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20-MAY-2025

Python 100

Assignment05

https://github.com/cb658/Python110-Spr2025

A program reading and writing json file data, with structured error handling

Introduction

This paper will discuss the process used to create Assignment05, which involves writing a Python program that registers new students and adds them to the student enrollment. To do this, the program reads the enrollment file and writes the user-input data back to the enrollments file in the JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) format. The program presents a menu to the user and uses a while loop and conditional logic to control the flow of the program. The program uses constants, variables, dictionaries and a list to store and display the data.

The program also uses the try-except structured error handling method.

This program was written in the PyCharm IDE. Documentation of the program's testing can be found in Appendix A; the full code is in Appendix B.

Writing the Python program

The program creation process began with a review of the acceptance criteria for the program. The acceptance criteria included using a specific name for the program file, a script header and the use of specific constants and variables. The constants were strings presenting a multi-line menu and the name of the file to be used for the read and write operations. For the multi-line menu, a triple-quoted string was used. The menu presented four choices to the user.

The acceptance criteria defined input and output options based on the user choices from the menu:

- The first choice prompts the user via an input() function to enter the student's first and last names, and the name of the course for registration. This information was to be written to the students list of lists.
- The second menu choice uses the print() function to display the collected data in the students variable back to the user in a comma-separated string.

- The third menu choice opens a file in write mode using the open() function, writing the data to a JSON file, then closing the file to allow future input. The program also uses the students variable to display what was written to the file.
- The fourth menu choice exits the program.

The code contained a while statement to loop through the various input choices. The looping allows for another of the acceptance criteria, which was to allow the user to enter multiple student registrations, if desired, and store all those registrations.

The acceptance criteria defined some structured error handling at various points within the program execution: when the file is read in, the user's input of the first name, the user's input of the last name, and lastly when the dictionary rows are written to the file. The last requirements of the acceptance criteria required specific tests of the program input and output functions, as well as confirming the program runs correctly in both PyCharm and the console.

Creating the script file

Creation of the program began by opening the assignment starter file in PyCharm. That file was then saved as Assignment05.py and the change log section of the script header was updated. Figure 1 shows the script header used.

Figure 1 - Script Header

The Program Constants and Variables

The assignment starter file contained simple pseudo-code to guide the creation of the code body. This pseudo-code was leveraged to define the constants and variables, the input and output sections, and the flow of the program. Type hints were used to identify the data types used in the constants and variables.

The constants in the program were the previously mentioned user menu (a string encapsulated in triple quotation marks), and the file name for processing the data. This was also a string with the value of "Enrollments.json". Both consonant names were written in uppercase, to comply with Python coding standards. The constants are shown in Figure 2 below.

```
Assignment05.py ×
  8
  9
        # Define the Data Constants

∨ MENU: str = '''
 10
        ---- Course Registration Program ----
 11
          Select from the following menu:
 12
            1. Register a Student for a Course.
 13
            2. Show current data.
 14
 15
            3. Save data to a file.
            4. Exit the program.
 16
 17
 18
 19
        FILE_NAME: str = "Enrollments.json"
```

Figure 2- The program's Constants

The data types for the variables used in the program were strings, an object for the file, a dictionary for the student_data variable, and a list for storing the accumulated data on the students. The variables include variables for capturing the student name data and course name, as discussed previously. The acceptance criteria also defined a string named **menu_choice** for storing the menu choices input by the user. All the variables were initially defined as empty; this involved using double quotation marks ("") with no space between them for the strings, "None" object for the object data type, empty braces ({}) for the dictionary and empty brackets ([]) for the lists. Figure 3 below shows the variable definitions.

```
Assignment05.py ×
 20
 21
        # Define the Data Variables and constants
       student_first_name: str = '' # Holds the first name of a student entered by the user.
 22
 23
       student_last_name: str = '' # Holds the last name of a student entered by the user.
       course_name: str = '' # Holds the name of a course entered by the user.
 24
 25
       file = None # Holds a reference to an opened file.
       menu_choice: str # Hold the choice made by the user.
 26
 27
       student_data: dict = {} # one row of student data
       students: list = [] # a table of student data
 28
 29
```

Figure 3 - the program's Variables

Reading the json data file, with error handling enabled

As defined in the **FILE_NAME** variable, a file named Enrollments.json, is read in at the start of the program. Prior to this, the json module is imported using the statement *import json*, and a *try:* block is begun to trap possible errors. As suggested in the acceptance criteria, a list in json format was pre-populated into the file. Within the *try:* block, the code attempts to open the file using the *open()* function with the "r" parameter, accessing the information in read-only mode. If the file is successfully opened, the *json.load() function* is used to read the file and convert it to the students list, then the file is closed using *file.close()*.

The error handling in this section of code begins with an exception block for the *FileNotFoundError* exception. If the file is not found, this error is caught and a print statement is called, advising the user that the file needs to exist before running the script. Additionally, built-in Python error information is displayed, showing the error, the error's documentation string (using the __doc__ attribute) and type.

If the *FileNotFoundError* exception does not occur, the next block catches the general exception. If an exception other than *FileNotFoundError* occurs, a print statement indicates a non-specific error occurred and displays the error, the error's documentation string (using the __doc__ attribute) and type.

At the end of this *Try-Except* block is the *finally:* block. The *if* statement in this block tests whether the file is not closed and if so, closes the file. Figure 4 below shows the import of the json module, *the Try-Except-Finally* block and the reading of the json file within the Try block.

```
29
30
       # Load the json module
       import json
31
32
33
       # When the program starts, read the file data into a list of lists (table)
       # Extract the data from the file
34
35
       try:
           file = open(FILE_NAME, "r")
36
           students = json.load(file)
37
           file.close()
38
39
       except FileNotFoundError as e:
           print("File must exist before running this script!]\n")
40
           print("Built-In Python error info: ")
41
           print(e, e.__doc__, type(e), sep='\n')
42
       except Exception as e:
43
           print("There was a non-specific error!\n")
44
           print("-- Technical Error Message -- ")
45
           print(e, e.__doc__, type(e), sep='\n')
46
       finally:
47
           if file.closed == False:
48
               file.close()
49
50
```

Figure 4 - Initial Try Block with load of JSON file

Looping through the user input for processing

The program menu allows for the program to potentially be run an infinite number of times, unless the user chooses the option to exit the program. Thus, a *while* loop was used to control the program flow, using "*while True*", and conditional *if, elif* and *else* statements.

At the beginning of the *while* loop, the *print()* function displays the **MENU** constant, which asks the user to select a choice from the menu. The input from the user is assigned to the **menu_choice** variable. These input choices were evaluated as strings using if statements and the equals condition, written as "==".

If input choice "1" (Register a Student for a Course)

If the user's choice is "1", another Try-Except block is begun. The input() function is used to prompt the user to enter the student's first name, last name and the course name; these values are assigned to the corresponding variables. The student_first_name and student_last_name variables are both checked to make sure that no numeric values are

entered for either name. This is done using the if statements ("if not student_first_name.isalpha():"). If a numeric value is entered, the ValueError exception is raised and advises the user that the name should not contain numbers. If the information is entered in alpha format, the input strings are then added to the student_data dictionary in json format. Next, the student_data dictionary is then added to the students list using the append() method. A print() statement confirms the student registration to the user. If the ValueError is raised during the student name input, the technical error message and document string are presented to the user. If any other error occurs, a general exception is raised, along with the technical error message and document string. Finally, the continue keyword is used to continue to the next iteration. Figure 5 below shows the beginning of the while loop, the presentation of the menu to the user, and the Try-Except block within the first iteration of the while loop.

```
# Present and Process the data
51
52
    v while (True):
53
54
          # Present the menu of choices
          print(MENU)
55
       menu_choice = input("What would you like to do: ")
56
57
58
          # Input user data
          if menu_choice == "1": # This will not work if it is an integer!
59
60
                  student_first_name = input("Enter the student's first name: ")
61
62
                  if not student_first_name.isalpha():
                    raise ValueError("The first name should not contain numbers.")
63
                  student_last_name = input("Enter the student's last name: ")
64
                  if not student_last_name.isalpha():
65
                    raise ValueError("The last name should not contain numbers.")
66
                  course_name = input("Please enter the name of the course: ")
67
68
                  student_data = {"FirstName": student_first_name,
69
                               "LastName": student_last_name.
70
                               "CourseName": course_name}
71
                  # Add new student to the students table
72
                  students.append(student_data)
                  print(f"You\ have\ registered\ \{student\_first\_name\}\ \{student\_last\_name\}\ for\ \{course\_name\}.")
73
74
              except ValueError as e:
75
                 print(e) # Prints the custom error message
76
                  print("--Technical Error Message-- ")
77
                  print(e.__doc__)
                  print(e.__str__())
78
79
               except Exception as e:
80
                  print("There was a non-specific error!\n")
                   print("-- Technical Error Message-- ")
81
82
                   print(e.__doc__, type(e), sep="\n")
83
               continue
```

Figure 5 - the beginning of the loop, student_data input prompts and Try-Except block

Else if choice "2" (Show current data)

If the user's choice is "2", represented as **elif menu_choice =="2":**, the **print()** function displays each registration to the user, with a "for loop" for each student dictionary item in the **students** list. The **continue** keyword is used to continue to the next iteration. This code is shown in Figure 6 below.

```
# Present the current data
85
          elif menu_choice == "2":
86
87
             # Process the data to create and display a custom message
             print("-"*50)
             for student in students:
89
                 print(f"{student['FirstName']} {student['LastName']} is enrolled in "\
90
                       f"{student['CourseName']}")
91
92
             print("-"*50)
              continue
94
```

Figure 6 - presenting the current data

Else if choice "3" (Save data to a file)

If the user's choice is "3", represented as **elif menu_choice =="3":**, a new *Try-Except* block is begun. Within this loop the **Enrollments.json** file is opened in write mode by calling the **FILE_NAME** constant. The contents of the **students** list is written to the **Enrollments.json** file using the json.dump function, with "indent of 2" added to enhance the readability of the resulting output in the file. The file is then closed using *file.close()*. Next, the *print()* function is used for each row in the **students** list table to indicate to the user what students are now enrolled in the respective courses. For code readability an escape character is added to the print() line.

To allow for the potential of issues with incorrectly formatted data, an *except* block is begun, capturing the TypeError exception and then prompting the user to check that the data is in a valid JSON format. Another *except* block will capture any other errors. Both *except* blocks display the technical error messages to the user, with additional Python error information provided for any general errors.

At the end of the *Try-Except* block within this *elif* condition is the *finally:* block. The *if* statement in this block tests whether the file is not closed and if so, closes the file. The *continue* keyword is used to move to the next iteration. Figure 7 below shows the code used for saving the data to the file.

```
95
          # Save the data to a file
          elif menu_choice == "3":
96
97
             try:
                file = open(FILE_NAME, "w")
98
99
                json.dump(students, file, indent=2)
100
                file.close()
101
                print("The following data was saved to file!")
102
                for student in students:
                 103
104
                       f"{student['CourseName']}")
             except TypeError as e:
105
                 print("Please check that the data is a valid JSON format\n")
106
                print("-- Technical Error Message -- ")
107
                print(e, e.__doc__, type(e), sep='\n')
            except Exception as e:
109
110
                print("-- Technical Error Message -- ")
111
                print("Built-In Python error info: ")
112
                print(e, e.__doc__, type(e), sep='\n')
             finally:
113
114
                if file.closed == False:
115
                  file.close()
116
             continue
117
```

Figure 7 - Saving the data to file

Else if choice "4" (Exit the program), or other choices were entered.

If the user's choice was "4", represented as **elif menu_choice =="4":**, the loop was ended using the **break** keyword.

If the user entered any other character than the choices presented in the menu, a *print()* statement was called to instruct them to only choose one of the options "1, 2, 3, or 4".

Once the loop has fully ended, a final *print()* statement is presented to the user, indicating the program has ended.

This code for the loop end and program exit is shown in Figure 8.

Figure 8 - Ending the loop and exiting the program

Testing the program

To test the program within PyCharm, the Run Module (F5) command was invoked. The program presented the menu, accepted the user input, then presented it and the read-in data when the 'current data' option was chosen. The program also saved the data to the Enrollments.json file and exited if the 'exit program' choice was called, thus meeting the acceptance criteria. The student error handling blocks were tested by changing the name of the Enrollments.json file and entering numerals when entering the student's first and last names. The program was then tested by opening the Windows console and calling the Assignment05.py file. The program also ran successfully via the console. Screenshots showing the PyCharm and console tests can be found in Appendix A.

Test observation to be addressed in future revisions

While testing the input of student names, it was discovered that entering an apostrophe in the name, sometimes used in Irish surnames such as O'Hara, would invoke the *ValueError* based on the *.isalpha()* method (see Figure below). This should be addressed in future revisions of the program.

```
What would you like to do: 1
Enter the student's first name: Sean
Enter the student's last name: O'Hara
The last name should not contain numbers.
--Technical Error Message--
Inappropriate argument value (of correct type).
The last name should not contain numbers.
```

Figure 9 - Error due to apostrophe conflict with isalpha string method

Summary

This assignment covered several concepts, such as declaring constants and variables; using the *input()* and *print()* functions; data processing using dictionaries, lists and files in the JSON format.

The program also introduced structured error handling. The program successfully accepted input from the program's user, of a student's first name and last name and course for enrollment. That input was then output to the user, then added to the existing "students" enrollments list, which was read and assigned memory when the enrollments file was opened. The updated "students" enrollments list was then successfully written to the enrollments file. Errors with the file, and errors with the input of the student's first name and last name were addressed within the program. The program was successfully tested in the PyCharm IDE and the Windows Command Prompt console.

The testing of the program is shown in Appendix A and the full code is shown in Appendix B.

Appendix A – Testing the program

PyCharm testing

```
🥰 Assignment05 🛛 🗙
---- Course Registration Program ----
 Select from the following menu:
   1. Register a Student for a Course.
   2. Show current data.
   3. Save data to a file.
   4. Exit the program.
What would you like to do: 1
Enter the student's first name: Bob
Enter the student's last name: Baker
Please enter the name of the course: Python 100
You have registered Bob Baker for Python 100.
---- Course Registration Program ----
 Select from the following menu:
   1. Register a Student for a Course.
   2. Show current data.
   3. Save data to a file.
    4. Exit the program.
What would you like to do:
```

Figure 10 - Choice 1, Input of student's first & last name & course

```
What would you like to do: 2

Bob Smith is enrolled in Python 100
Sue Jones is enrolled in Python 100
Bob Baker is enrolled in Python 100

---- Course Registration Program ----
Select from the following menu:

1. Register a Student for a Course.

2. Show current data.

3. Save data to a file.

4. Exit the program.

What would you like to do:
```

Figure 11 - Choice 2. Display of student's first & last name & course input

What would you like to do: 3
The following data was saved to file!
Bob Smith is enrolled in Python 100
Sue Jones is enrolled in Python 100
Bob Baker is enrolled in Python 100

---- Course Registration Program ---Select from the following menu:

1. Register a Student for a Course.
2. Show current data.
3. Save data to a file.
4. Exit the program.

What would you like to do:

Figure 12 - Choice 3

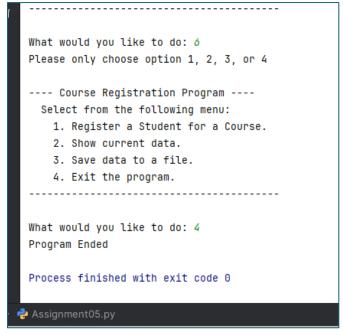


Figure 13 - Undefined choice was made, then Option 4 chosen

```
Assignment05.py
roject
■ A05 C:\Users\Padre\OneDrive\Documents
                                       11
                                              ---- Course Registration Program ----
   Assignment05.py
                                       12
                                               Select from the following menu:
   Assignment05_BChristopherson.docx

    Register a Student for a Course.

                                       13
   {} Enrollments.json
                                       14
                                                 Show current data.
 15
                                                Save data to a file.
 Scratches and Consoles
                                               4. Exit the program.
                                       16
                                       17
                                              1 01
                                       18
                                              FILE_NAME: str = "Enrollments.json123"
                                       19
                                       20
                                       21
                                              # Define the Data Variables and constants
                                       22
                                              student_first_name: str = '' # Holds the first name of a student entered by the user
                                              student_last_name: str = '' # Holds the last name of a student entered by the user.
                                       23
    Assignment05 ×
  C:\Python\Python3.x\python.exe C:\Users\Padre\OneDrive\Documents\Python\PythonCourse\A05\Assignment05.py
  File must exist before running this script!]
  Built-In Python error info:
  [Errno 2] No such file or directory: 'Enrollments.json123'
  File not found.
  <class 'FileNotFoundError'>
  Traceback (most recent call last): @ Explain with AI
    File "C:\Users\Padre\OneDrive\Documents\Python\PythonCourse\A05\Assignment05.py", line 48, in <module>
      if file.closed == False:
          ^^^^^
  AttributeError: 'NoneType' object has no attribute 'closed'
  Process finished with exit code 1
```

Figure 14 - Testing the FileNotFoundError

```
What would you like to do: 1
Enter the student's first name: Bob2
The first name should not contain numbers.
--Technical Error Message--
Inappropriate argument value (of correct type).
The first name should not contain numbers.

---- Course Registration Program ----
Select from the following menu:

1. Register a Student for a Course.

2. Show current data.

3. Save data to a file.
4. Exit the program.

What would you like to do:
```

Figure 15 - Testing student first name error- handling

```
What would you like to do: 1
Enter the student's first name: Bob
Enter the student's last name: Jones4
The last name should not contain numbers.
--Technical Error Message--
Inappropriate argument value (of correct type).
The last name should not contain numbers.

---- Course Registration Program ----
Select from the following menu:

1. Register a Student for a Course.
2. Show current data.
3. Save data to a file.
4. Exit the program.

What would you like to do: 

♣ Assignment05.py
```

Figure 16 - Testing student last name error-handling

Console testing



Figure 17 - Console testing, choices 1 & 2

```
· Course Registration Program
  Select from the following menu:
   1. Register a Student for a Course.
   2. Show current data.
    3. Save data to a file.
   4. Exit the program.
What would you like to do: 3
The following data was saved to file!
Bob Smith is enrolled in Python 100
Sue Jones is enrolled in Python 100
Bob Baker is enrolled in Python 100
John Cleese is enrolled in Monty Python 100
  -- Course Registration Program -
  Select from the following menu:
   1. Register a Student for a Course.
   2. Show current data.
   3. Save data to a file.
   Exit the program.
What would you like to do: 4
Program Ended
C:\Users\Padre\OneDrive\Documents\Python\PythonCourse\A05>
```

Figure 18 - Figure 13 - Console testing, choice 3, *other, and choice 4

```
What would you like to do: 1
Enter the student's first name: John
Enter the student's last name: Doe
Please enter the name of the course: Python 100
You have registered John Doe for Python 100.
---- Course Registration Program ----
 Select from the following menu:
   1. Register a Student for a Course.
   2. Show current data.
   3. Save data to a file.
   4. Exit the program.
What would you like to do: 1
Enter the student's first name: Susie
Enter the student's last name: Su
Please enter the name of the course: Python 100
You have registered Susie Su for Python 100.
```

Figure 19 - Testing multiple registrations

```
What would you like to do: 2
  Bob Smith is enrolled in Python 100
  Sue Jones is enrolled in Python 100
  Bob Baker is enrolled in Python 100
  John Cleese is enrolled in Monty Python 100
  John Doe is enrolled in Python 100
  Susie Su is enrolled in Python 100
  ---- Course Registration Program ----
   Select from the following menu:
     1. Register a Student for a Course.
     2. Show current data.
     Save data to a file.
     4. Exit the program.
  What would you like to do: 3
  The following data was saved to file!
  Bob Smith is enrolled in Python 100
  Sue Jones is enrolled in Python 100
  Bob Baker is enrolled in Python 100
  John Cleese is enrolled in Monty Python 100
  John Doe is enrolled in Python 100
  Susie Su is enrolled in Python 100
  ---- Course Registration Program ----
    Select from the following menu:
     1. Register a Student for a Course.
Assignment05.py
```

Figure 20 - Displaying the multiple registrations from previous test and writing to file

```
Enrollments.json
File
       Edit
               View
[
     "FirstName": "Bob",
     "LastName": "Smith",
     "CourseName": "Python 100"
     "FirstName": "Sue",
"LastName": "Jones",
"CourseName": "Python 100"
  },
     "FirstName": "Bob",
"LastName": "Baker",
     "CourseName": "Python 100"
     "FirstName": "John",
     "LastName": "Cleese",
     "CourseName": "Monty Python 100"
     "FirstName": "John",
     "LastName": "Doe",
     "CourseName": "Python 100"
     "FirstName": "Susie",
     "LastName": "Su",
     "CourseName": "Python 100"
]
Ln 22, Col 1 542 characters
                                                                                                          100%
```

Figure 21 - Review of Enrollments.json after all tests completed

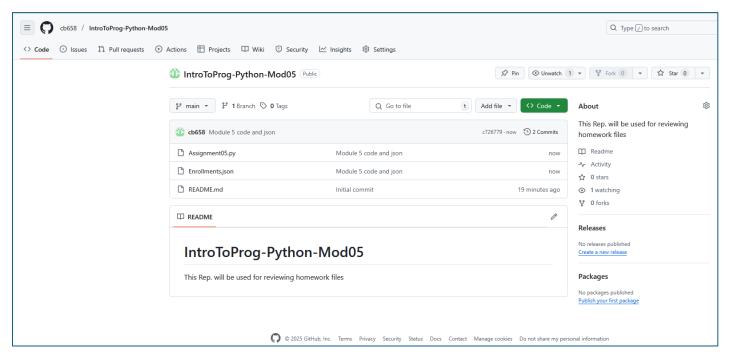


Figure 22 - Files uploaded to GitHub

Appendix B – Full code

```
# Title: Assignment05
# Desc: This assignment demonstrates using dictionaries, files, and exception handling
# Change Log: (Who, When, What)
# Brian Christopherson, 19-MAY-2025, Created Script
# Brian Christopherson, 20-MAY-2025, Updated Script
# -----
# Define the Data Constants
MENU: str = '''
---- Course Registration Program ----
 Select from the following menu:
   1. Register a Student for a Course.
   2. Show current data.
   3. Save data to a file.
   4. Exit the program.
_____
1.1.1
FILE NAME: str = "Enrollments.json"
# Define the Data Variables and constants
student first name: str = '' # Holds the first name of a student entered by the user.
student last name: str = '' # Holds the last name of a student entered by the user.
course name: str = '' # Holds the name of a course entered by the user.
file = None # Holds a reference to an opened file.
menu choice: str # Hold the choice made by the user.
student_data: dict = {} # one row of student data
students: list = [] # a table of student data
# Load the json module
import json
# When the program starts, read the file data into a list of lists (table)
# Extract the data from the file
try:
   file = open(FILE NAME, "r")
   students = json.load(file)
   file.close()
except FileNotFoundError as e:
   print("File must exist before running this script!]\n")
   print("Built-In Python error info: ")
   print(e, e.__doc__, type(e), sep='\n')
except Exception as e:
   print("There was a non-specific error!\n")
   print("-- Technical Error Message -- ")
   print(e, e.__doc__, type(e), sep='\n')
finally:
   if file.closed == False:
       file.close()
# Present and Process the data
while (True):
   # Present the menu of choices
   print(MENU)
   menu choice = input("What would you like to do: ")
```

```
# Input user data
   if menu choice == "1": # This will not work if it is an integer!
       try:
           student first name = input("Enter the student's first name: ")
           if not student first name.isalpha():
                raise ValueError("The first name should not contain numbers.")
           student last name = input("Enter the student's last name: ")
           if not student last name.isalpha():
                raise ValueError("The last name should not contain numbers.")
           course name = input("Please enter the name of the course: ")
           student data = {"FirstName": student first name,
                        "LastName": student_last_name,
                        "CourseName": course name}
           # Add new student to the students table
           students.append(student data)
           print(f"You have registered {student first name} {student last name} for
{course name}.")
       except ValueError as e:
           print(e) # Prints the custom error message
           print("--Technical Error Message-- ")
           print(e.__doc__)
           print(e.__str__())
       except Exception as e:
           print("There was a non-specific error!\n")
           print("-- Technical Error Message-- ")
           print(e. doc , type(e), sep="\n")
       continue
    # Present the current data
   elif menu choice == "2":
       # Process the data to create and display a custom message
       print("-"*50)
       for student in students:
            print(f"{student['FirstName']} {student['LastName']} is enrolled in "\
                  f"{student['CourseName']}")
       print("-"*50)
       continue
   # Save the data to a file
   elif menu choice == "3":
       try:
           file = open(FILE NAME, "w")
           json.dump(students, file, indent=2)
           file.close()
           print("The following data was saved to file!")
           for student in students:
              print(f"{student['FirstName']} {student['LastName']} is enrolled in " \
                    f"{student['CourseName']}")
       except TypeError as e:
           print("Please check that the data is a valid JSON format\n")
           print("-- Technical Error Message -- ")
           print(e, e.__doc__, type(e), sep='\n')
       except Exception as e:
           print("-- Technical Error Message -- ")
           print("Built-In Python error info: ")
           print(e, e.__doc__, type(e), sep='\n')
       finally:
           if file.closed == False:
               file.close()
```

Stop the loop elif menu_choice == "4": break # out of the loop else: print("Please only choose option 1, 2, 3, or 4") print("Program Ended")

continue