

Project Proposal: GradU

“Large” Group

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CS 370-3

Background/Purpose

- Far fewer students apply to graduate programs than undergraduate ones
- Finding information about graduate programs online can be a difficult and daunting task
- GradU will address this issue by providing a ***web-based virtual information and review board for graduate programs*** across the country
 - Allowing prospective students to conduct preliminary research about graduate schools
 - Refine their application process
 - Allowing graduate program alumni and current graduate students to submit reviews for their programs

Targeted Users

- *Anyone* who is 1) seeking to **apply to graduate programs** in U.S. institutions (applicant) or 2) currently **enrolled in such a program** who wishes to review it (reviewer)
 - **Applicants:**
 - Undergraduate students
 - Graduate students
 - Working professionals
 - Others
 - **Reviewers:**
 - Current students in graduate schools
 - Past alumni
- These users also vary in the **degrees** they are pursuing:
 - Master degree programs
 - PhD degree programs
 - Professional degree programs (e.g. law schools and medical schools)

Problems

- Difficulties in finding the information about specific graduate programs, instead of the university itself.
- Avoiding an overwhelming amount of research when trying to find PhD advisors in their areas of interest.
- Identifying the career trajectories of the graduate programs (e.g. industry, job positions, average salaries, etc.)
- Evaluating themselves compared to past applicants; in other words, determining how strong an application needs to be.

Key Features - For Applicants

- Search:
 - Program search
 - Lab search
 - Professor search
- Discussion forum:
 - users can discuss applications, school matching, and other application related questions/topics.
- Profile gallery:
 - users can check the past applicants' application material, school list, and their application results in the online database.

Key Features - For Reviewers

- School reviews
 - Reviewers may post their own reviews to the program they are currently enrolling in/enrolled.
- Discussion forum
 - Reviewers can post about their current position, allowing users to build connections.
- Profile gallery
 - Users can anonymously post their application material, school list, and their application results.

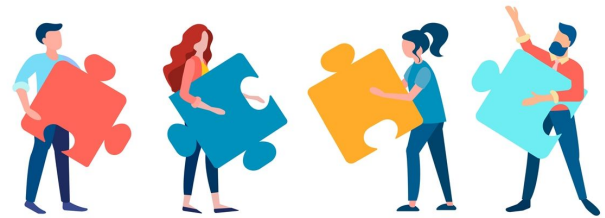
Team

Working Together:

- Scrum planning: Meet weekly to assign tasks
- Daily Scrum: Check-ins throughout the week
- Scrum Review: Share completed tasks & software

Group Leaders/Roles:

- Product Owner: Yijun
- Scrum Master: Adrian



Technical Challenges

- Architectural/documentation inconsistencies that arise when working in a larger group
- Ensuring the website is presentable and easy to navigate
- Maintaining up-to-date information
- Effective/accurate web-scraping
- Website design/layout



Risks & Solutions

- Packed schedules prevent team members from completing assignments on time
 - Maintain open lines of communication
 - Have other team mates fill in the gaps when an externality occurs
- Lack of knowledge about new technical resources
 - The internet/online guides/documentation/bootcamps
 - Use prior knowledge of team mates, mentoring each other



Success

Measuring Success:

- Project meaningfully aids students in understanding graduate school options
 - “Meaningfully” means user reviews are positive and confirm its usefulness
- The product functions without crashing and is easy to navigate/use by consumers.

If the project is successful, what do you plan to do with it?

- Maintain it as an online platform
- Advertise so that users become aware of it



Thank you!

Image Citations:

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