

CSCI 5839
Peer Review Form

Project Name: Dalphin
Reviewer's Name: Julie Jarzemsky
Review Date: 9/20/2021

1. What are the strengths of this project? What is interesting about this idea? How could it be helpful to people?

There is a clear need for an app like this. Searching for colleges is a complex process, and I'm sure it is even more confusing from an international student perspective. Because this is something you already have experienced, you will bring your own insight in addition to findings from research. This app really could make a difference for students that don't have the resources or support in choosing a school, a major, finding financial aid, and all that goes into the college application process.

Even as a domestic student, I found it difficult to choose a major, very time consuming to apply to both undergraduate and graduate school, and hard to get a sense for a school without physically visiting or speaking with students or staff. I changed majors and transferred schools during undergrad. Part of the problem for me was that I had no idea that I would enjoy computer science. Luckily an advisor at my university recommended I take an intro course after I expressed my interest in math, logic and being creative. Perhaps if I had suggestions from students with similar interests, a useful quiz/questionnaire, or some other direction besides my random intuition and high school counselor's advice, then I would have found this path sooner.

2. What ideas do you have about how to improve this project? Are there existing projects that would be useful for the creators to know about? Are there other potential uses or opportunities related to this project?

(Include at least 3 actionable suggestions for things to look up, think about, change, etc.)

I would suggest doing research on how prospective students are currently looking for schools. Things have probably changed since I first applied to undergrad... maybe high schoolers use Tik-Tok or other resources online that weren't around back then?

Maybe you could take advantage of how adapted we are to virtual meetings now. It would be interesting to connect prospective students with current students virtually to give a richer perspective on what the school is like. Or connect international students with advisors within the US who might know the ropes of the process here better than those abroad. Or get students into a support group where they can learn from each other's experiences as they go through the same process.

Your second interaction design challenge could take on some really interesting forms. What are the most accessible ways to find information about something when it's not in your native