STAKEHOLDERS

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Student Profile Management

Clemson University, School of Computing, Graduate Programs

What is the goal of the project?

We would like to develop a web app that allows Clemson graduate students to upload and maintain information about their personal information, their work, and their professional goals in order to streamline annual evaluations and automate program website generation.

What problem does it solve?

The School of Computing currently does a lot of things (too many things) manually, which is slow and expensive and makes extra work for faculty members, staff, and students. We're trying to automate some of these processes and free up time so people can work on more important stuff (like their research).

Our vision:

We would like Clemson grad students to be able to log in and upload information, including their professional photo (headshot), links to their LinkedIn and other social media accounts, links to their personal web pages, and other information about their research activities.

This information would be stored in a database, and the system would then allow us to use this information to automatically generate things like an online grad student directory (imagine a version of this page, that looks good and is actually useful — https://www.clemson.edu/cecas/departments/computing/people/grad-students/cs-phd.html).

Another useful feature would be to help support student annual reviews. Currently, we conduct an annual progress review of our Ph.D. students. This requires them to submit an annual progress report — basically a slide deck with a bunch of information — and this is a lot of work, a lot of it redundant from year to year, and people get the formatting wrong, and it's a mess. We would like to allow them to update their information on their profile, and then we can pull down their information automatically, format it in a way that's most helpful for the reviewers, and save the information from year to year, so the students only have to update the things that changed.

What are students expected to have completed by the end of the project?

A working web app, that, at the very least, allows students to automatically update their information and the school to automatically generate student directories. As a stretch goal, we would also like to extend the data stored to support annual student reviews.

Are there particular technologies that students are supposed to use? Are there particular skills the students need to have?

It's a web app. So, some web programming, HTML, CSS, and back-end server knowledge is helpful. Some awareness of relational databases will be helpful. The project will probably be done in Django (https://www.djangoproject.com/), mostly because it's simple and allows you to reuse a bunch of authentication code that we already use in our existing apps, like handin and buffet. So, some knowledge of python is a good thing, too. Although a strong programmer can pick up python pretty quickly. We are also open to discussing other web frameworks (like Rails) if you have a strong preference.

Students will be expected to use git for version control, write clean maintainable code, work incrementally, and coordinate frequently with the stakeholders.

Jacob and Chuck are happy to help if there are specific areas that students aren't familiar with. We also have a lot of code from similar projects that will probably be helpful for handling a variety of tasks (for example, authentication with Clemson's LDAP server).