Project Name: FindAcademia - Find the Best College for You

Start Date: 07/06/2024 **End Date:** 07/09/2024

Installation and Operation Guide

Prerequisites

Ensure you have the following software installed on your machine:

1. **Node.js**
2. **MySQL**
3. **Git** (optional, for version control)
4. **VSCode or any code editor**

Steps to Install and Run the Project

Step 1: Clone the Repository (Optional)

If the project is hosted on GitHub or a similar service, clone the repository:

Bash

```bash
git clone https://github.com/your-username/findacademia-app.git
cd findacademia-app
```

If you don't have a repository, simply download the project files to your local machine and navigate to the project directory.

Step 2: Install Node.js Dependencies

Inside your project folder, install the required Node.js packages using `npm`:

powershell

```powershell
npm install
```

This will install all necessary dependencies like `express` and `mysql2`.

Step 3: Set Up the MySQL Database

1. Open MySQL Workbench or any MySQL client tool.
2. Create a new database:

   sql

   ```sql
   CREATE DATABASE findacademia;
   ```

3. Import or create the `colleges` table inside the `findacademia` database:

sql

```sql
CREATE TABLE colleges (
    id INT AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY,
    college_name VARCHAR(255),
    address TEXT,
    city VARCHAR(100),
    state VARCHAR(100),
    category VARCHAR(50),
    contact_details VARCHAR(255),
    courses_offered TEXT
);
```

4. Populate the `colleges` table with data, either manually or via an SQL file.

Step 4: Configure MySQL Connection

Ensure your `app.js` file has the correct MySQL credentials for your local MySQL instance:

javascript

```javascript
const db = mysql.createConnection({
  host: 'localhost',
  user: 'root',
  password: 'your_password',
  database: 'findacademia',
});
```

Step 5: Run the Application

Now, start your Node.js server:

powershell

```powershell
node app.js
```

The server will run on `http://localhost:3000`.

Step 6: Access the Application

1. Open a web browser and go to `http://localhost:3000`.
2. Use the search form on the homepage to search for colleges by city, state, and category.