### Project Proposal

#### **Domain:** Education & Productivity

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### **Problem 1:** Unclear graduation requirements

#### **Context:**

Understanding graduation requirements for a given major, even before navigating double majors and outliers can be difficult. While the university provides a degree audit, a document detailing major requirements, it often can conflict with outdated info on the official website. As a result, students rely on advisors and peers to understand graduation requirements which should be clear given the stakes involved.

This problem directly impacts students’ academic planning and sometimes can cause students to take classes that are otherwise unnecessary. By simplifying how requirements are tracked and verified, students can take greater ownership of their education and avoid costly mistakes.

We are proposing a web-based “Career Planner” application that shows students a clear visualization of what they have accomplished and what they have left to go. The platform would integrate up-to-date graduation requirements by major and track completed and remaining requirements. By providing data from BC’s generated degree audit and scheduling websites, it can provide real-time insights into whether students are on track to graduate.

### **Interview Plan**

#### **Target Group 1**: Students

* Why: They have first-hand experience with classes and can identify the most common points of uncertainty when tracking graduation progress.
* Who: Students across various majors and class years
* How to Reach: Conduct short interviews with students; maybe provide a survey through QR code. For a larger reach, supplement with a 5-minute Google Form survey collecting basic responses.
* Questions:  
  1. How do you plan out your schedule for next year?
  2. Have you ever been confused about graduation requirements?
  3. Which parts of the current system (spreadsheets, advising tools, etc.) are most confusing or unreliable?
  4. What would be helpful to have consolidated into class info?
  5. What features or integrations (e.g., automatic course tracking, alerts, or checklists) would you find most useful?
* Expected Insights: difficulty understanding requirements, desire for improved UI for scheduling systems

#### Target Group 2: Professors / Faculty and Academic Advisors

* Why: They have insight into which experiences best complement each academic program and directly guide students through course selection, academic planning, and degree progress.
* Who: Professors who act as academic advisors, department chairs, or faculty mentors who regularly meet with students for course planning and graduation checks.
* How to Reach: Request short interviews via email (Send short, formal email invitations describing the Career Planner project and interview purpose. Include estimated time commitment (15–20 minutes) and assurance of anonymity) → schedule advising appointments, or use department office hours. → Record audio (with consent) or take structured notes. Each interview will last 15–25 minutes, with semi-structured questions allowing for follow-ups.
* Questions:  
  1. What challenges do students face when trying to understand their graduation requirements?
  2. How do you typically verify a student’s progress toward graduation (e.g., degree audit, departmental checklist, manual review)?
  3. How could a database of opportunities support your advising role?
  4. Have you observed inconsistencies between the official degree audit system and departmental guidelines?
* Expected Insights: Faculty perspectives on connecting academic learning with experiential opportunities and suggestions for how the platform can complement advising resources.

### **Problem 2:** Difficulty Finding Opportunities Related to Major

#### **Context:**

Students often struggle to find opportunities such as internships, research roles, volunteer programs, or clubs that align with their academic interests and career goals. Current resources are fragmented across different websites, emails, and department pages, making it time-consuming for students to identify and pursue opportunities.

This problem matters because students benefit most from experiences that connect their academic learning to real-world applications. A centralized and searchable opportunity hub can empower students to explore, plan, and engage meaningfully in career-building activities.

We propose expanding the Career Planner platform. It will suggest courses that will help students build the skills necessary for their desired paths. For instance, if a student is interested in becoming a quantitative analyst, the platform could recommend taking courses like Probability and Statistics or other courses earlier in their academic plan. Similarly, if a student hopes to pursue UX design, it might suggest Human-Computer Interaction or Cognitive Psychology. This will include a database of tagged opportunities, where students can filter by major, year, type (e.g., internship, research, volunteering, clubs), or skill area. The goal is to simplify exploration and help students align their activities with long-term career goals.

### Interview Plan

#### Target Group 1: Students

* Why: They are the primary users and can describe the frustration of finding or missing opportunities that match their major or interests.
* Who: Students from different majors, especially underclassmen exploring career paths and upperclassmen actively seeking internships or research.
* How to Reach: Post surveys in major-specific group chats, career fair events, or campus newsletters; conduct brief interviews during study sessions or club meetings.
* Questions:  
  1. Where do you currently find academic or career opportunities?
  2. What challenges do you face when searching for major-related experiences?
  3. What kinds of filters or categories would help you find relevant opportunities faster?
  4. Would you use a centralized platform that lists internships, clubs, and volunteer options tied to your major?
* Expected Insights: it is difficult to find opportunities within a specific niche and getting involved in certain circles can be hard.

#### **Target Group 2:** Career Center

* Why: They regularly assist students in course planning and career readiness
* Who: Career Center staff
* How to Reach: Schedule informational interviews via email, go in-person, or schedule an appointment with the center
* Questions:  
  1. What common difficulties do students face when looking for opportunities?
  2. What issues do you see among students coming for advice?
  3. How could technology better support your advising process?
  4. Would an integrated student dashboard help streamline advising sessions?
* Expected Insights: What kind of info would be helpful for students to know/what opportunities are students looking for

**Possible Expansion Ideas:**

* Provide a more intuitive search engine for finding classes?
* Make it easier to browse through the possible classes to fill a specific major requirement
* Class overview - show course material/difficulty/workload, show the professors who are teaching next semester and their previous EagleEval to help students make informed decisions? Maybe include grade breakdowns, reviews, etc
* Exam scheduling - provide a calendar for specifically academic things? Maybe find a way to use AI to summarize syllabus’
* Literally just link to other resources, ie. eagle eval, dining hall (what’s open?), handshake, eagle exchange,