

**From:** [Downs, Heather L. \(hld8m\)](#)  
**To:** [Hartless, Ben \(bh4hb\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Questions from Claude :)  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 11, 2025 8:37:54 PM

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My attempts at answering...

I will get you a doc with the current Fall courses as well.

**Heather Downs**

*Director of Academic Operations*

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**From:** Hartless, Ben (bh4hb) <bh4hb@virginia.edu>

**Date:** Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 3:35 PM

**To:** Downs, Heather L. (hld8m) <hld8m@virginia.edu>

**Subject:** Questions from Claude :)

# Questions for Heather - December 15, 2024

## Priority Questions (Need Answers to Continue Development)

### 1. Color Coding Issue - CSV Data Format

\*\*Current Problem\*\*: The schedule is showing all courses in gray instead of the color-coded cohort colors.

\*\*Question\*\*: What format does the `targetPrograms` column use in your CSV file?

Please share 2-3 example values from your actual CSV, such as:

- "MPP Year 1"
- "MPP\_Postgrad Year 1"
- "BA Year 2"
- "MPP1"  (won't work - missing "Year")
- "First year MPP"  (won't work - wrong format)

\*\*Why this matters\*\*: The parser needs to match the exact format to extract cohort data correctly.

I would have to code this in the data. Suggested Codes:

MPP1

MPP2

[BA3](#)  
[BA4](#)  
[Accel1](#)  
[Accel2](#)  
[G/U Electives](#)

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## ## Schedule Versioning Questions

### ### 2. Version Naming Convention

When saving different versions of a schedule, what naming style would work best for your team?

**It would be good to be able to delete drafts to avoid confusion**

**\*\*Options:\*\***

- A) Descriptive: "Fall 2025 - Morning Focus", "Spring 2025 - Final Draft"
- B) Sequential: "Version 1", "Version 2", "Version 3"
- C) Date-based: "Schedule 2024-12-15", "Schedule 2024-12-20"**
- D) Hybrid: "Fall 2025 v3 - Final Draft"

**\*\*Your preference\*\*:** \_\_\_\_\_

### ### 3. Version Storage and Retention

- How long do you need to keep old schedule versions?

- [ ] Just current semester
- [ ] One academic year**
- [ ] Multiple years
- [ ] Forever

- Do multiple people need to access and edit the same schedules?

- [ ] Yes (requires cloud backend)
- [ ] No (local storage is fine) - more people involved could create some chaos, but I could also see it evolving to the point where more than one person could be involved, once we get the system under our belts**

### ### 4. Version Comparison Priority

Is side-by-side comparison of two schedule versions important?

- [ ] Yes, high priority
- [ ] Nice to have, but not urgent**

- [ ] Not needed

If yes, what differences are most important to highlight?

- [ ] Faculty reassessments
- [ ] Time slot changes (w/course mnemonic)
- [ ] Room changes
- [ ] Conflict count changes
- [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### ### 5. Approval Workflow

Do schedules need formal approval before being finalized?

- [ ] Yes - need Draft → Review → Approved workflow
- [ ] No - just save and load functionality is fine (these have to ultimately entered in SIS, which may happen in stages)

If yes, who are the approvers? \_\_\_\_\_

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#### ## Discussion Section Scheduling Questions

#### ### 6. LPPL 6050 Discussion Day Constraint Clarification

Current rule: "All discussion sections must be on Tuesday OR Thursday"

\*\*Question\*\*: Does this mean:

- [ ] A) Each discussion section picks ONE day (either Tue OR Thu)
  - Example: Discussion 1 on Tuesday, Discussion 2 on Thursday
- [ ] B) ALL discussions must be on the SAME day (all Tue or all Thu)
  - Example: Discussion 1 on Tuesday, Discussion 2 on Tuesday

\*\*Your answer\*\*: A

#### ### 7. Discussion Time Preferences

Are there preferred times for discussion sections?

- Preferred time range: ideally they would limit conflicts with lectures for courses in their cohort
- Times to avoid: \_\_\_\_\_
- Should discussions be immediately before/after lectures? [ ] Yes [ ] No

### ### 8. LPPA 7110/7160 Overlap with LPPL 6050

Current rule: "Minimize overlap with LPPL 6050 lectures and discussions"

\*\*Question\*\*: How strict is this?

- [ ] Hard constraint - absolutely no overlap allowed (scheduling will fail if can't avoid)
- [ ] Soft constraint - avoid when possible, but overlap is acceptable if necessary (shows warning)

\*\*Follow-up\*\*: Which is higher priority to avoid?

- [ ] Overlap with LPPL 6050 lectures
- [ ] Overlap with LPPL 6050 discussions
- [ ] Both equally important

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## ## General Scheduling Questions

### ### 9. LPPP 7750 Section Distribution

You mentioned sections were clustering on Tuesdays. We added anti-clustering logic.

\*\*Question\*\*: Is the current distribution better now? (See attached screenshot if available)

\*\*Follow-up\*\*: What's the ideal distribution?

- [ ] One section per day (M, T, W, Th, F)
- [ ] At least 2 different days
- [ ] Just avoid having all sections at the same time
- [ ] Other: At least one on every day, no more than 2 on Friday (morning only) and avoid exact same times on any day.

### ### 10. Multiple Cohort Courses

Some courses target multiple student cohorts (e.g., "MPP Year 1, BA Year 3"). This won't happen when we use real data. Electives at the 5000 level may target multiple cohorts but this will be caught with the G/U Elective designation when we build the data.

\*\*Question\*\*: Which cohort's color should we display?

- [ ] A) Primary/first cohort only (current approach)
- [ ] B) Show multiple colors (multiple color bars or split colors)
- [ ] C) Use a neutral color for multi-cohort courses

\*\*Example course with multiple cohorts\*\*: \_\_\_\_\_

### ### 11. Color Scheme Preferences

Are the current color assignments acceptable? I have to take a look at this. Looks ok for now with below changes.

Cohort	Color	Acceptable?
MPP Year 1	Blue	[ ] Yes [ ] No
MPP Year 2	Indigo	[ ] Yes [ ] No
BA Year 1	Purple	[ ] Yes [ ] No - not needed
BA Year 2	Pink	[ ] Yes [ ] No - not needed
BA Year 3	Rose	[ ] Yes [ ] No
BA Year 4	Red	[ ] Yes [ ] No
Minor	Green	[ ] Yes [ ] No - not necessary/same as other cohorts
Certificate	Amber	[ ] Yes [ ] No - not necessary/same as other cohorts

If any are not acceptable, what colors would you prefer? \_\_\_\_\_

### ### 12. Faculty Workload Limits - Not necessary to consider since faculty are identified with courses.

What's considered a reasonable teaching load for faculty?

- Maximum hours per week: \_\_\_\_\_
- Maximum number of courses: \_\_\_\_\_
- Maximum number of different course preparations: \_\_\_\_\_

### ### 13. Room Assignment Priorities

Current priority order:

1. Monroe 120 (60 capacity) - for large lectures
2. Rouss Hall (48 capacity) - for medium courses
3. Pavilion VIII (18 capacity) - for small courses/capstones

\*\*Question\*\*: Is this correct?

- [ ] Yes, this is correct - 60+ larger classes will have to be in rooms according to university scheduling parameters. It is possible to mix numbers to meet capacity - for instance if we need 100 seats for LPPA 3640, we can split it into Monroe and Rouss.

- [ ] No, adjust to: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Follow-up\*\*: Are there any courses that require specific rooms beyond what's in the notes column? - this is where we will find the most additional constraints as we play with the model

- [ ] No, notes column covers everything

- [ ] Yes: \_\_\_\_\_

### ### 14. Block-Busting Courses

Are there courses that should always be scheduled outside standard university time blocks?

- [ ] No block-busting courses

- [ ] Yes, the following courses:

Yes, but

this is more specific to the combination of section length, room availability, faculty preference, etc. Not course specific necessarily. I will provide a sample of current schedule for reference.

If yes, why? \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred times: \_\_\_\_\_

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### ## Feature Priority Ranking

Please rank these upcoming features by priority (1 = highest, 5 = lowest):

- [ ] 4 Fix color coding display issue

- [ ] 1\_ Implement schedule versioning (save/load multiple versions)

- [ ] 3 Add version comparison (side-by-side diff)

- [ ] 2\_ Implement discussion section day constraints in scheduler

- [ ] \_\_\_ Add faculty workload balancing across semesters - not needed

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### ## Additional Comments or Questions

Please share any other feedback, concerns, or questions:

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## ## Response Instructions

You can either:

1. Fill out this document and send it back
2. Schedule a brief call to go through these questions
3. Answer the priority questions first, then we can address others later

**\*\*Most Urgent\*\*: Questions #1 (color coding CSV format) and #6 (discussion day constraints)**

Thank you!