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ITWS Proposal of Concept and Scope

Our web application is Tutor Student Connection.

This application will be designed to connect students and tutors at RPI. There is a large population of students that go searching for tutors, sometimes private or sometimes in group settings. This app will make it easy for students and tutors to find each other so that they don’t have to waste time looking for each other and can get right to work. It will work by creating user accounts, and each user will specify whether they are a tutor, a student, or both. Then a student can search in certain subject areas that they need tutoring in, and will be shown a list of potential tutors that they can choose from. The tutors will add courses that they are proficient enough in to tutor, and that is how they will be matched with students. Tutors will also be able to offer their help to students who are registered on the site for certain subjects.

In addition to these main features, we would also like to implement a discussion forum and quick-tutoring based on questions. The quick tutoring would be if the student just has a few simple questions and a tutor can volunteer to answer them, and the discussion forum would be organized through subject/courses where students can ask questions and tutors and students can both answer them. These two aspects are relatively similar, so depending on how the project develops they could be combined into the same thing. This app serves both students and tutors, and it is meant to help them connect much easier and more efficiently.

This web app can fit well into the ALAC tutoring system that is already in place at RPI. ALAC tutors work in groups, but the director of ALAC is often contacted asking for private tutors for students, and this information is then passed onto the tutors. Tutor Student Connection could skip the middle step and connect tutors and students directly, and give students the opportunity to look at multiple available tutors. The discussion forum aspect is similar to Piazza, and also many other platforms like Reddit. The difference for this web app will be that it is placed directly in the mix of students and tutors, and will allow an open discussion between many students and tutors, and not be closed off to just those enrolled in the course.

The main focus will be to store data in a database. We plan to have each user make an account, where we will need to store their username and password, and all of their information, such as courses and subjects. The secondary focus on this web app will be to make an interactive website through Javascript. We will use Javascript to improve the user experience and make the app easy to interact with. With these as our main focuses, we aim to make Tutor Student Connection a fast and effective way to connect and match students to tutors.

Tutor/Student Account and Profile Viewer

Sign up as a student, tutor, or both(TS)

Tutors can view profiles of students and “offer” help

Students can view profiles of tutors and “request” help

TS can do both

Accounts have usernames and corresponding passwords saved in a database in order to keep security/privacy and prevent duplicates.

Can be personalized

(tutors have “best subject to tutor”, students have “subjects/courses helped needed”)

Searches of profiles include filters based either your search entry or your specified subject by default

For each subject, there will be a discussion forum where smaller and simpler questions that don’t require personal tutoring can be asked.