

Kaitlyn Paik

## Research

Academic advising is something very close to my heart. I've worked as the Peer Adviser for the UC Davis Design Department for two years now. While I love my job, I'm constantly struck by how outdated many of our practices are. About three times a year (around registration dates) I spend most of my time at work answering the question "What classes should I take next quarter?". Meeting with a member of the advising staff is the clear answer to this question, but students typically don't make appointments ahead of time or we simply don't have enough time to meet with every student in the department within the span of a week or two.

I first tried solving this question by making an academic checklist, but I've found that students are still unsure even after filling it out: they want someone to tell them what to take and to have a personalized interaction with an adviser. By asking a simple series of questions to the student user about what classes they have previously taken and asking them to self identify their focus within design, we could generate a possible series of classes as options for the student to take. Additionally, we could update the classes that we offer every quarter easily by simply changing them as variables, making the code relevant for every quarter.

According to a research done by Kathryn Tuttle of Virginia Military Institute, "Because academic advising and knowledge of a wide range of complex academic programs is one of the technically most challenging positions in the area of academic or student services, training of advisors is a significant concern". I think that, if successful, this program could also be used to train future advisers in the department seeing as we will have an almost 100% overturn rate of peer advisors next year seeing as all of us are seniors and we have just hired new staff that are still not entirely familiar with the progression of classes through the eyes of a student.

## Works Cited

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