Brandon Lang (the career path changer)

"People told me that it was normal to change your program multiple times during University, but I didn't think it would be this stressful and confusing!"

Brandon is a 17 year old first year UTM student from Mississauga. His love for physics in high school was the reason why he applied to UTM's Physics program. During his high school Physics courses, he would always achieve 90s on his assessments. Even though he was achieving high marks, he felt that he was not challenged enough, and so enriched his learning outside of class by doing his own research about the latest Physics breakthroughs. He also played for his school's boys soccer team, which had practices twice a week in the evening after school ended.

At the start of his first semester at UTM, Brandon was very confident in his career path. He saw himself achieving the same 90s as high school, and moving on to do a Masters at Waterloo for Physics. However, this changed after his second Physics lecture. He realized that the course content was too abstract for him, and not what he was expecting to be studying at all. After sleepless nights, Brandon realizes that he has an interest in his Sociology and Statistics electives, and that the best thing for him now was to aim for a Statistics and Sociology double major instead.

Since Brandon only prepared his timetable for the Physics program, he starts to panic about deciding how to organize all the new courses he has to take. Since Brandon wants to join the UTM soccer team, he has to schedule around soccer practices, which are usually Tuesdays at 5-7pm. He also has friends at UTM who played with him on his high school's soccer team, and wants to be able to easily compare his timetables with theirs in order to find and schedule time to socialize. He wishes there was a fast and easy to use tool to organize all his new courses into ideal timetables.

Melinda Hoff (the course seeker)

"I don't want to take courses in topics I'm not interested in, but since it's required, might as well take ones that everyone seems to like and recommend."

Melinda is a 21 year old UTM Art and Art History student. She currently lives in a rented apartment in Oakville with a few roommates. In her spare time, she runs her freelance graphic design business and takes commissions for portrait paintings. Her favourite classes are her Studio Art courses at Sheridan, where she gets to express herself with hands on projects. These Studio Art courses are very time consuming, but Melinda does not mind that at all. However, she often spends more time focusing on her Studio Art courses than other courses that interest her less. In fact, she has already used up all her 2.0 Credit/No Credit credits because of her poor time management skills.

Melinda is excited to plan out the courses she will take for her 4th and final year at UTM. Since the course enrollment deadline is approaching, she is deciding which courses to enroll in. She is struggling to decide which Science electives she should take, since she is still missing 1.0 credits to fulfill the Science breadth requirement. Science used to be interesting to Melinda, but she never took extra Science courses during high school because she thought it was too hard. Since she has already used up all her CR/NCR credits, Melinda must make sure that she can motivate herself to complete the work in these Science courses.

To find suitable courses, she is looking for ones that have well liked professors and do not require too much work outside of class. She is also unhappy that she has to still go through the tedious task of seeing which courses she is eligible to take, and the courses that fit into her existing timetable. In the past, she had interest in some of the higher CCIT courses, but was sad to see that they required CCT109 and CCT110 prerequisites, which she did not already take. After struggling to plan timetables for the past three years as a student, Melinda hopes to finally find an easy solution that can help recommend interesting and light electives she can take.

Tom Muhammad (the disorganized mess)

"I really need to up my note taking game and get into the habit of organization. I'd probably lose my arm if it wasn't attached to me."

Tom is a 23 year old UTM student who is studying Political Science and Anthropology. He was the President of his high school's Student Council, which gave him many opportunities, such as speaking to local politicians. His experiences as a President inspired him to work towards a career in the Government, and hopefully as Prime Minister. Currently he enjoys volunteering with the UTM student union, and speaking to local politicians throughout the year. He enjoys what he studies, but hates the time consuming and tiring commute from his home in Brampton. If he does not catch the Express bus to UTM, which has a very limited schedule, his commute will be roughly 3 hours with 3 buses instead of 1 hour on 1 bus.

Tom is excited to start 3rd year, but is worried about how the new semester will turn out. He usually goes to most of his classes, but has a hard time keeping track of where his notes are. Some are in notebooks, some are online, and some are in text files on his laptop. Occasionally his notebooks will fall apart, which result to him rummaging through his backpack to find paper. When midterms are near he sometimes struggles to find his notes, which force him to rewrite them all over again. In the past, losing his notes and forgetting them at home caused Tom to fail his midterm. Tom also has a hard time remembering his schedule. Everyday he often has to refer to his timetable after class in order to recall what courses he has next, and when and where these courses are.

After reflecting on his second year mistakes, Tom is sure that he wants to improve his study habits and organization. He wants to be able to keep all his notes in a common place, see notes for specific days or courses, and easily remind himself of his timetable. He also wants to make sure that his courses correspond to when the Express bus will arrive to campus. He hopes that using an easy organization tool will help motivate him to keep good organization habits and improve his grades.