Project Title: GradScout - Find your perfect graduate program

Team Name: GradScout

Tag Line: Find your perfect graduate program

Team Members:

1. Sanath Kumar, MS Information Management, UW Seattle.
2. Jyothirmayee Mocherla, MS Information Management, UW Seattle.
3. Gargi Saha, MS Information Management, UW Seattle.
4. Amol Surve, MS Information Management, UW Seattle.

Contact Person: Gargi Saha | gargis@uw.edu

Sponsor Name: Prof. Joel Ross – Senior Lecturer at UW iSchool

Sponsor Email: joelross@uw.edu

Project Description:

GradScout attempts to bring clarity and convenience in the complex and ambiguous process of choosing the right Master's program in the United States by providing more comprehensive view about course structure, job scenarios, cost of education, location specific opportunities, and other such parameters based on the individual student's application preferences to match them with the best universities. We are handling the inter-relationship between the Information Science, Computer Science and related programs, specifically where there is an overlap between Management and Technical skills. We aim to develop a one-stop solution in the form of *a web application* that can go a long way in helping students to know their eligibility for the program and more importantly, apply to the suitable schools closely aligning with their career ambitions and interests.

The typical milestones would be data curation, building a database, user research, prototype design, usability testing, parallel implementation of the core functionalities and build the front-end and back-end based on the user feedback along with User Acceptance Test in the end to verify and validate the success of the final product. Each milestone will involve the documentation indicating the detailed reports of each of the project steps mentioned above. From a technical point of view, the core functionality would have the Minimum Viable Product (MVP) design for the application where users can enter their criteria for college selection and the list of the most suitable colleges for their preferences will be given to them. Depending on the successful development of MVP and time availability, additional functionalities (MVP+) such as integration with LinkedIn and resume parsing will be incorporated in the application.

As described above, the project sponsor is Prof. Joel Ross, Senior Lecturer at the UW iSchool, who will be guiding the team throughout the entire project. The Information School at the University of Washington encourages diverse areas of expertise in the field of information sciences and values effective and efficient solutions in today's information age.

Reason for choosing this project:
We - Jyothi, Gargi, Amol and Sanath, have different educational backgrounds and varying interests and skillsets in the information domain. We underwent the initial grind of collating the perfect list of colleges within the United States, to apply for graduate studies. We are passionate to create something that will facilitate future applicants. We ourselves experienced the confusion and difficulty that arises in choosing the right graduate program in Information Systems and Management due to the vast number of graduate programs available in this domain. Information provided on the university websites are scattered and unclear and applicants face the tedious process of searching through, filtering, and choosing the right graduate program, often without complete knowledge of what is available. We believe that a concrete, user-friendly solution for applicants to receive the information they need to figure out what is the right graduate program for them, within Information and Computer Science schools, can go a long way in helping students apply to the right programs and pursue a fulfilling master's degree. Sanath and Amol are avid software engineers and are keen to develop a working software at the end of the capstone. Jyothi, a UX engineer, is eager to apply user research and design concepts into creating a product

that provides a delightful user experience, optimal interactivity and high usability. Gargi is excited to lead the project as the project manager and take the overall responsibility for the successful initiation, planning, design, execution, monitoring, controlling and closure of the project.

Project Success Definition:
1. A recommender system that matches applicant preferences and requirements to graduate programs.
2. Deliver a working product prototype as a web application with core functionalities, and successful usability testing.
3. Successful User Acceptance Testing - meeting business requirements.
4. Project Documentation.
5. Successful honing of individual skills and skill exchange among team members.