

Design Notebook #5

HCI Platform Chosen: Degreeworks

The screenshot shows the Degreeworks University Registrar interface for the University of California - Irvine. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Header:** Degreeworks University Registrar, University of California - Irvine. Navigation links: Back to StudentAccess, Print, LogOut.
- Student Information:** Student ID: 9605117, Name: JAIN, ANKIT, Degree: B.S., Major: Business Information Ma, Classification: Senior, Last Audit: 09/20/2018.
- Worksheets:** Worksheets, Planner, Student View, View.
- What If:** A section for exploring other possibilities.
- Student View:** A table showing student details: Student ID, Name, Level, Undergraduate, Degree, College, Majors, Minor, Overall GPA.
- B.S. Degree:** A section showing degree requirements: Catalogue Year: 2016-2017, Credits Required: 180, Credits Applied: 158. It also includes a note about unmet conditions for this set of requirements.

Degreeworks is a platform to help the students of UCI understand how far along they are in terms of pursuing their degree, such as what classes you have already taken and what is left to be taken in order to achieve your degree. Degreeworks has a consistent color scheme throughout the page, such as yellow is used to signify completed classes, blue for in progress and red for classes yet to be taken. There is lack of control in hands of the user and changes can be made only by an authorized advisor. This is mainly because to allow the school itself to keep proper track of the degree as well, as just opposed to the student. If student has complete control, he/she will be able to manipulate the entire system and may possibly misuse it as well. If there is a change requested, the exception or change made is reflected on the system and effective feedback is shown. The What-if feature allows people to explore other possible majors and whether their classes match or not, but there is a consistency break there as suppose one enters their own major, the exceptions and change requests don't carry over. For any reversal of action or changes, administrator action is required mainly to maintain control in hands of the administrator. Degreeworks shows the status of the system at a point of time, but it has a rather distinct minimalistic design in the sense that their manipulation of colors is done properly but lacks consistency at times. Overall, Degreeworks is a well thought out comprehensive system which has been working well for so long now but it has some room for improvement which can be covered easily.