



Northeastern University

College of Professional Studies

XN Project: Sponsor Use Cases

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Project Description: The college is working on a skills mapping project to examine program skills. The mapping project results in large datasets of textual data, in the form of skills, such as “leadership,” “empathy,” “creativity,” and “data literacy.” The college would like to analyze this data and create an interactive dashboard to showcase the skills to key stakeholders, such as students, faculty, advisors, and academic leadership. Insights from the dashboard will be used to inform students, and future curriculum and program improvements.

The students will:

- Compile and prep the textual data of skills.
- Analyze trends in the text, such as frequencies, to acquire common themes
- Visualize the data using techniques such as heat maps, tree maps, and Sankey diagrams
- Create interactive dashboards for faculty and potential students to view professional skills for their program

Goal/Deliverable: Summary Analysis of Takeaways & Development of interactive dashboards to showcase professional skills.

Use Case #1

A student in Project Management is interested in a concentration in either Analytics or Leading and Managing Technical Projects, and is not sure which concentration is right for her/him. The student makes an appointment with an Academic Success Coach and they both use a dashboard and database tool to filter by skills of interest.

Use Case #2

A faculty has received countless inquiries over the past 12 months from alumni and potential new students wondering if the university provides workshops on Agile Project Management. Many alumni are looking to expand their career opportunities by learning new techniques and gaining real-world experience, so the faculty reviews a database of skills and courses, and finds ways to create a workshop or online badging class based on content already available. This workshop is then made available to alumni.

Use Case #3

An employee at a technology firm is pursuing the MS in Project Management degree to qualify for a promotion. Some recent work projects have given him a lot of experience with risk management. He would love to apply this experience toward his Masters, but doesn't know how to translate what he does everyday into academic credit. The employee works with Admissions and reviews what types of courses have assignments related to that skill. The employee can take the assignment for an assessment of prior learning and obtain credit for a course.

Use Case #4

The college is considering a new Bachelor's program but would like to do research on what skills are already being taught in a similar graduate program, and potentially offer a pathway from Bachelor's to Master's. The program can review curricula and make updates to align with professional skills.