

Initial System Requests for Online Course Registration

Wylie College is planning to develop a new online Course Registration System. The new Web-enabled system replaces its much older system developed around mainframe technology. The new system allows students to register for courses from any Internet browser. Professors use the system to register to teach courses and to record grades.

Because of a decrease in federal funding, the college cannot afford to replace the entire system at once. The college will keep the existing course catalog database, where all course information is maintained. This database is an Ingres relational database running on a DEC VAX. The legacy system performance is poor, so the new system accesses course information from the legacy database but does not update it. The registrar's office continues to maintain course information through another system.

Students can request a printed course catalog containing a list of course offerings for the semester. Students can also obtain the course information online at any time. Information about each course, such as professor, department, credit hours, and prerequisites, assists students in making informed decisions.

The new system allows students to select four course offerings for the coming semester. In addition, each student indicates two alternate choices in case the student cannot be assigned to a primary selection. Course offerings have a maximum of ten and a minimum of three students.

The registration process closes on the first or second day of classes for the semester. Any course having fewer than three students enrolled on the day registration closes is cancelled. All courses without an instructor on the day registration closes are cancelled. Students enrolled in cancelled classes are notified that the course has been cancelled, and the course is removed from their schedules. The registration system sends information about all student enrollments to the Billing System so that the students can be billed for the semester.

For the first two weeks of the semester, students are allowed to alter their course schedules. Students may access the online system during this time to add or drop courses. Changes in schedules are immediately sent to the Billing System so that an updated bill can be sent to the student.

At the end of the semester, the student can access the system to view an electronic report card. Since student grades are sensitive information, the system must employ security measures to prevent unauthorized access. All students, professors, and administrators have their own identification codes and passwords. Professors must be able to access the online system to indicate which courses they want to teach. They also need to see which students signed up for their course offerings. In addition, professors can record the grades for the students in each class.