

Project Description

MalayanPORTAL is a website for Mapua Malayans, from Junior High School to College, to monitor and transact with various offices and centers of the school. Primarily, the website will focus on the status monitoring of the student user in terms of enrollment, schedules, and tuition balance. Moreover, the website will also contain FAQs and forms of other offices and centers to allow student users to transact with them.

Requirements Summary

- **Overall Requirements**

- **Responsive UI and Easy UX**

As a website, it should be responsive and intuitive to different devices. Meaning, it shall be viewable and usable regardless of if it is accessed from mobile or desktop platforms.

- **Reliable and Performant**

The website should feel snappy and that intended operations should work.

- **Website Components**

- **Dashboard**

Contains status or information summary of other main pages.

- **Enrollment (Status, Schedule, Units, Professor)**

This shows the enrollment status and class information of students.

- **Tuition Fee**

Shows the tuition fee status of the students. Contains transaction logs and fee breakdowns.

- **Forms**

Contains a directory of the different offices/centers of the school with their corresponding contact information and digital forms.

Design Space

malayanPORTAL aims to be highly functional website what a clean and intuitive interface. It is imperative to balance the features and functionalities that will be added without making the interface look overwhelming and confusing to the users. Since the website will be formal as it is used for monitoring, it will have a clean, comfortable, and legible look. The colors and shape shall mirror the logo, which itself is mirrored on Mapau MCM's branding.

What requirements may be difficult to realize?

Primarily, it may be difficult to obtain real-time data from different offices. For instance, the database of the Treasury Office may not have a data export functionality. Therefore, we cannot extract specific data and be forced to upload a whole document or record instead.

Also, making the website fully responsive is a great challenge. As designers and developers, we must consider multiple interfaces depending on the type of device that the website is accessed from. For example, we must consider what elements should be omitted in view if the website is accessed from a smaller screen, such as a mobile device.

What are some tradeoffs that you should or did explore?

With connection to the requirement difficulties above, we explored multiple approach on some aspects. Regarding the data access difficulty and with the Treasury Office data as an example, we have explored an interface which will just display an inline record on the page. Alternatively, we have explored an interface that also includes a highlights part, which extracts specific information from the database, such as payment deadline, payment date, and remaining balance, and then shows it to the user.

Regarding the accessibility challenge and with the Registrar Office data (schedule) on mobile as example, we considered reducing the schedule shown on the page to just a daily view, instead of a weekly view because the weekly view only looks better on devices with bigger displays, such as desktops or laptops.

Which tasks will be easiest to support? Which is the hardest?

Disregarding the data accessibility challenges mentioned above, the tasks that are easiest to support are actually those pages that only require obtaining data and then simply showing it to the user. This includes the main dashboard, the class page, and the balance page.

In contrast, the group members unanimously agreed that the hardest task would be designing the pages that will contain forms. Such as request or booking forms. This is because of the user input error handling, which means that we would

also need to consider the different inputs that a user can possibly enter. However, the group considered showing downloadable forms instead as the alternative.

Design Summary

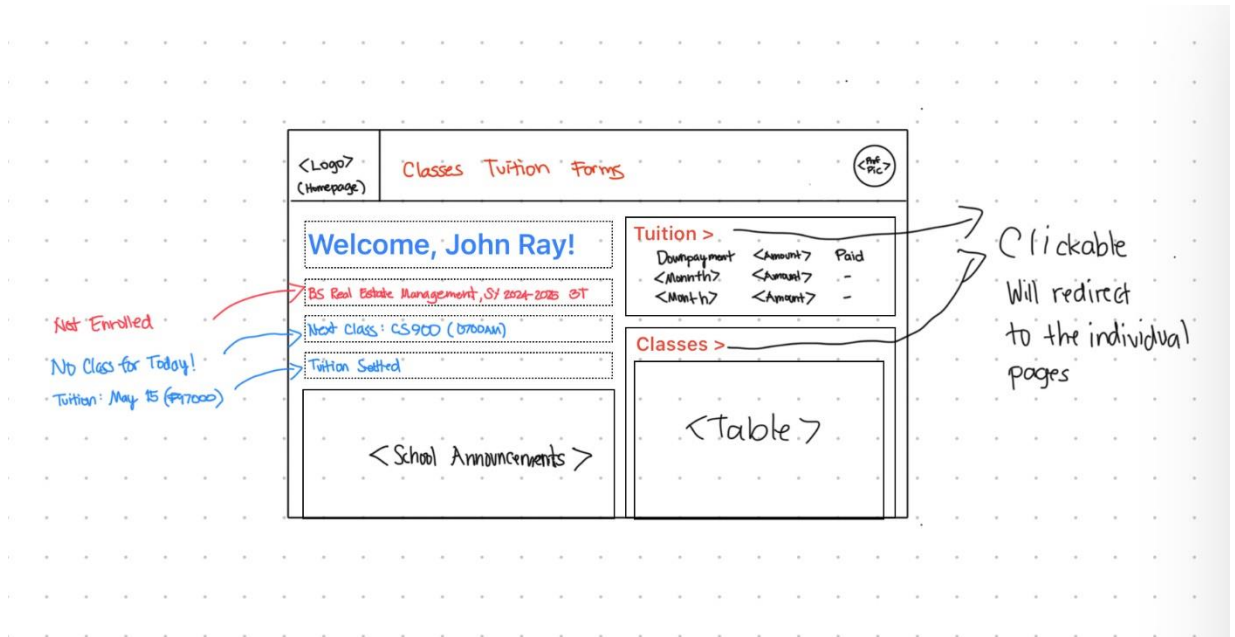
The website will be informational and functional, which means that there will be a couple of dashboards and forms. Dashboards and tables also imply data in text and tabular forms. Moreover, forms will serve as an input element of the website, which also requires input error handling.

A notable design consideration and decision we made is whether to show the main parts in one page, which means that the user experience will be mainly scroll-based, or to use different pages for related functions. However, the group opted for the latter. With that, the website will contain a main dashboard on the homepage and then the individual pages, also with their own dashboard, will be accessed through a persistent navigation bar. The decision was made in order for the user to always have an awareness on what part of the website they are currently on. Moreover, that will also allow users to immediately navigate to a part they want should they already know what kind of transaction they want to do from the very start, which means they will no longer need to search individually.

A notable design consideration that was not pursued was similar to the first option discussed on the decision above, wherein all main parts are on a single page, but this time, they are in “bento boxes”, which are very trendy right now and basically consists of cards that expands when pressed. However, this may be overwhelming for the user and adds difficulty in making the site responsive for devices with small screens.

Design 1Overview

This design is an iteration on the decision of the group to have simple website that have a main dashboard on the homepage and then the individual pages that can be accessed through a persistent navigation bar. It follows a clean design following the branding colors.

IllustrationHomepage

The Home page gathers all important information from the Classes and Tuition pages. The Navigation Bar allows the user to easily find their desired transaction or information. First, it has a message section that greets the user and then shows the enrollment status, next class, and tuition fee status. Second, it contains cards that shows summarized important information from the Classes and Tuition pages. A user can go to their dedicated pages by clicking on the title. Finally, there is also a section for school announcements in order for the students to immediately view crucial advisories.

The Classes page contains 2 tables, a summary message section, and a row of download buttons. First, the summary message section shows the next upcoming class with its appropriate information, such as room number, course code, course title, and course professor. Second, the first smaller table shows the complete information of a course, which includes its code, title, units, and professor. Third, the second larger table contains a weekly calendar view that contains the timetable view of the user's classes. The subjects are also color-coded depending on its modality and the legends of the color-code are found on the bottom of the timetable. Finally, there is a row of download buttons which allows the user to directly download their GSA as well.

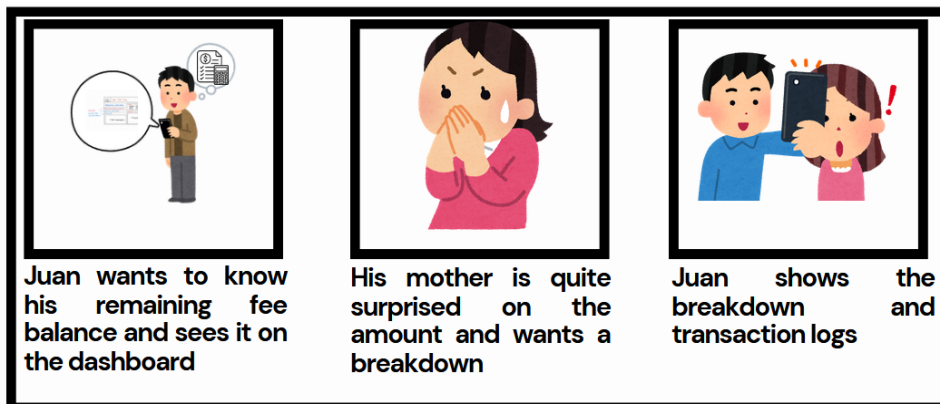
The wireframe shows a header section with a logo placeholder labeled "<Logo> (Homepage)", navigation links for "Classes", "Tuition", and "Forms", and a circular profile picture placeholder. The main content area below contains three identical rows, each consisting of a blue text label "<Office/Center Name>" followed by two red square buttons, each containing a white downward-pointing triangle and the text "<Form>".

Forms Page

The Forms page simply lists all of the offices and centers and then shows their corresponding downloadable forms.

Scene/Sample Scenario

Suppose Juan wants to know his remaining tuition fee balance, he can immediately see it on the main dashboard on the homepage. However, her mother is quite surprised on the amount and want to see a breakdown. Therefore, Juan showed the tuition fee breakdown on the tuition page. Still not satisfied, her mother suggested that there might be a previous payment that has just not been reflected yet. But Juan showed the transaction logs to clarify.



Assessment

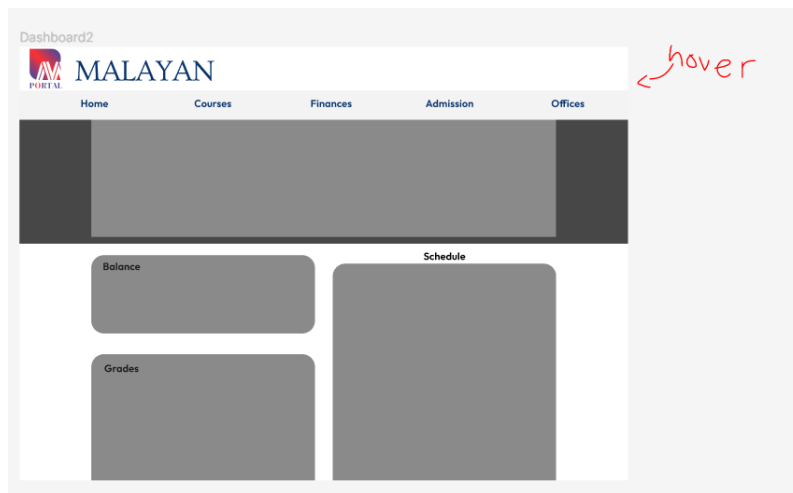
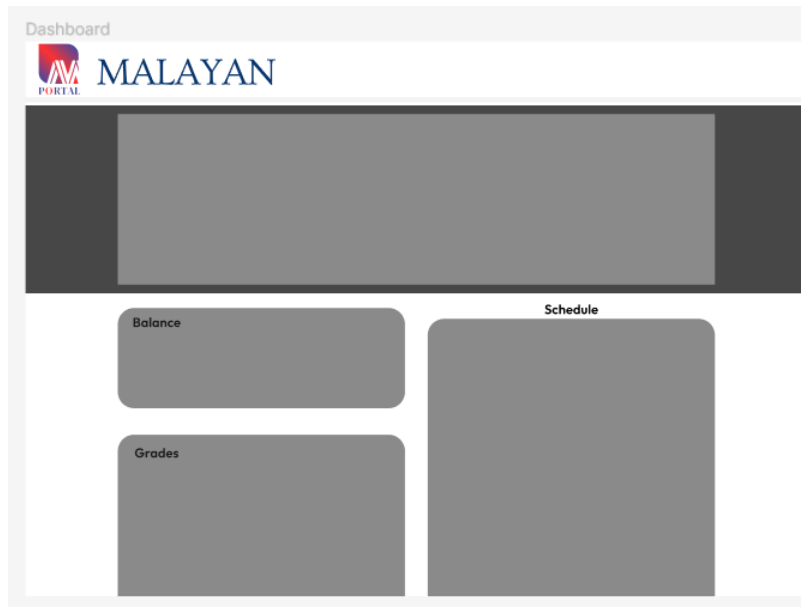
Critic 1 was satisfied with the website layout. The critic stated it is easy to find their intended information. However, the critic noted the design should be more creative although the design shown was just a sketch. Critic 2 has similar sentiments with Critic 1 although they suggested putting relevant form downloads on the class and tuition pages. Also, the button icons for the Forms page could have been better. For the team critique, they are also satisfied with the interface layout, and they prefer the simplicity of the experience. However, they also noted that if the website will be in the actual design and development stages, more creative elements should be incorporated through animations.

Design 2

Overview

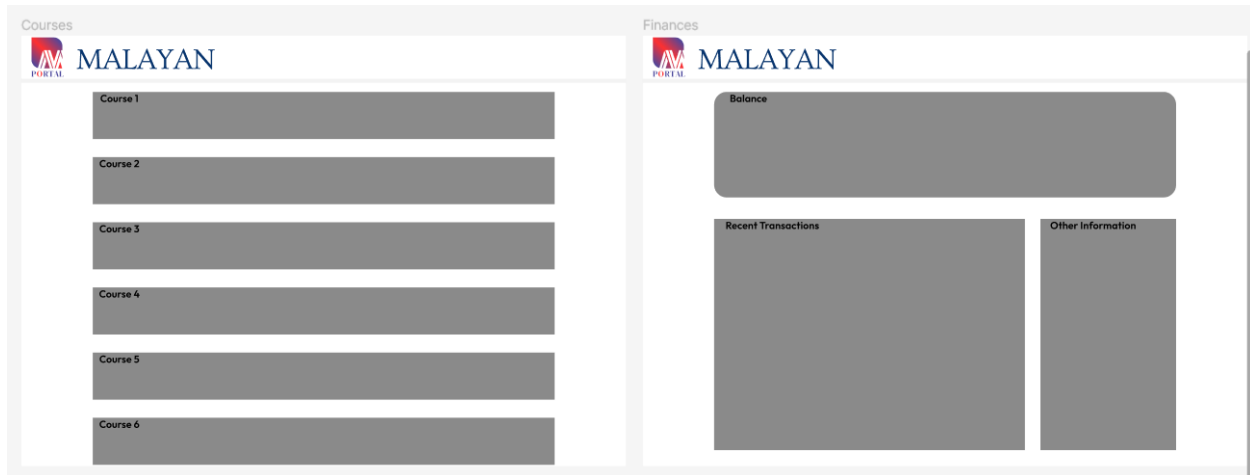
This design is another iteration of the group's goal to have a simple website. The design decisions of this website were inspired by many websites with similar interface for the user to have an easier time to navigate due to the familiarity of its interface.

Illustration



HomePage

The homepage was aimed to be a place where the user can see their information first and foremost and their balance information. Furthermore, it also shows the grades for the courses they currently are enrolled in and the schedule for it.

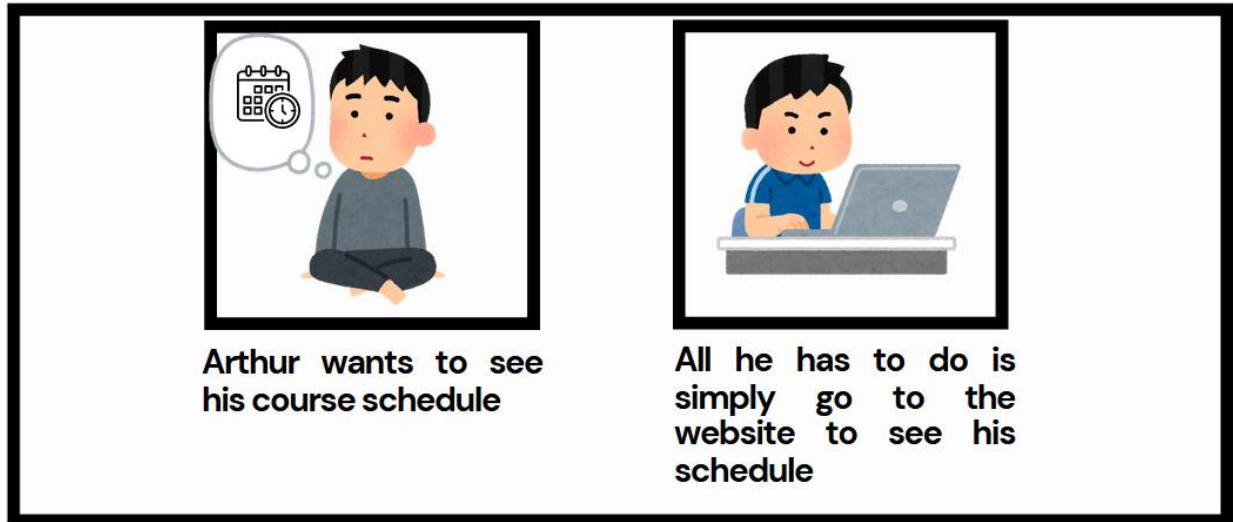


Courses and Financial Page

The courses and financial page are a more detailed page of the one shown in the homepage where the user can see their course info such as who their professors are, their contact info and the room location. For the financial page, it would show recent transactions and the user's current balance for the school.

Scene/Sample Scenario

Let's say that Arthur wants to see his course schedule, all he would do is simply go to the website and immediately see his schedule for the week instead of having to look at the document that contains his schedule.



Assessment

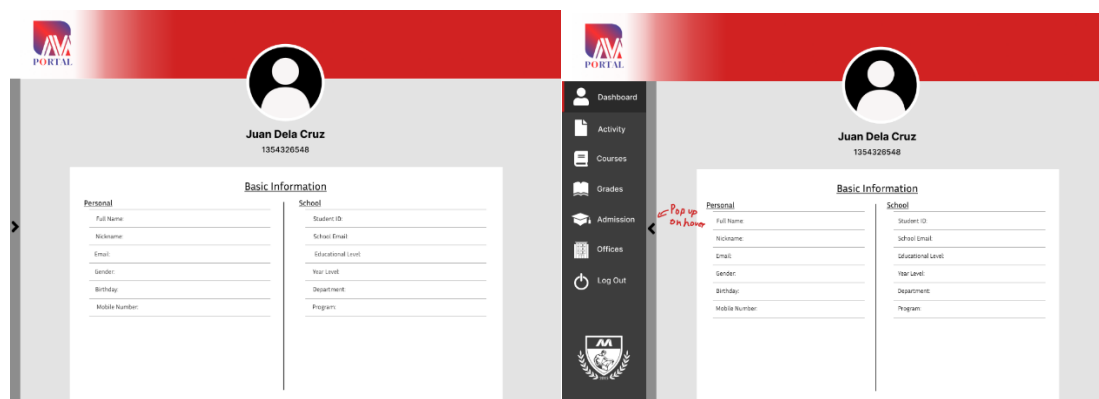
Critic 1 praised the simplicity of the website's design but stated that it may be too simple for his taste and noted that the design should have more details on to it and maybe a bit more color. Critic 2 also has similar statements of Critic 1 and stated that the design may be too basic.

Design 3

Overview

This design is the more detailed version of the sketch from design 1, it resembles a lot from the school's Malayan blackboard. It has the implementation of color scheme that is common in the school, it has the combined function of a blackboard and the official Mapua-MCM website that allows students to have all their needs in one site/app

Illustration

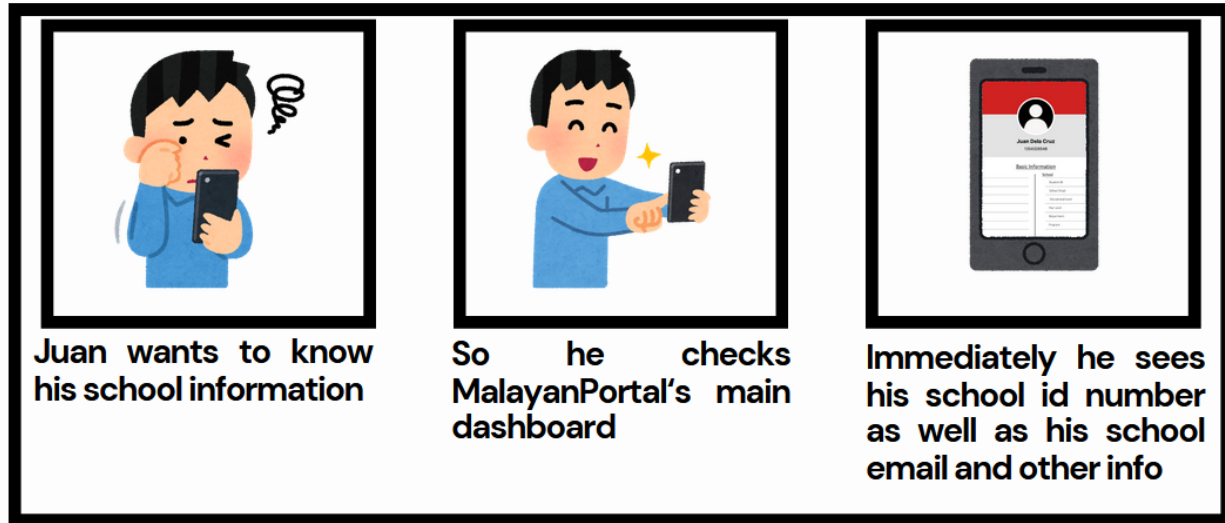


Dashboard

The Dashboard serves as a central hub, consolidating all essential information of the student. The side bar serves as the navigation bar allowing users to easily locate their desired pages or information.

Scene/Sample Scenario

Juan wants to know his school information, so he checks the main dashboard. Immediately he sees his school ID number as well as his school email and other information about his courses and department displayed prominently



Assessment

Critique 1:

The design could be more engaging with added color accents and graphical elements to break up the text-heavy sections. Consistent use of interactive elements like hover effects or tooltips would enhance usability. Additionally, better utilization of white space with widgets or quick links could improve the dashboard's functionality.

Critique 2:

The navigation bar would benefit from a responsive design that highlights the current section and adding more functionality to the sidebar, like quick access to notifications or messages. User customization options, such as widgets or shortcuts, could enhance the user experience. Ensuring accessibility features like text resizing, high contrast modes, and screen reader compatibility is crucial for all users.

Requirements Changes

During the design process and when comparing the design iterations amongst the group afterwards, we have decided to simplify the Forms page as of the moment. Instead of creating a web form for each of the offices and centers, we decided to have a download button for those forms instead. This will reduce the heavy workload of the designers and developers. Furthermore, it will also reduce the infrastructure capital of the school as they will not be required to establish more servers to allow those operations.