ADVANCED COURSE SCHEDULING AND REGISTRATION

ASCAR

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COOPER BELALA
JUSTIN SINS
COURTNEY PLATT
EVEN STEGALL
MUSTAFA HAMEED

https://github.com/cdbelala/ACSAR

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Product Vision:

ACSAR is built for students who need an easy, streamlined method for building their schedules for the semester. The platform also serves teachers, in a way that will allow them to seamlessly manage their course enrollment on a semester-by-semester basis. It will allow them to view their roster course-by-course, and allow them to send mass emails to each course, or even each section if they teach multiple sections. Students need our platform because every semester, everyone hears the same story of “the portal was at max capacity and I couldn’t schedule my courses on time!”, and our platform seeks to rid students of this horror story. The hard part of the semester should always be the courses, not picking your courses. Because ACSAR uses a live database to keep track of the course enrollment count, students will no longer need to attempt to schedule a course in order to see if it’s full. When scheduling courses, there is immediate feedback so the user has no question on whether or not their course was actually scheduled. Our product will allow students to be able to simplify course registration, scheduling, and communication, making it easier for students to manage their academic lives. Many universities currently rely on outdated HTML scheduling portals that fail to meet the needs of today’s tech-savvy students.

ACSAR addresses this gap by offering a sleek, efficient alternative that not only streamlines the scheduling process but also significantly improves user engagement. For Universities our platform comes with a subscription model that covers server costs, ensuring reliability and scalability to handle high traffic. This subscription would also include licensing fees, To further enhance functionality, universities can opt for API access, enabling them to integrate their existing systems and add courses effortlessly. This feature will be available at an additional charge, providing flexibility to meet diverse institutional needs. Allowing universities to seamlessly integrate ACSAR into their existing systems.

Market Analysis:

The Primary target audience for ACSAR includes universities and higher education institutions seeking to modernize their scheduling processes. This audience encompasses:

- Administrative Staff responsible for managing course schedules, faculty assignments, and student registration.
- Faculty/ Instructors who need timely updates on course schedules and administrative task.
- Students: individuals who require a user-friendly platform for efficient scheduling and course management.

By focusing on these groups, ACSAR aims to provide a solution that enhances communication and simplifies scheduling across campus.

While there are already several existing applications that attempt to solve scheduling challenges in universities including

- Campus Solutions(Peoplesoft) a comprehensive suite for managing student data, but often criticized for outdated interface and user experience.
- SmartScheduling a scheduling tool aimed at optimizing classroom use but lacking in robust integration features
- Class schedule maker: a free tool that allows students to create schedules but lacks administrative features and integration with existing systems.

While these solutions provide certain functionalities, they often fall short in user engagement, flexibility, and integration capabilities, creating a significant market opportunity for ACSAR.

Commercialization Plan: ACSAR will adopt a subscription-based model tailored for universities, ensuring a reliable and scalable solution. The key components of the commercialization plan include:

- Subscription Model: Universities will pay a fixed annual fee covering sever costs, maintenance, and support. This model ensures that ACSAR can handle high traffic and maintain optimal performance.
- Licensing fees: Additional fees will be applied for advanced features, enabling institutions to customize their use of the platform based on specific needs.
- API Access: Universities can opt for API integration to connect ACSAR with their existing systems, allowing for seamless data sharing and course management. This feature will be offered at an additional charge, catering to diverse institutional requirements.

By addressing the shortcomings of existing solutions and focusing on user engagement, ACSAR is poised to capture a significant share of the market, ultimately improving the scheduling experience for universities, students, and faculty alike.

Scenarios and User Stories:

- User stories
    - As a student, I want live course availability when I'm choosing classes.
    - As a student, I want to be able to see all courses that a specific professor teaches as well as their research to help me select electives.
    - As a student, I want an easily navigable user interface (not one from 2004).
    - As a student, I want a calendar view of my schedule while I'm selecting them.
    - As an advisor, I want the scheduling process to be less complicated so my jobs easier
- Scenarios
    - Sarah is a student at LSU preparing for next semester and wants to register for her classes. She logs in and views the current schedule booklet to get an idea of what classes she wants to schedule according to her degree audit. However, Sarah has no idea if the classes she wants to schedule are currently available, forcing her to create multiple scenarios of different schedules, and at the same time, must ensure there are no conflicting timeslots, which can become arduous. Using our program,

Sarah can now see live course availability, and even create a mock schedule that will check for time conflicts for her. Our program will allow Sarah to build her ideal schedule, and our program will check for time discrepancies and alert Sarah if one exists. If there is a time conflict, or even an availability conflict, the program will view Sarah's degree audit and offer alternatives

- Jack is a student at LSU and scheduling for next semester is right around the corner. He has a couple electives to schedule but he has no particular class he wants to take. He tries looking for specific professors he knows are good but its very tedious scrolling down an unorganized list. With our program you'll be able to sort classes by professors since some professors teach multiple classes. After finding the classes with the professors he wants to have, he isn't entirely sure what the class will teach. Jack checks the course number online but the description provided by the university is too vague. With our program we provide a link to the professor's syllabus so you know what you're getting into with each class. Jack is looking to get into research but is not sure which professor aligns with him and his studies. Professors will have profiles in our program that have a brief description of their studies and work.

Functional and Non-functional requirements:

- Functional Requirements
  - The platform must have a live count of the number of slots left in a course
  - The platform must check for discrepancies in time slots
  - The platform must display the professor teaching the course
  - The platform must display the syllabus for the course, or a detailed description of the course
  - The platform must allow users to waitlist courses
- Non Functional Requirements
  - The platform should not buffer for x amount of time when loading available courses
  - The platform should not have a cap on active user's like the current scheduling portal

- The platform should not let more students schedule a course than what's available
- The platform should support multiple languages, allowing users to select their preferred language for a personalized experience.
- The platform should provide accessible support resources, including FAQs, tutorials, and live chat options, to assist users in resolving issues quickly and enhancing their overall experience.