

— **StudyBuddy** —

StudyBuddy is a location-based platform that connects students who want to study together. Students create profiles with their courses and study preferences, then use an integrated map to discover nearby study buddies with the same course(s) and join or create study sessions at local libraries, cafes, and other study spots. The app combines social networking features with geographic discovery to make finding compatible study partners effortless.

The application will be useful for students who have troubles finding others in the same courses whom they can study with. For instance, some students prefer to study one-to-one, whereas others may feel safer studying in groups. The application offers a simple and safe way to meet with other students to gain both new peers and valuable knowledge about their course content.

The primary users of *StudyBuddy* are York University students who want to study together but are not able to find others to study with. This includes first-years, upper years, commuters, and study sessions. Firstly, this includes first-year students looking to build academic connections and mentors. Secondly, this includes upper-year students seeking focused, course-specific study groups. Thirdly, this includes commuter students who want location-based discovery and help preparing for midterms and finals. Lastly, this includes groups such as problem-solving sessions, clubs, and Peer Assisted Student Session (PASS), who can create new events to increase awareness about their program.

We will make the application only for York Students for security purposes. In addition, pseudo student users will be made to simulate the environment. Also, users should only be able to access York University meeting locations within the campus (i.e able to join Steacie's Library, but cannot meet up in York Village). In future releases, the application should integrate with York University's IT operations (i.e SIS integration) to properly verify the application.

We have a few options for authentication for restricting access to York University students. Firstly, two factor authentication through their email address being the primary option. In case the primary authentication method doesn't seem feasible, we can use Passport York's 'Duo' authentication. A further backup authentication method we could implement would be for users to scan their York ID and authenticate them. This would use OCR. Through these methods, *StudyBuddy* ensures a trusted, safe, and welcoming environment for our students and relevant user base while minimizing users' digital footprint, as well as privacy and safety concerns.

There are four key criteria that will define the success of the project if achieved. First, users are able to create and host event profiles for study sessions. Second, users are able to create student profiles and join or host study events through the application. Third, event profiles support a rating system that allows attendee users to provide feedback after each session. Finally, user and event profiles include keyword based highlights mentioned in their profiles which categorize their study preference and session type such as silent study, collaborative study or problem solving sessions etc.

In terms of market value, what makes our product unique is that it is specific to York University students (Added security with Passport York; less digital footprint), and has a more customizable matching algorithm. Additionally, it allows students to get matched with people taking the exact same course. (Not present in any existing solution). Students can also share materials and chat about course details. (current solutions do not have chat functionality). We encourage students to form a study session of 2-5 people, to encourage maximum participation and effective studying. (Current solutions do not have an adequate room size limit).