High level overview:

For my individual senior project, I have decided to create a web application for LMU's Food Recovery Network (FRN) chapter. FRN is a student-led nonprofit organization focused on recovering surplus food from across the supply chain, delivering it to local community nonprofits, and serving those experiencing hunger. This organization consists of over 4,000 students, business leaders, and dining services / providers. Every Sunday morning, a couple of LMU student volunteers pick up surplus food from Sodexo workers at the Lair and drive to deliver it at St. Joseph's Center in Venice. This web application will be created with the purpose of helping users have an easy and straightforward way to schedule weekly pick-ups and drop-offs and also track the amount of food being donated every week. These features will include a way to view the schedule of past and future pick-ups and deliveries as well as a checklist of what food and how much is delivered each week. Another aspect that I want to include is an informative page(s) to educate users on the FRN and explain ways in which they can help or get involved. Since there is currently no website for this volunteer opportunity, I would like to emphasize a clean user interface and straightforward website. The software that I will be using for this project is React, node.js, HTML, and CSS. I am also planning on utilizing the Google Maps API to showcase the route for food deliveries in addition to the Twilio API to send users SMS updates and reminders. I also want to implement Firebase for authentication and for users to be able to sign up or log into their current accounts. The intended audience for this website is LMU FRN volunteers, Sodexo workers, St. Joseph's Center staff members, and anyone interested in getting involved or learning more about FRN.

Justification:

In this project, I will enhance, apply, and extend my knowledge on what I have learned in Javascript, React, HTML, CSS, and web app development throughout my four years at LMU. This web application will allow me to challenge myself and test my skill sets while applying everything I have learned in various different courses. My project's technical difficulty is not too easy and not too hard and can be completed in the course of one semester. I have all of the resources and tools required to be able to finish my LMU Food Recovery Network website by the end of the semester. Last year, I collaborated with my service organization (Sursum Corda) and the VP of Sustainability for ASLMU to recreate a FRN chapter here at LMU. I believe that food justice is an extremely important topic that is often overlooked and am very passionate about combating the social justice issue of food insecurity. I think that creating this website will be a useful tool in making things run smoothly for this program as well as in educating students and am super excited to work on it throughout my last semester at LMU!