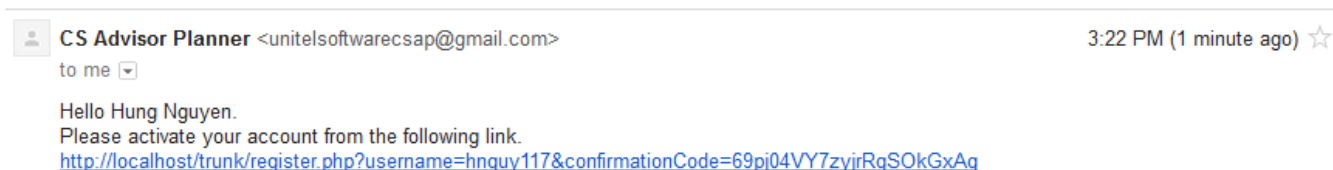

Figure 1.1

The link will take you to a page that allows you to set your password for your CS Advisory Planner account. See Figure 1.2.

Figure 1.2

Once you have set your password, you are ready to log in!

→ Logging In

To log in, simply enter your **ConnectU username** (this is the same as your Metropolitan State University email address) and your **password**. See Figure 2.0.
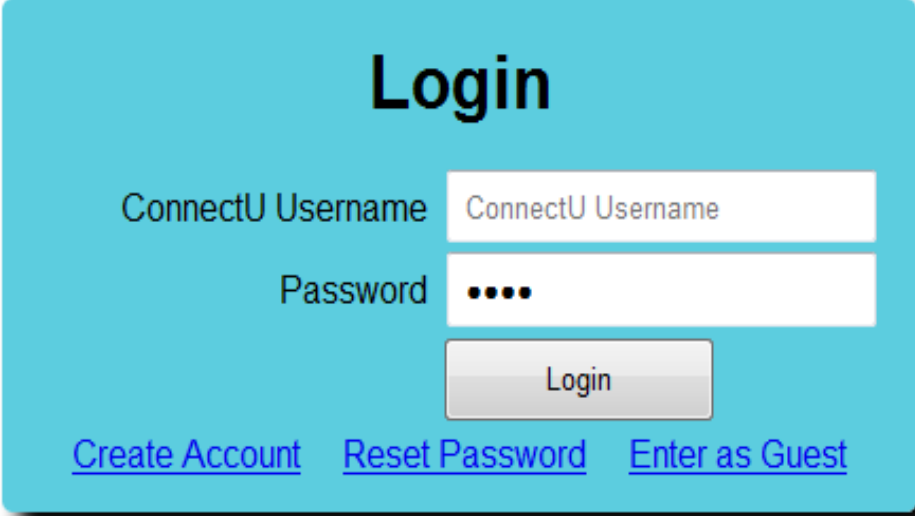

Figure 2.0

Note that you must create an account before logging in for the first time.

You will notice that there are links for creating an account and resetting your password.

Please see the relevant sections *Creating an Account* on page ** and *Resetting Password* on page ** for help with these tasks.

→ Resetting Password

You can reset your password if you forgot it. To do so, click on the **Reset Password** link on the login screen. This will take you to the page shown in Figure 3.0.
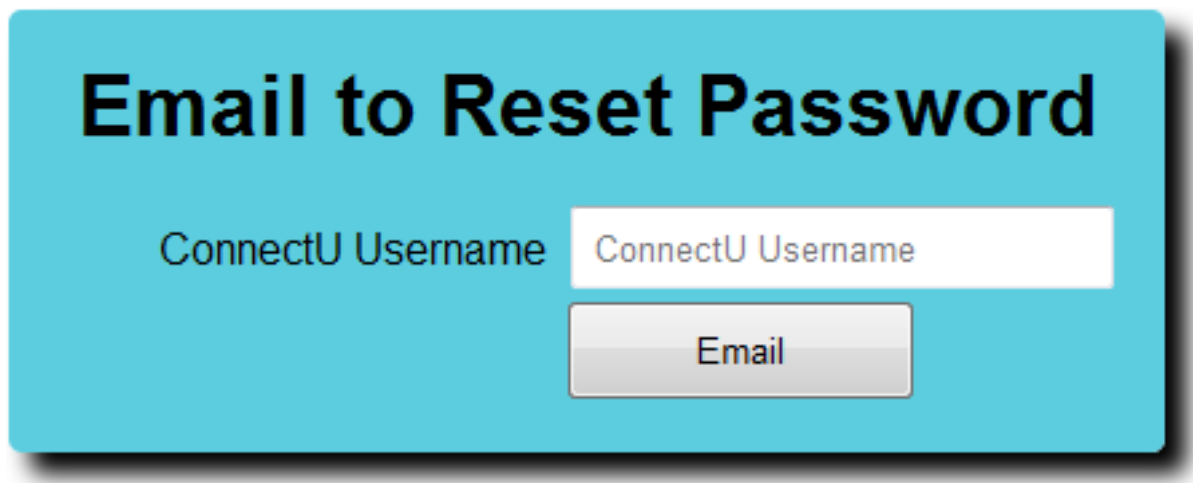
Figure 3.0.

Enter a **new password** and **confirm it** to reset your password.

Using the Application (JAVASCRIPT ENABLED)

Welcome to the CS Advisory Planner! The subsections under this section describe the application and how to use it.

→ The Main Screen

The main screen/home page is where you can use most of the features the CS Advisory Planner offers. There are two primary panels. The left panel shows your current schedule and the right panel holds every course in the computer science major. See Figure 4.0 for a sample main screen. The courses are represented as colored *tiles.* Each tile can be **dragged** and **edited**.

Figure 4.0.

When you first view the main screen, the left panel will be loaded up with a suggested class schedule for future semesters. Please see the *Planning Your Degree* subsection on page ** to learn how to customize your class schedule.

→ Course Tiles

Every course in the application appears as a colored tile with rounded corners. The tile shows the course name and number and also provides an **Edit** link that allows you to make certain changes to the tile. See Figure 4.1 for an example tile.
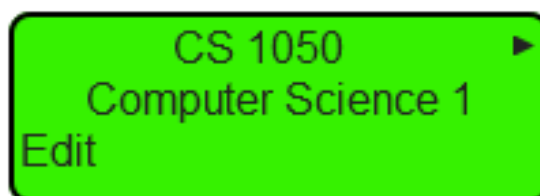

Figure 4.1.

Please see the *Editing Course Tiles* subsection on page ** to learn about editing courses. If you want the course tiles to display more information, you can click the **View** link at the top left of the main screen and select the items you'd like the tiles to show. See Figure 4.2 for an example.
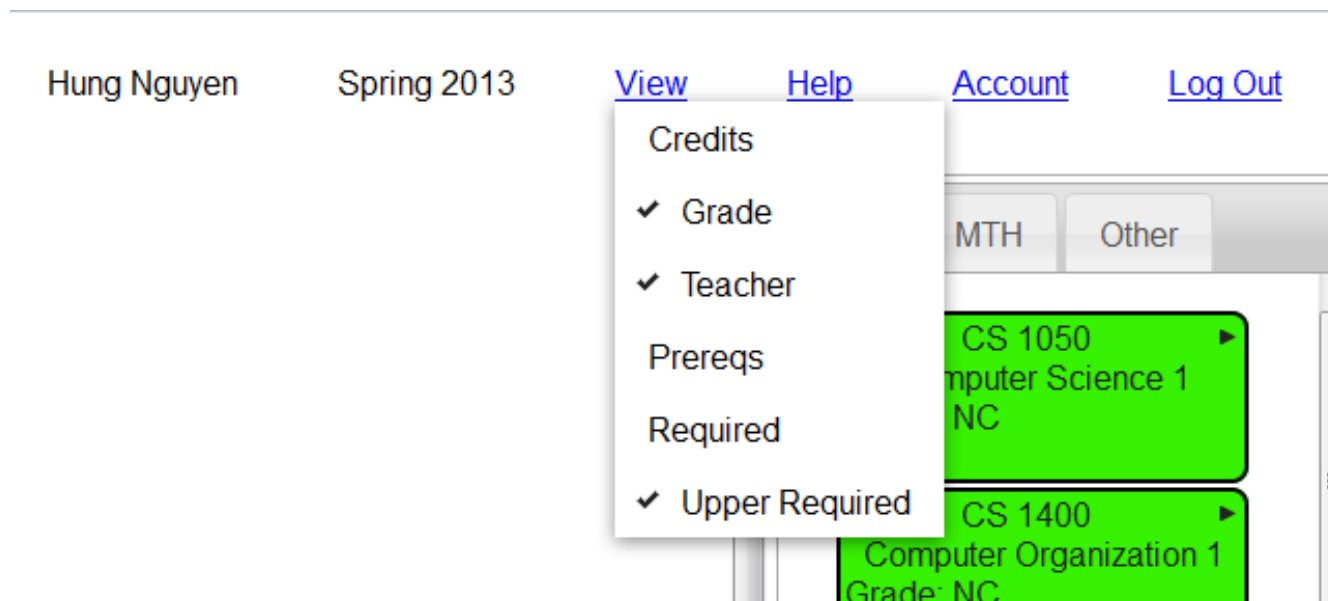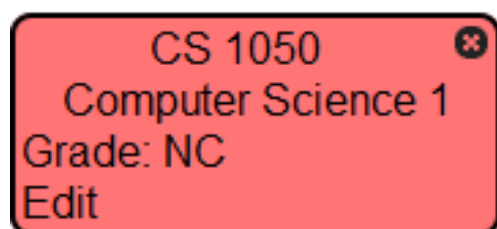

Figure 4.2.

→→ Course Tile Color Legend

The colors of course tiles provide useful information. There are four distinct colors that a tile can be. Below is a legend describing the meanings of these different colors.

Light red: Course has been completed but hasn't received a grade or any credit.

Light green: Course has been completed and has received a grade.

Green: Course can be registered for either now or in the future if you follow the current schedule.

Red: Course's prerequisites have not been met; you cannot register for it until you meet the prerequisites.

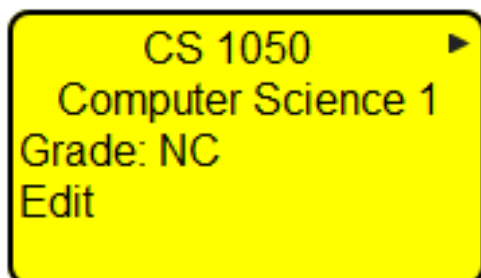**Yellow**: Indicates that the course is a prerequisite for the course you are hovering over with your mouse.

You can view a condensed version of this color legend at any time in the application by hovering your mouse over the **Help** link on the main screen. See Figure 4.2.1 for an example.
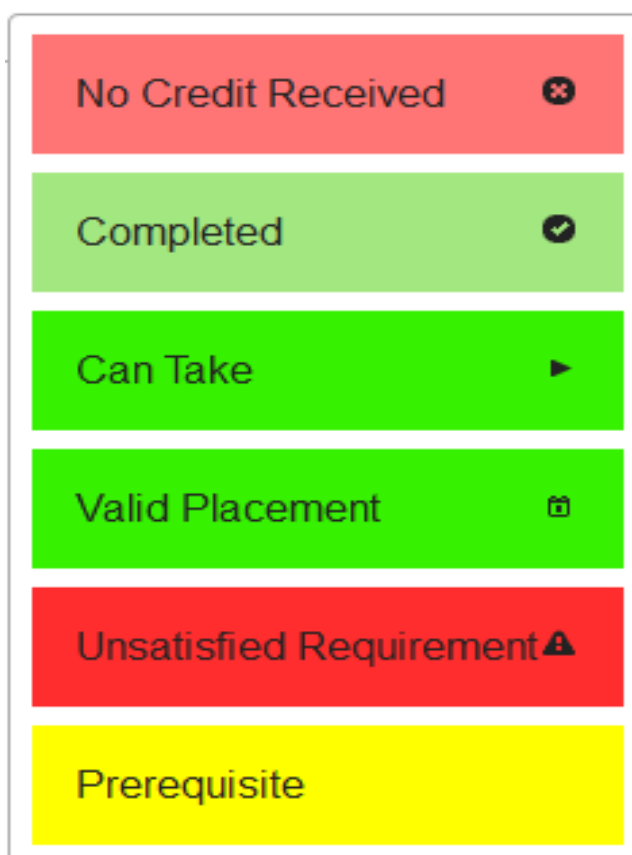

Figure 4.2.1.

→→ **Editing Course Tiles**

You can edit some information about a course by clicking the **Edit** link on its tile. What you can edit depends on whether you have already taken the course, you are taking it now, or you will take it in the future. You can change your degree plan by using the course edit menu as well.

To change the **grade you received on a course**:
1. Click the **Edit** link on the course tile
2. Select the **Grade** dropdown in the popup that appears and change it to the grade you received.
3. Click **Save**. See Figure 4.2.2 for an example of changing a course grade.
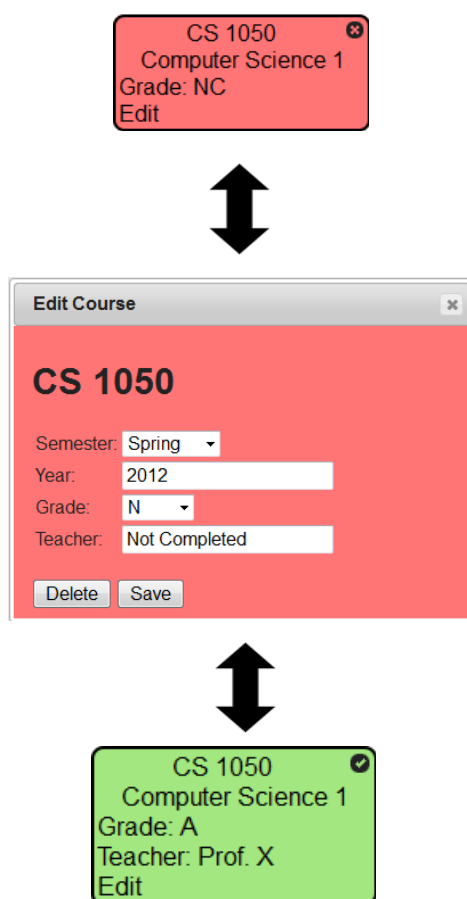

Figure 4.2.2.

To change the **semester you took/plan on taking the course**:

1. Click the **Edit** link on the course tile
2. Update the **Semester**, **Year**, and **Availability** in the popup that appears.
3. Click **Save**.

To **remove a course from your schedule**:

1. Click **Edit** on the course tile.
2. Click **Delete** in the popup that appears. See Figure 4.2.3 for an example.
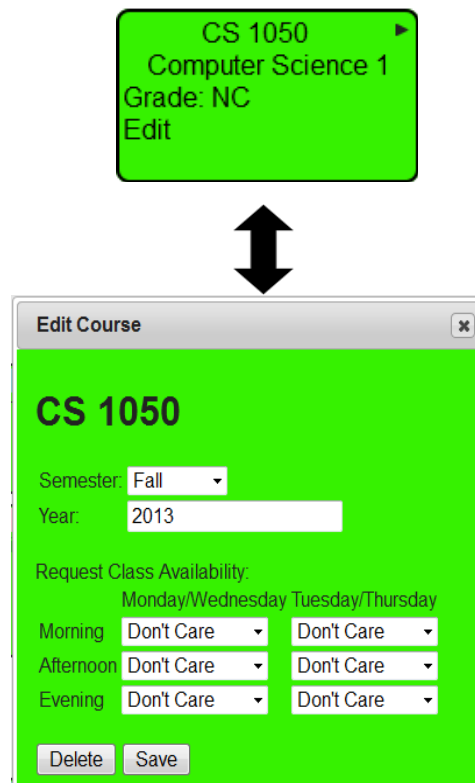

Figure 4.2.3.

To **add a course to your schedule from the course library**:

1. Click **Edit** on the course tile in the library. A popup will appear.
2. Select the **Semester** dropdown and choose a semester.
3. Enter the **Year** in the provided field.

4. Click **Add**.

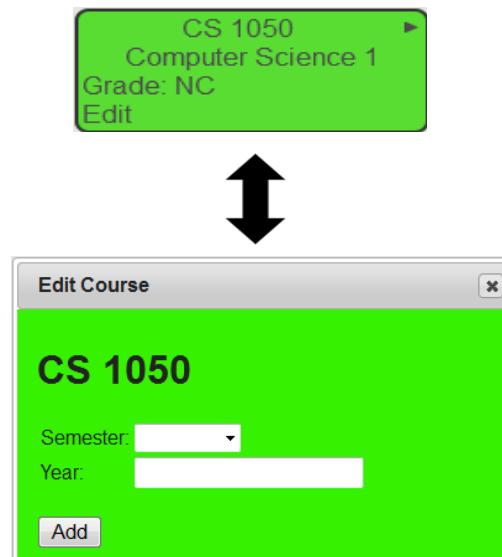See Figure 4.2.4 for an example of adding a course to your schedule.

Figure 4.2.4.

→ Planning Your Degree

You can use the CS Advisory Planner to plan out your computer science degree so you know what courses to take each semester til you graduate.

To plan your degree, you can **click** on any course tile and **drag** it to a desired position. This includes the tiles found in the course library (the right panel on the screen). In Figure 4.3, the user is placing the course CS 1050 into the first time slot for the Fall 2013 semester.
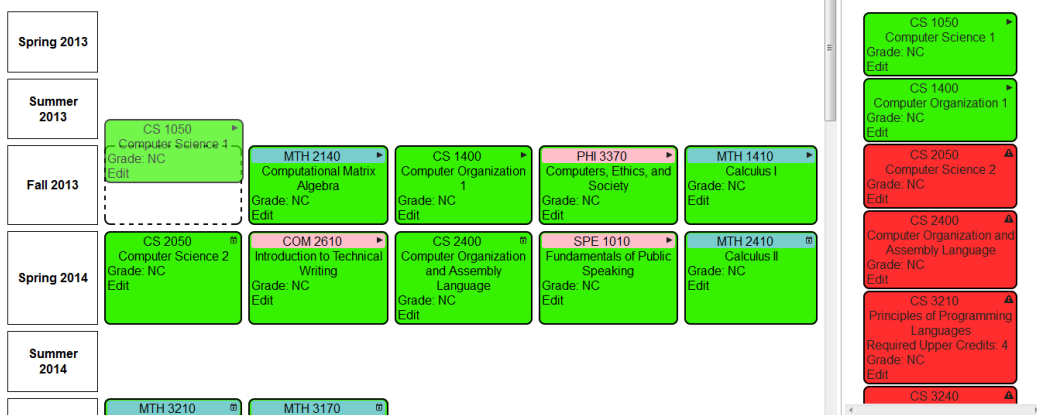
Figure 4.3.

→ Checking a Course's Prerequisites

You can easily view the prerequisites for a given course by **hovering** your pointer over the course tile. **This will cause all the prerequisites to turn yellow.** In Figure 4.4, the user is hovering their mouse over the CS 2400 course, which causes its two prerequisites to turn yellow.
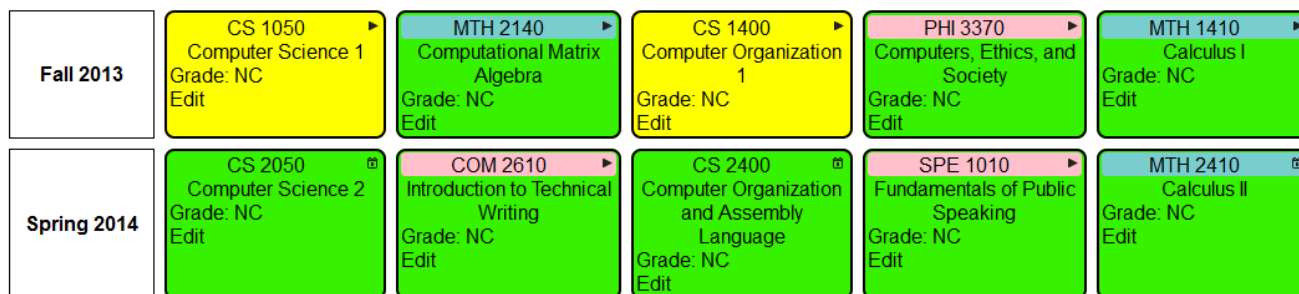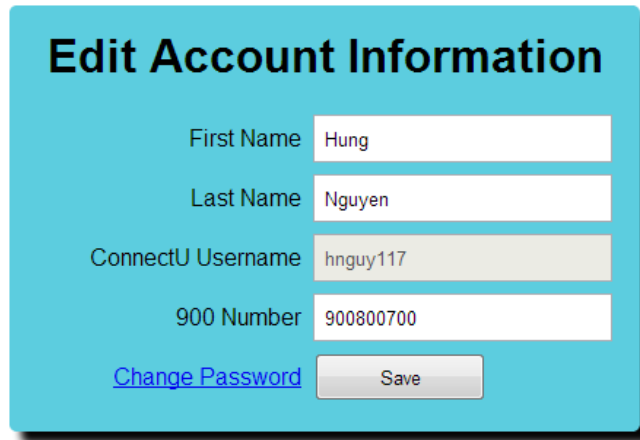

Figure 4.4.

→ Account Management

You can easily **update your account information** by following these steps:

1. From the main screen, click the **Account** link at the top of the screen.
2. In the page that appears, change any of the values in the fields shown. See Figure 4.5.
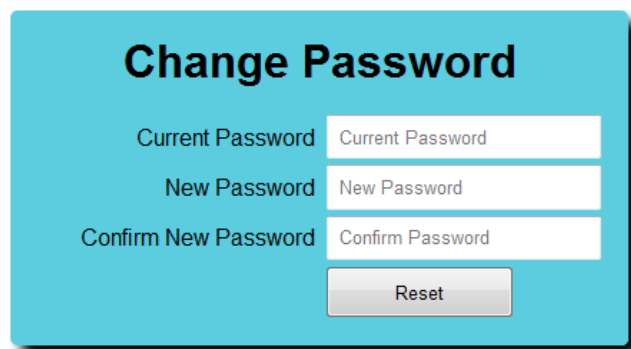3. Click **Save**.

Figure 4.5.

You can **change your password** from the page shown in Figure 4.5 by following these steps:
1. Click the **Change Password** link.
2. Enter your existing password in the **Current Password** field.
3. Enter your new password and confirm it in the remaining two fields.
4. Click **Reset**.

See the image below for a view of the **Change Password** page.

Figure 4.6.

Using the Application (JAVASCRIPT DISABLED)

The CS Advisory Planner has been built to work minimally without JavaScript. The subsections below describe how to use the limited features available in the application when JavaScript is disabled.

→ The Main Screen

The JavaScript-disabled main screen looks very similar to the JavaScript-enabled version, except that the course tiles are all white and display all information at all times. See Figure 6.0. The course tiles cannot be dragged and dropped. They can, however, still be **edited** using the same process shown in the *Editing Course Tiles* section on page **.

Figure 6.0.

→ Planning the Degree

You can still plan your degree with JavaScript disabled by using the **Edit** links on course tiles.

To **add a course to your schedule**:

1. Click **Edit** on the desired course tile
2. Select the **Semester** dropdown and set it to the desired semester
3. Enter the **Year** and update the **Availability** information.
4. Click **Save**.

Figure 6.1: An example of a JavaScript-disabled edit course view.

To **remove a course from your schedule**:

1. Click the **Edit** link on the desired course tile
2. Click the **Delete** button.

To **update the grade you received on a course**:

1. Click the **Edit** link on the course tile you wish to edit
2. Select and update the **Grade** dropdown
3. Click the **Save** button

CS 2050

Semester: Spring

Year: 2012

Grade: A

Teacher: Not Completed

Delete   Save

Figure 6.2: An example of a JavaScript-disabled edit course grade and teacher view.