

## T5: Team Assignment #5 – Paper Prototyping Part 2

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Project website: <https://github.com/ericayee/hci/>

### Briefing

#### *About the application*

Finding Your Way is a redesign of Northeastern's Degree Audit, showing what courses a student has completed and must complete to finish their degree.

#### *Context*

- You are using a laptop-sized screen.
- You opened the web application via a link to the myNortheastern portal.

### Tasks

1. Determine the number of requirement categories you need to satisfy in your degree
2. List what courses would count for your Presentation requirement in your CS degree.
3. You're considering changing your major. View the degree requirements for the Mechanical Engineering major in catalog year 2020.

### Observations/interviews

*Note: Our stakeholders include both students and academic advisors. We were unable to set up an advisor appointment for testing within this assignment's timeframe, but plan to do so for future iterations.*

#### Participant 1

- 21, female, marketing, 4/4 year, Northeastern student
- Setting: 2/19, 5pm, Snell basement classroom
- [Video link](#)
- Task 1: Determine # of requirement categories you need to satisfy
  - View degree progress
    - User has familiarity with NEU audit program
  - Saw summary
    - Saw credits
      - User says knowing how long they have been at the university is helpful
      - Unsure if university hours are transferable to degree
    - Wanted to be able to view all GPAs
  - Unsure about requirement categories
  - Wants to be able to see grades
  - Not sure what other categories are needed to satisfy
  - Likes layout
  - Wants better definition of sections

- Used info in summary to fulfill task
- Task 2: What courses would satisfy requirements
  - Understood
- Task3: View mechanical engineering degree
  - Home
  - Explore other degree options
  - Knows how to use menus
  - Liked that options popped up on same screen
  - Questions about what is included under program
- Overall
  - Liked how it was more interactive than the course catalog
  - Liked having course catalog definitions and degree requirements in the same place
  - Likes all the details, believes definitions would have been helpful

#### Participant 2

- Setting: 2/20, 1:30pm, Ryder classroom
- 20, male, 3/4 year, northeastern student studying communication/media screen studies
- [Video link](#)
- Asked if post-its are buttons
- Very quickly found answer to task 1
- Format is different to parse visually
- Summary was where he expected and found information for Task 1
- Scrolling took a bit to notice but was intuitively something he wanted to do
- Did not even try to use menu to navigate
- For task 3, wanted to use a back button from degree page (indicating familiarity with computers)
  - He said he had mental diagram of pages he's already visited and where he wants to return to
  - Note from us: there will be a browser back button
  - He found the home button anyway
- Immediately noticed catalog year and college menus were dropdowns
- Stared at page with degree options for long time before choosing
- Would've wanted bigger degree names/icons indicating because those were most important for tasks
- "Mechanical engineering" showed up twice -> hesitation on why they were the same for task knew "view degree" button would get what the task required but otherwise would've tried exploring "learn more" and clicking other things

#### Participant 3

- Student at northeastern, 4/4 year, CS/game development, 21, male
- Setting: 2/21, 10am, Snell 2nd floor table
- Video links

- [Part 1](#) (main testing)
  - [Part 2](#)
  - [Part 3](#)
- Task 1:
  - Under progress; click view degree progress
  - Saw credits as requirements
  - Slash confuses in requirement section
  - Didn't recognize drop down for gpa
  - Understood need certain number of credits, university credit
  - Used side menu
    - Cs
    - Art
  - Used top for requirements
  - Didn't notice side menu at first
  - Didn't understand what that meant at first in terms of reqs
  - Probably wouldn't use an info button
  - First time would scroll first, but if familiar with interface would use side-menu
- Task 2:
  - Clicked Art Requirement
  - Scroll up to eloquent presenter
  - Confusion with word degree
  - Maybe sections aren't very useful, for individual courses
- Task 3:
  - Home -> Explore other degree options -> 2020 -> College of engineering
  - View degree
  - Reread question
  - Tooltip for mechanical degree: makes sense, but depends on how much info there is. If lots of info, it would be best as a page, but like being able to stay on page.
  - Program understanding: doesn't know what a program is
    - We should just list them all
  - on degrees appearing on same page: ambivalent
- General
- Wouldn't mind all requirements being merged by section
- Tooltip to figure out which classes are, or link to course page
- Vaguer requirements:
  - Ie. choose between 3 courses
  - Harder to keep track of
- What does "-" mean; the person hasn't taking
- Liked:
  - Clear what they have and what they don't
  - Less text than the degree audit
- Figuring out courses:

- In the beginning talking to advisor
- Used Degree audit recently to figure out exactly what they need to graduate this semester
- Used it to generally see that they were on track, but first and second year there's more prescribed courses
- In the beginning used it choose courses
  - (may be different for less strict degrees)

Welcome!

Ben Wetherby

Degree: CS1ART

view  
degree  
progress

Explore  
other  
degree  
options



home

Print

Summary

CS Requirements

Art Requirements

General

NUPath

Transfer Credit

## Summary

Degree: CS / ART

Credits: 80 / 100 required

University Credits: 22 / 70 required

GPA: 3.11

Completed Requirements: 2 / 8

Each degree is broken down into a series of requirements, including both major requirements and university-wide requirements.

## Computer Science Requirements

1/3 CS Requirements satisfied

### Overview Requirements:

CN	Name	Status	Grade
CS1200	Leadership Skills	complete	P
CS1500	Professional Development		

Home

Explore other Degree Options

catalog year<sup>②</sup>

2018

college

College of Engineering

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PROGRAM: Mechanical Engineering

B.S. Mechanical Engineering

learn more

VIEW DEGREE

B.S. Industrial Engineering

learn more

VIEW DEGREE

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PROGRAM: Chemical Engineering

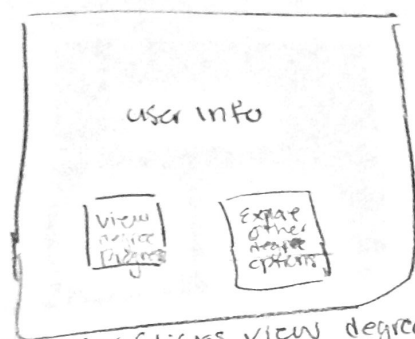
B.S. Chemical Engineering

learn more

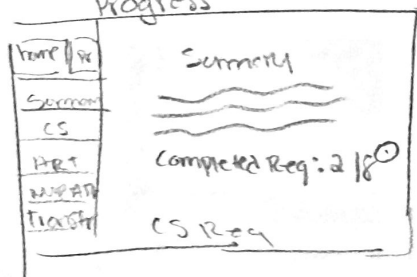
VIEW DEGREE



## Task 1



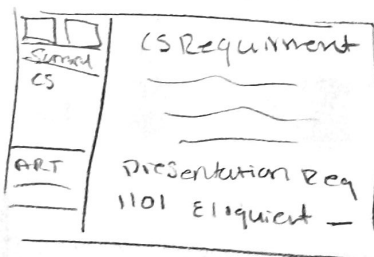
user clicks view degree progress



Information is in Summary.  
Tooltip for term explanation.

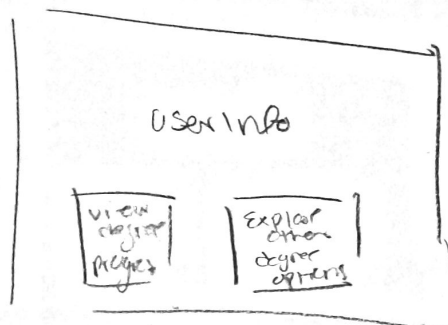


## Task 2

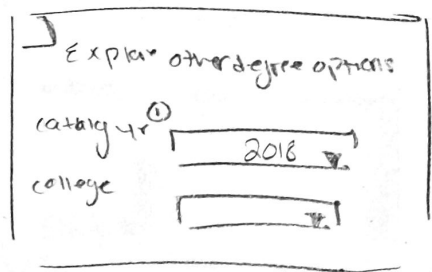


users may scroll or click "CS" on the side menu to view the "Eloquent Presenter" requirement for their CS degree.

## Task 3

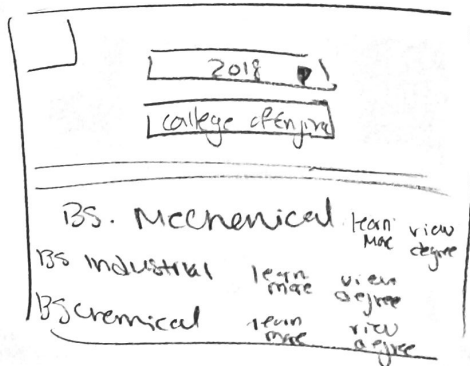


user clicks "Explore other degree options"



Default for catalog year  
is a user's current catalog year.  
It features a tooltip for clarification.

user chooses desired catalog year and college.



user selects "view degree" button for desired degree.