

School Management System — Design Document

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Architecture Overview

Central controller coordinates five modules: Student Registry, Course Scheduler, Fee Tracker, Library System, Performance Analytics.

Modules communicate through shared IDs and JSON sample data. Each module has a clear interface (add/find/remove/serialize).

Module-to-Data-Structure Mapping

- Student Registry: Hash Table (Python dict) + Singly Linked List for insertion order. Fast lookup by student ID ($O(1)$); linked list preserves registration order.
- Course Scheduling: Queue (collections.deque) and Circular Array (list with modulo pointer) to assign by registration order and cap capacity.
- Fee Tracking: Binary Search Tree (custom BST) storing payments sorted by (studentID, timestamp) for ordered reports and efficient range queries.
- Library System: Stack (list) for recent returns, Hash Map (dict) for ISBN -> Book record lookup.
- Performance Analytics: Heap (heapq) to find top performers and Adjacency List (dict) to model relationships if needed.

Justification (short)

- dict: average $O(1)$ lookup — ideal for student registry.
- deque + circular array: preserve order and allow efficient pops/pushes for scheduling.
- BST: ordered payments for clearance reports and range queries.
- stack: last-returned book handling; hashmap: ISBN lookup $O(1)$.
- heap: efficient retrieval of top-k performers.

Data Flow (pseudocode)

See run_demo.py for working flow: load sample_data.json -> register students -> enroll -> process payments -> borrow/return books -> compute top performers.

Performance Report

Performance Report (summary)

- Student Registry (dict + linked list): lookup $O(1)$, insertion $O(1)$ for dict, linked list insertion $O(1)$. Remove from linked list $O(n)$.
- Course Scheduling (deque + circular array): enqueue/dequeue $O(1)$. Circular buffer gives $O(1)$ indexing.
- Fee Tracking (BST): insert $O(h)$, average $O(n)$ traversal for reports; balanced tree (AVL) would give guaranteed $O(\log n)$.
- Library (dict + stack): lookup $O(1)$, borrow/return $O(1)$.
- Analytics (heap): top-k $O(n + k \log n)$.

Trade-offs discussed in full in submitted document.

Ethical Reflection

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- Fairness: Course allocation uses FIFO; consider reservation quotas for disabled or priority students to ensure equity.
- Privacy: Store only necessary fields; in production encrypt sensitive fields and use role-based access.
- Transparency: Provide logs and clear criteria for allocation and analytics; allow appeals.