

iCollaborate



Elizabeth Burstein | Jorge Ramirez | Teresa Tarn

WHAT?

The app that helps you find study partners, new and old, near you an instant!

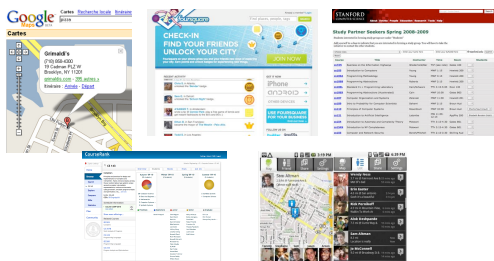
- input your class
- tracks your location with GPS
- shows a map of your area with study partners from your class
- see their profiles
- text them/call them
- store previous study partners
- post your location, filter out people that you don't want to contact you

THE DESIGN PROCESS

1. We began by asking **HOW MIGHT WE...**

Help people collaborate towards a shared goal safely and instantaneously?

2. We looked around and were **INSPIRED** by...



3. We observed target users and **DISCOVERED...**

that the current process of finding study partners involves **MULTIPLE** yet **UNCOORDINATED** communication means, is **TIME-CONSUMING**. It makes users feel **SOCIALLY AWKWARD** and forced them to travel **LONG-DISTANCES**.

4. We explored our goals through a **STORYBOARD...**

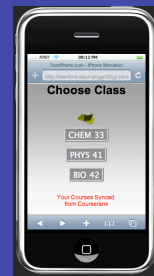


WHY?

The status quo tools for finding study partners have several disadvantages that we seek to address in our app:

Tool	Limitations
Facebook, AIM, MSN, Skype, Gchat,	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Location-specific info has to be communicated manually• Cannot instantaneously find out who can study• You have to already be friends with them or have their screen name to find out if they are in your class
Text Message, Call	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contacted person cannot clarify if they are busy/willing to study
Randomly Approaching New People	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Risk of them not wanting to study, awkward
Study Partner Sites (like the one hosted at cs.stanford.edu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not mobile• Not location-specific
Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not instantaneous• Can only contact people you already know (not "new study partners")

HOW IT WORKS



•When a user first uses the app, classes and SUID are obtained from CourseRank.



•We use GPS to track the person's coordinates, then center the map around these coordinates.
•We do a database table look-up to find which buildings contain partners for that class.
•Buildings w/ partners are colored in blue



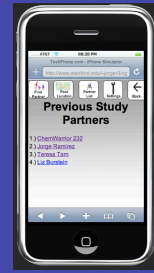
•We do a database table look-up to display the corresponding floor map and study partners.



•Partner's profile can be looked up via a table-lookup on the partner database

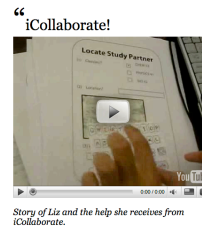


•Sends text through Ajax command



•"Add to partner list" adds them into a database

5. We formed our ideas into a **PAPER PROTOTYPE** and tested their use in a **VIDEO PROTOTYPE...**



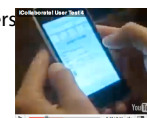
Story of Lia and the help she receives from iCollaborate.

6. We transformed it into a **FUNCTIONAL PROTOTYPE...**



7. We conducted **USER TESTS...**

- and based on our findings, we...
- Extended Welcome Screen time for users to read app introduction.
 - Moved menu bar to the top for consistency.
 - Moved buttons to decrease need for the iPhone's unintuitive 2-finger scrolling.
 - Provided better feedback for when users successfully post their locations.
 - Expanded privacy options.



8. We plan in the **FUTURE...**

- To implement the CourseRank sync
- To make the map-centering algorithm more helpful to the user
- To eliminate the need for two-finger scrolling
- To expand the app to other new user groups and for new shared goals...