



## Advance Student Research Experience Co-Curricular Management

A new digital platform that will be used by students and departments. Students will be able to register their department's pathway and manage their participation in the co-curricular activities. Departments will be able to approve student participation, track student participation, and create co-curricular activities.

<b>Group Name</b>	<b>International UX Designers of University of Louisiana at Lafayette (UL IUX)</b>
<b>Members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Ipek Kaya</b> (C00528687)</li> <li>● <b>Kelly Rick</b> (C00280014)</li> <li>● <b>Niloofar Heidarikohol</b> (C00476096)</li> <li>● <b>Jonathan Kelley</b> (C00265823)</li> </ul>
<b>Course</b>	<b>INFX 510: Human Computer Interaction</b>
<b>Due Dates</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirements - 02/23/2023 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Design - 03/17/2023 <input type="checkbox"/> Prototype - 03/30/2023 <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation - 04/20/2023 <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation - 04/25/2023
<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Dr. Beenish Chaudhry</b>

## Design

### BRAINSTORM

#### Student

1. Develop a smartphone application that allows Alex to browse and apply for research projects on-the-go, also sends notifications about new opportunities that match his interests.
2. Create an online community (e.g., a Discord server) for students to share information about available research projects, ask questions, and connect with potential research partners.
3. Establish a mentorship program that pairs students with others, to help them navigate the research process and connect them with relevant projects.
4. Participate in a series of webinars / events featuring professors and researchers who can provide insight into the latest developments in the field and give a transcript.
5. Develop a peer-review system that allows Alex to submit his research for feedback and constructive criticism from other students or researchers.

6. Create a virtual mentorship program that pairs Alex with a researcher in his field of interest, who can guide him through the research process.
7. Connect with alumni / professor from his university who are working in his field of study. These alumni could provide information about ongoing research projects and potential opportunities for Alex to get involved.
8. Use Online Databases, such as ResearchGate or Google Scholar, to search for ongoing research projects in his field of study. These databases could provide information about ongoing projects and contact information for the researchers.

## **Mentor**

1. Database built into the app that keeps track of students' areas of research and which mentors they worked with
2. Web form with specific required fields to ensure all data is included in record creation
3. Pre-created templates that can be used during event creation
4. Organization system so you only see information that is relevant to whatever category you've selected
5. Link to communicate via email with student(s) selected from the database
6. Keep multi-media to a minimum so you can maximize amount of data on one page to reduce amount of clicks/scrolling the user has to do
7. Email that goes to students notifying them of new research opportunities that have been created in their area(s) of interest
8. List of mentors by research area so students know who to reach out to for more opportunities
9. Mobile app version of the system because some users find touch controls easier than keyboard + mouse

## **SCRCs Staff**

1. A system that will allow the SCRCs staff to complete approval process quickly and easily
2. A database of all student names, participation, and departments to streamline the process of compiling student participation lists
3. A social media of the platform that will advertise activities and pathway program
4. A platform that will be used by participating students to connect with each other who are registered for the same activity.
5. Creating a check-in system for the activities that will track students' participation.

- Organizing conferences about pathway programs in each department for students.
- Having a grant announcement, updates on past Grant recipient
- A self-approval process for students will save Simone's time on the approval process.

## Lagniappe Ideas

- Forum Activity Email Updates
- Grant opportunities, past grant winner update
- Academic resources
- Volunteer opportunities that come with proof
- Connect professors from different departments
- Expiring students account after their graduation.

## STORYBOARD

**STORYBOARD STUDENT**

Alex is an undergraduate student who is studying engineering. His motivations include doing research that fits with his interests, learning things that will help him in his future job, and being recognized for his work.

Alex is exploring research opportunities but is disappointed because he cannot find anything that interests him.	He remembers that one of his professors had mentioned that he might be able to find research opportunities that interest him in Advance.	Alex contacts the professor to ask for more information about Advance resources. His professor advises him that he can attend webinars and events through the website.
Alex signs up for an account to access the website where the webinars and events are listed and to be encouraged to attend the ones that interest him.	He registers for some webinars in order to fit his schedule and participate in events he finds interesting.	He attends the webinars and events, and as a result, he has a better understanding of the research opportunities available to him, and he feels more confident in his ability to pursue research that is relevant to his interests.

# STORYBOARD

## MENTOR

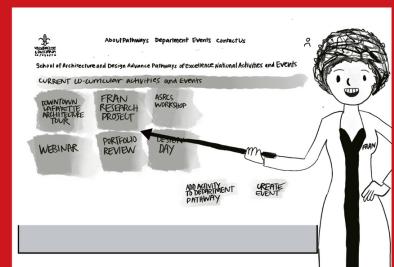
Susan is a mentor within the Department of Architecture. Susan's top priority is offering the best possible guidance to her students. She is unafraid to adopt new methodologies or technologies and is always looking for ways to do things more efficiently.



Kelly has a research project, but she is overwhelmed because she doesn't have enough people to help with it.



Kelly asks her coworker what the best way to find participants would be.



Her coworker, Fran, tells her that she should create a new event on Pathways so that students who have subscribed to events about her field of research will be notified.



Kelly creates the event, indicating that it is an opportunity for research within the field of architecture.



Kelly is contacted by students that are interested in her research opportunity and she can now schedule interviews.



Kelly interviews and offers positions to her favorite candidates. Her team of research assistants is now assembled and she is ready to begin the next step of the research project.

# STORY BOARD

## SCRCS STAFF

Simone is the director of UL's Student Center for Creativity and Scholarship. Simone prioritizes academic support. She communicates with students to resolve issues with their research. She develops innovative research activities for students.



A ambitious undergraduate student came to the SRCS office and asked Simone how to get a transcript that will show proof of acquired research work and skills.



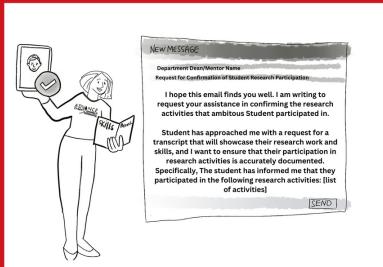
Simone felt anxious because she lacked a list from her department and mentor demonstrating student participation and skills. She asked the student for a list of the events and activities.



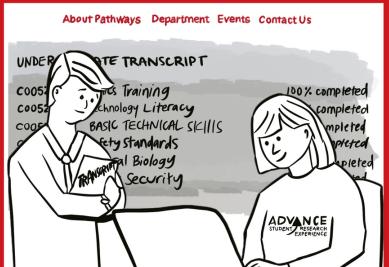
Simone felt overwhelmed when she had to explain that the approval process would take time and that she would then be able to begin the transcript process after verification is completed.



Simone Fernandez informed the student that she would send an email once the approval process was complete. Her job frequently requires her to juggle multiple tasks.



Simone Fernandez sent emails to the department dean and mentor to ask if the student participated in the activities which are on the list. The process took a couple days.



Simone felt happy that the approval process was completed without missing the student activity participation information. She started the transcript process.

## FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS

### STUDENT

- How well does it meet your personas' needs, requirements and pain points?

The idea of attending webinars and events through the university website sounds like it would meet Alex's needs, requirements, and frustrations. Alex is seeking research opportunities but is having trouble finding anything that interests him. The website can do it and provides access to webinars and events that can give him insight into the latest developments in his field of interest. Also, he knows that he can use it to get in contact with professors and researchers. By attending these events, Alex gains a better understanding of the research opportunities available to him and feels more confident in his ability to pursue relevant research. The website meets Alex's need for information and guidance and addresses his pain point of feeling lost and unsure about his research opportunities. Then he won't feel so frustrated and confused with his current search.

- **How well does the website fit into Alex's life?**

It should seem that attending webinars and events through a website fit well into Alex's life. The important thing is he can easily access the website at his convenience and register for webinars and events that fit his schedule. This also allows him to participate in activities related to his interests without having to disrupt his daily routine significantly. Additionally, having access to transcripts allows him to review the material in his own time, which is beneficial for someone with a busy schedule. Alex may be in his third or last year of his school, leading him to deal with many projects and assignments through a day. Overall, the main purpose of our team to design the website seems to be a convenient and accessible tool for Alex to explore research opportunities.

- **What's Alex's experience with the website and its features? Is it user-friendly and easy to navigate and use?**

It is significant that the website is user-friendly so Alex can navigate it and access webinars. In order to make the website easy to use for Alex, it has to be designed with a user-centered approach, with clear navigation and an intuitive interface. In our team's design, Alex signed up for an account to access the website where the webinars and events are listed and registered for some of them to fit his schedule and finds interesting. This suggests that he is able to navigate and use the website to sign up and register for the events he wants to attend.

- **How feasible is it to attend webinars and events through a website so Alex can get a better idea of research opportunities?**

All the team's effort is to be very feasible to use a website to participate in webinars and events, and it would be widely used by many students, mentors, professors and staff to share information. Alex is a young engineering student and most probably he is familiar with working with websites, mobile apps and so on. So, Alex can use it to enhance his research opportunities by learning more about them.

- **How easy is it for Alex to use your design? Does it mimic any software they are currently using?**

In order to encourage users like Alex to register and attend the events, it should be assumed that the design and user experience should be simple and easy to use. Alex should be able to access the website, create an account, and sign up for webinars and events with ease if the procedure is straightforward and includes clear steps. Additionally, Alex should benefit from having access to the transcripts because he can review the data presented at the events at his own pace. It is significant to think about whether Alex will find the website and registration process familiar to use by comparing them to other websites or platforms.

## MENTOR

Email that goes to students notifying them of new research opportunities that have been created in their area(s) of interest

- **How well does it meet Kelly's needs, requirements and pain points?**

Kelly's frustrations include the high number of clicks for daily activities, poor organization of information, and visual bloating in applications. An email burst to students would address number of clicks because she would not have to send individualized emails to each student (batching). Organization would be addressed because only the students that were subscribed to the relevant research area would be getting contacted. Visual bloat wouldn't be a problem with this approach because email programs are minimalistic. Her needs and requirements would be addressed because this would provide all the functionality for getting in contact with potential research assistants.

- **How well does email fit into Kelly's life?**

The main thing Kelly is looking for is a way to easily get in contact with interested students for research projects. Email fits well into Kelly's life as a solution to this because she already utilizes it daily for her job. It is also commonly used by the students, so it will be a very natural way for them to get in contact with her.

- **What's Kelly's experience with the website and its features? Is it user-friendly and easy to navigate and use?**

Kelly has used Pathways on a daily basis while she has worked at ULL. As this is just a modification of an existing application to add new functionality, her experience level is high. She hasn't had any issues in the past with ease of use or ability to navigate the website to obtain the information that she's seeking.

- **How feasible is it to automate email bursts to increase student outreach and lower workload?**

Automated email bursts can be accomplished through use of a dynamic webform. ULL already utilizes this for other processes, so appropriating it for use in this situation should be fairly straightforward. Automation is a great way to lower workload for employees and is very commonly utilized in businesses.

- **How easy is it for Kelly to use your design? Does it mimic any software they are currently using?**

Kelly shouldn't have any major difficulties using this design as it would be implemented into Pathways, a program that she is already very familiar with. Also, the functionality being added would be email, another application that she is very comfortable with.

## SCRCS STAFF

A database of all student names, participation, and departments to streamline the process of compiling student participation lists

- **How well does the website meet Simone's persona needs, requirements, and pain points?**

Simone's one of Simone's goals is the saving time on the approval process by providing an automated system for tracking student participation. The website addresses this goal. In addition, the project meets with her frustration of spending too much time on the approval process by streamlining the process and making it faster. Furthermore, the website's feature of keeping track of past activities is a big help for Simone. It allows her to manage student participation in a more effective way, which is a requirement for the Student Center for Creativity and Scholarship.

- **How well does the website fit into Simone's life?**

Simone is happy with the website because it has an automated system that saves her a ton of time on approval processes. She will not be frustrated and stressed about missing participation information. The website will take Simone's workload; therefore, her workday will be more enjoyable, and she will have some free time that she can use on other tasks.

- **What's Simone's experience with the website and its features? Is it user-friendly and easy to navigate and use?**

Simone's experience with the website is positive, as it is user-friendly and easy to navigate. The automated approval process and tracking system have made her work easier, and she can now access the list of participants quickly and efficiently. The ability to track past activities is also beneficial as it allows her to evaluate the success of previous events and make improvements where necessary.

- **How is it possible for Simone to manage the approval process through a website?**

In the past, Simone lost student participation data, and this caused her to complete the approval process. In addition, her frustration is spending so much time to get approval from the department and students. The website will allow her to manage this approval process faster and terminate the missing data issue. Each user will have completed their approval part and at the end Simone will approve the participation attendance.

- **How easy is it for Simone to use your design? Does it mimic any software they are currently using?**

The website has activity and students' participation management features which Simone is looking for. The website design focuses on looking organized, having related contents, and having features based on user needs. The website does not mimic any software. There is software that is being used by the SCRCS staff and students, however it does not track any student participation, and manages the approval process. The current website only announces any activities at the university. Therefore, it does not meet with users' needs and has any features that the new website has.



[Link to Google Drive Sketches](#)

[Link to Excel File](#)