David Jennings

Final Writeup

I decided to work on an application project for our Software Development semester project. I think many students here at Marist would agree that trying to create a schedule is a tedious and time-consuming task. One must constantly look up available courses and try to compare the times between multiple classes to figure out which ones to register for. To get one’s desired schedule some turn to Microsoft excel and manually input timeslots for classes and have countless different possible schedules they must compare to try and find the best one for them. I thought that I could streamline this process of finding a student’s desired schedule so that they are no longer forced to create multiple schedules by hand through excel or other means. My proposal was a Marist scheduling assistant.

**System Description**

The program is designed to take user input (course names, days class meets, meet times etc.) and then display that information back to the user in an easy to read fashion. There is also a recommended courses section to the program. This is reason the user is prompted to enter their current year, semester, and major. Once the year, semester, and major are entered a few recommended courses should appear for the user to consider taking if they haven’t already.

**Requirements**

This application attempts to address the hassle of recording possible schedules that a student might have with different courses. So instead of writing it all down they could simply type the information into this program that will record it for them. It also attempts to cater towards newer users (i.e.) freshman who may not know exactly what courses they should be looking to take going into their second semester or their sophomore year. Instead of pulling up the massive pdf document from the Marist website, it would be nice to see a recommended course list to get an idea of what courses one should be trying to register for.

**Literature Survey**

So it turns out that Marist decided to put out their own version of a scheduling assistant called “Schedule Planner” this semester. This planner has users select the courses that they want to take and then generates all possible schedules for the selected courses. This tool also has an “add break” feature where users can designate times when they do not wish to take classes which can be useful in a few different situations. For the student who truly can’t wake up for 8 am classes then the “add break” feature would certainly help them to avoid classes in that timeslot if there are other options available.

**User Manual**

User’s should input information once they are prompted. They will first be asked to input their current year as an integer (ex. Freshman would be 1, Sophomore would be 2, etc.). Next, the user should enter the semester they are registering for (1 is fall, 2 is spring). Then, the user should enter their major (and anything other information if required). Once that is done a recommended course list for a student in that year and major will be printed. After the recommended course list is printed the user should be prompted to enter the course name (ex. CMPT220), the number of days the class meets, the days that the class meets, and the class meeting time. Once all of that is entered the information should be printed out in an easy to read format. It’s relatively simple and does require some legwork on the user’s end to go and search for the course name, meet times, and days the class meets.

**Conclusion**

The program takes the user input (course name, days class meets, class meet times) and prints it out in an easily read format. It also takes in users’ current year, semester, and major in order to print out a recommended course list. However, in its current state the code only has a recommended course list for one major (computer science) and one specific concentration (software development). Any deviation from this will result in no recommended course list being printed.

**References**

Marist Scheduling tool: <https://marist.collegescheduler.com/terms/Spring%202018/options>

Note: link may not work as it is my personal myMarist account.