

**AcadLens**

**Project Proposal**

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**Abstract:**

AcadLens is a comprehensive platform designed to simplify the process of course enrollment and professor selection for students. It enables students to anonymously review professors, ensuring reliable feedback based on peer experiences. The platform also provides access to study materials, moderated for accuracy and relevance. AcadLens aims to enhance the academic experience by offering a transparent, student-driven review system, along with features such as filtering reviews, contributing study materials, and requesting new professors or courses. The project leverages modern technologies like Next.js and Supabase for seamless functionality and data security.

1. **Introduction:**

Course registration has always been a challenging process for students. There is always confusion among students regarding selection of professors. The Internet is full of reviews of products, restaurants, movies, books and games etc., imagine having a platform where students can make instant decisions based on reviews of other student’s learning experiences.

Welcome to AcadLens, a platform designed to help students easily choose their professors. Our mission is to provide a platform where students can share their detailed reviews of university professors anonymously. Through **Acadlens**, students can provide constructive feedback through which not only students can select professors but teachers can also improve their teaching methods.

Our platform uses a moderated feedback system to ensure a safe environment and prevent any unrelated or offensive feedback. Additionally, beyond reviews, it will also serve as a resource hub where students can access study materials.

1. **Goals and Objectives:**

The goals and objectives of **AcadLens** are as follows:

1. Facilitate Transparent Professor reviews:

* Allow students to rate and provide comments on their professors anonymously.
* Enable students to provide suggestions in reviews, helping professors improve and ensuring future students don't encounter the same learning challenges.

1. Access and Contribute to Study Materials:

* Serve as a one-stop platform for students to access course outlines, assignments, quizzes, midterm papers, final exam papers, and other materials to excel in their exams.
* Study materials can be uploaded only by moderators or the AcadLens admin team, but students can email the AcadLens team to contribute materials for upload.

1. Moderated Feedback:

* Ensure that student comments are moderated for appropriate content before being displayed.
* Provide moderators with the ability to approve or reject review based on community standards.

1. Filter and Rate Feedback:

* Students can up votes or down votes reviews for professors to highlight the most useful reviews.
* Reviews can be filtered based on various factors such as star ratings, most upvotes/downvotes, specific courses, and specific professors.

1. Request to Add Professors and Courses:

* Students can request the AcadLens team to add professors who are not currently listed on the website by providing necessary details about the professor through a simple form to facilitate their inclusion in the database.
* Students can also request the addition of specific course if they are not available on the platform by submitting course details using the provided form to help expand the available course list.

1. **Scope of the Project:**

The scope of the project includes the design, development, testing, and deployment of the university-wide platform, AcadLens, tailored for students to streamline course enrollment and enhance professor selection based on peer reviews. The platform will be built using Next.js for the front-end, styled with CSS, and Supabase as the back-end service for data management and authentication, including Google OAuth for user login.

Key Features and Deliverables:

1. **User Authentication and Role Management**:
   * Integration with Google OAuth for student login and authentication.
   * Role-based access control with permissions for students, moderators, and administrators.
2. **Professor and Course Review System**:
   * Allow students to anonymously rate and review professors.
   * Enable students to provide detailed comments and suggestions for improvement.
   * Filter reviews based on courses, professors, ratings, and relevance (upvotes/downvotes).
   * Moderation system to ensure appropriate content and prevent misuse.
3. **Study Material Repository**:
   * Provide access to course outlines, quizzes, midterms, final exam papers, and other relevant study materials.
   * Ensure that only moderators and administrators can upload study materials, while students can request additions.
4. **Search and Filtering Features**:
   * Develop advanced search functionality to help students find professors or courses.
   * Allow filtering and sorting of reviews by ratings, course, and upvotes.
5. **Professor and Course Request System**:
   * Enable students to request adding new professors or courses to the platform via a simple submission form.
6. **Cross-Platform Compatibility**:
   * Ensure the platform is fully responsive and works seamlessly on different devices (desktop, tablet, and mobile).
7. **Data Security and Privacy**:
   * Implement secure data storage for reviews, ratings, and user details using Supabase SQL.
   * Maintain anonymity for student reviews and ensure the platform adheres to data protection regulations.

Development Phases:

* **Phase 1**: Requirements gathering and initial system design.
* **Phase 2**: Development of core features (authentication, review system, material repository).
* **Phase 3**: Testing and quality assurance, focusing on usability, security, and functionality.
* **Phase 4**: Deployment of the platform and post-launch maintenance.

The project will focus on creating an easy-to-use platform that fosters transparency and enhances the academic experience through student feedback and access to valuable study materials

1. **Initial Study and Work Done so Far:**

There are existing websites like [RateMyProfessors](http://www.ratemyprofessors.com), but they are not university-specific and cater to a broad audience. Our project draws inspiration from platforms like Google Reviews, where users can review restaurants, movies, and shows. These platforms highlight how user reviews can influence decision-making, similar to how student reviews can aid in selecting professors and courses.

Another significant inspiration is [Steam](http://www.steam.com), a gaming platform with an extensive review system. Steam’s review functionality includes features such as emoji’s, reply options, and helpfulness ratings. It also allows users to filter reviews based on various criteria, including language, which provides a comprehensive feedback system. These features serve as a model for the kind of advanced review system we envision for this project.

The work done so far includes creating an Entity-Relationship Diagram (ERD) of the entire system to map out the database structure. We have also integrated Supabase as our backend system, allowing students to log in using their university’s Google services. Since the university uses Google for email and classroom management, this integration streamlines the login process and automatically retrieves important information, such as the student’s degree and year of enrollment. This reduces the need for lengthy forms, enhancing the user experience.

**5. References:**

1. http://www.ratemyprofessors.com
2. https://www.uloop.com/professors
3. https://store.steampowered.com/
4. [https://winww.trustpilot.com/](https://www.trustpilot.com/)
5. Google Reviews