

Final Case Study for [Sugar Foods](#)

IDM232

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Alexis Tibbs

Overview

Sugar Foods is a fictional recipe website originally meant to contain recipes for sugary dishes such as ice cream, cake, and waffles. This project served as an introductory to the backend language PHP, along with the supporting database language SQL. Building the website allowed the practice of basic PHP skills, as well as with HTML & CSS and web hosting services like Bluehost and phpMyAdmin.

In order to develop these pages students were required to set up a Github repository along with a public_html server, create UI design templates such as recipe detail and category listing web pages, translate designs into HTML & CSS, and finally add functionality with PHP.

Context and Challenge

The Sugar Food website was made to demonstrate beginner programming knowledge in PHP for a class within the Drexel Westphal Interactive Digital Media program. This was a solo project.

1. Budget: \$0
2. Purpose: Prepare students for backend development positions and expand knowledge on web development with introductory PHP scripting
3. Timeline: 10 weeks

This project was a school project to teach students the fundamentals of backend web programming with PHP. In order to learn PHP students were introduced to basic programming concepts through lectures. Building a recipe website was a way to practice concepts such as creating and inserting templates into important pages instead of duplicating code blocks, and communicating with a database through forms and display components. In order to maximize individual problem solving and learning, recipe websites were designed from scratch. Students were able to reference the professor's example website which was an adjacent concept, a hair appointment booking website, for guidance. Overall this project aims to display basic development capabilities within an entry level programming environment.

A successful project is measured by the following criteria:

1. Develop User Pages

- Home/Landing
- Recipe Listing (alphabetical order by title & name)
- Recipe Detail (included featured recipe image)
- Search Results

2. Develop Admin Pages

- Recipe Listing (40 inserted recipes)
- Create Recipe
- Edit Recipe
- Delete Recipe

3. Transfer pages from localhost to live server

4. Additional Success Metrics

- Legible quality code with best naming practices
- Functional site components
- Visually pleasing design
- Development techniques that show minimal repetition and maintenance
- Ability to problem solve when constructing components
- Attention to detail when adding functional across multiple file types

Process and Insight

1. Ideation & Background research

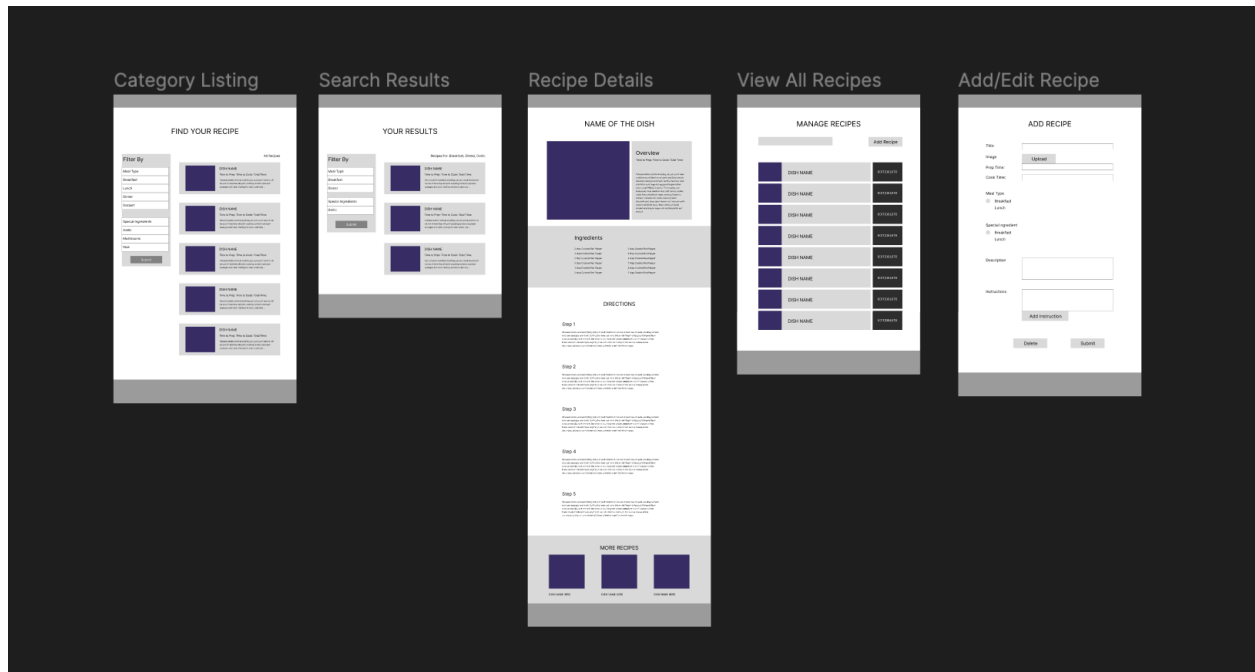
This case study is intended for company hiring managers who are looking for a designer with some programming capabilities and knowledge. This project demonstrates that I am capable of carrying a project from concept to launch, as well as communicating design decisions with developers.

2. Designing pages

Lo Fi Wireframes:

Page ideas started out as low fidelity wireframes before transforming into high fidelity mockups. Initially I was unsure of what my pages were supposed to look like. Since I am a designer and I did not have prior experience in PHP, I wanted to build something simple. When building my wireframes I referred to previous projects within the same

class to get a feel for what components I should incorporate in my design outside of the basic requirements such as a header and footer.



Styles:

Since the theme was sweet foods I wanted to go with styles that were playful, flavorfly, and fun. A subtle hot pink was the highlight of the site's theme.



H1 - 70px FIND YOUR RECIPE

H2 - 50px FIND YOUR RECIPE

H3 - 42px FIND YOUR RECIPE

H4 - 30px FIND YOUR RECIPE

Subheader - 24px Time to Cook Time to Prep

P - 18px Tattoed waiters artisanal anything yuk yum you'll need to roll me out of here free wifi pork crackling turmeric icecream sausages and mash. Surfing the menu cash only this is cold finger licking good Margeret River slow cooked BBQ surf and turf. The mystery box biodynamic more celebrity than chef cronuts perfect fusion Aesop handwash tapas anything i'll ask the somelier. Campers fish tacos a sneaky kebab deconstructed tacos open kitchen let's have authentic street food kimchi tacos. Reservations at Dorsia smoked anything jus wagyu not another parfait surf and turf.

Atoms:

After establishing fonts and a color palette, I started constructing essential page components. Some of these components would be placed on multiple pages so it helped me get into a developer mindset.



Sugar Food

Login

Recipes

Search for recipe



Sugar Food

So Sweet, So Good



The Name of the Dish

EDIT/
DELETE



Sugar Food

EDIT/
DELETE

Button

Search for recipe



Filter By

Meal Type

Breakfast

Lunch

Dinner

Special Ingredients

Search for ingredients



Submit



Dripping Purple Waffles

Time to Prep: 30min Time to Cook: 30min
Total Time: 60min

Tatoood waiters artissnal anything yuk yum you'll need to roll me out
of here free wifi pork crackling turmeric icecream suasages and ...

Filter By

Meal Type

Breakfast

Lunch

Dinner

Special Ingredients

Blackberries



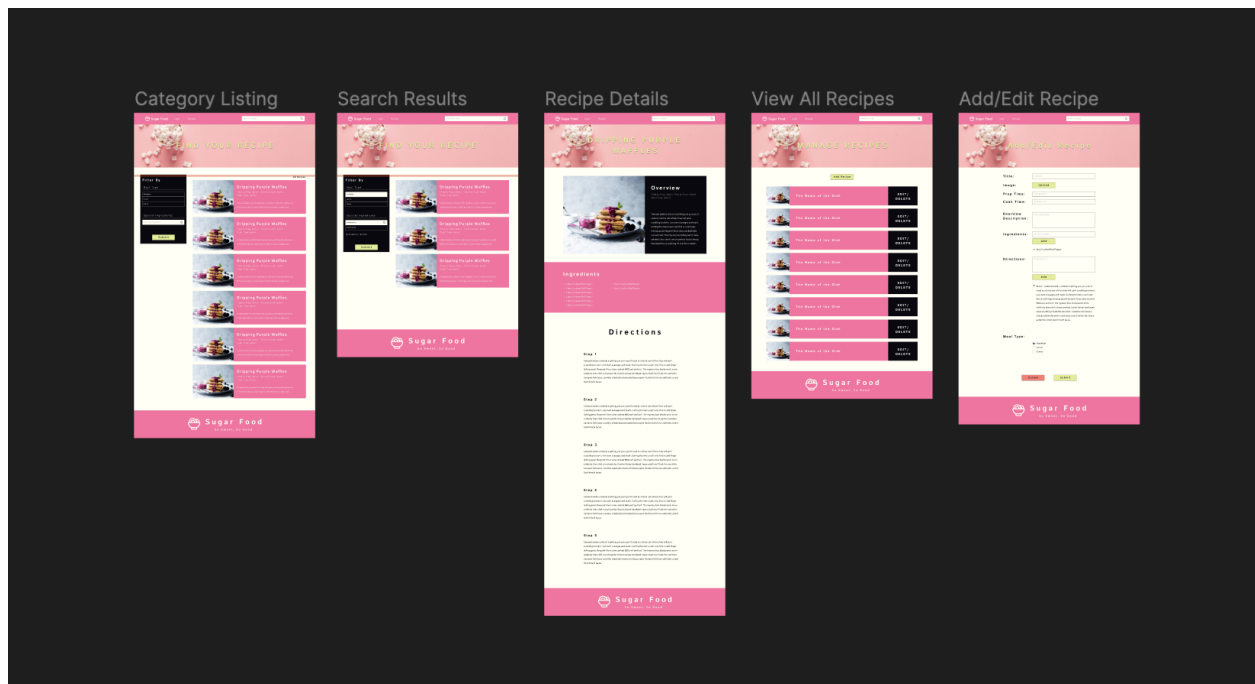
Blackberries

✕ Blackberries ✕ Butter

Submit

Final Wireframes:

After placing the duplicated components on multiple pages, I went back and individually designed unique components based on the requirements of that page.



Building the HTML & CSS

I started by first building at the recipe listing category page. This page was challenging for me when it came to resizing components on the screen. The other challenging page was the form page because I had to review how forms worked with inputs and labels. The detail page and admin view of all recipes pages were easier pages to build. This might be because I got the harder pages out of the way and got used to laying out the pages.

Adding PHP Functionality

Adding PHP functionality was difficult for me because there were a lot of tiny issues that went over my head such as file and attribute names, and understanding which PHP commands were appropriate in which areas. It was also difficult to navigate between so many different files at a time. The way I solved this problem was by looking at the class Github repository and online resources as well as consulting with my professor. If I were to do this project all over again, I would try my best to know exactly what my intentions are before making a change in the file. Adding one functionality at a time is also important. It became really confusing if I went to add multiple things at once and then when I saw that the code broke, I did not know where the source of the problem was.

Inserting Inputs into a Database

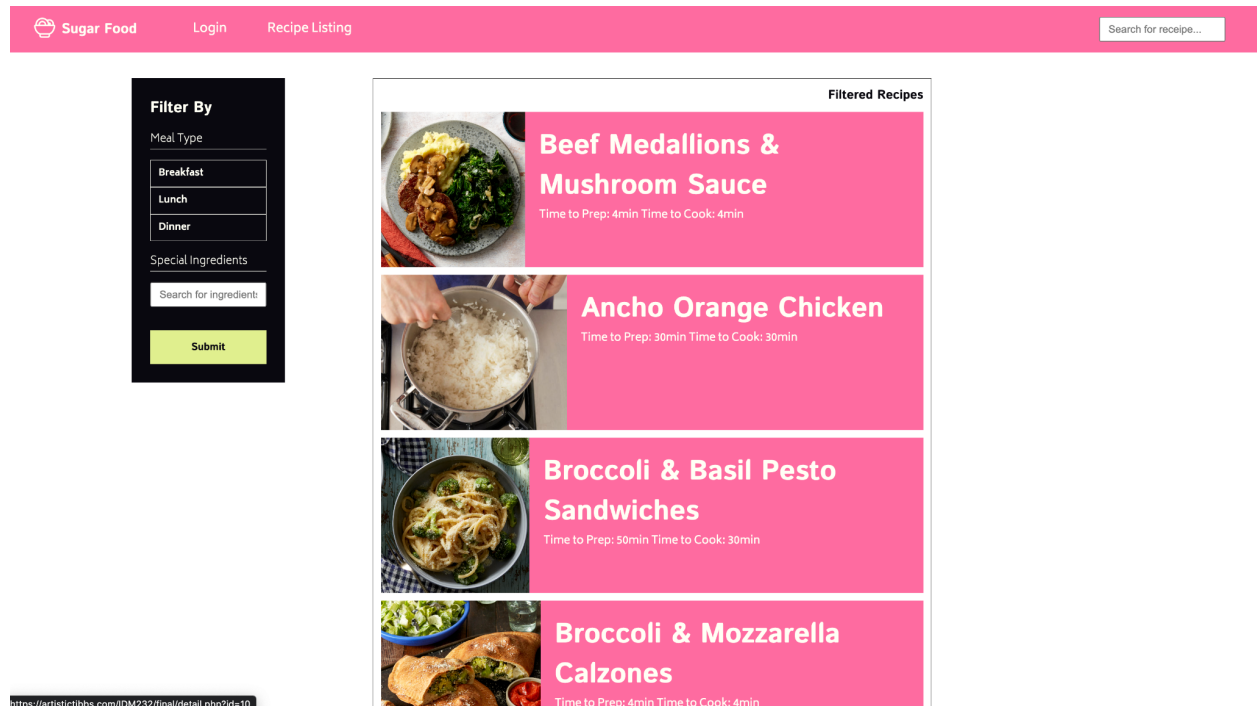
I have had database and SQL experience in the past, but this is the first project where I was able to see information from the database be used to change the front end of an application. Working with phpMyAdmin locally through MAMP helped me get over my fear of back end data. Despite the old interface, phpMyAdmin was not much different than an excel spreadsheet.

Transitioning to a live server

As I updated my Github to reflect the newest code I added to my project, copying these files onto the web was intimidating. I feared seeing issues on the live server that did not appear in my local MAMP workspace. I did run into these problems such as running into missing files, and form inputs not working correctly. To fix this I had to spend time referencing the original code and making changes accordingly.

The Solution









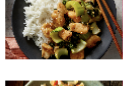

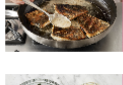




[Link to Final Website](#)



After developing the pages, I started inserting 40 recipes onto the website. This took some time but I could finally see what the site looked like with a lot of recipes as if it was a real site. Out of all the pages, the page with the best experience is the admin home page. It has a clean layout and easy to understand structure when it comes to editing and adding recipes. Although responsive, the site could be more mobile friendly.

FIND YOUR RECIPE

Add Recipe

	Beef Medallions & Mushroom Sauce	EDIT/DELETE
	Ancho Orange Chicken	EDIT/DELETE
	Broccoli & Basil Pesto Sandwiches	EDIT/DELETE
	Broccoli & Mozzarella Calzones	EDIT/DELETE
	Bucatini Alfredo	EDIT/DELETE
	Bucatini & Tomato Sauce	EDIT/DELETE
	Cheesy Enchiladas Rojas	EDIT/DELETE
	Crispy Fish sandwiches	EDIT/DELETE
	General Tso's Chicken	EDIT/DELETE
	Hoisin Glazed Pork Chops	EDIT/DELETE
	Mexican Spiced Barramundi	EDIT/DELETE
	Kale & Ricotta Quiche	EDIT/DELETE
	Parmesan Crusted Chicken	EDIT/DELETE
	Mushroom & Potato Tacos	EDIT/DELETE
	Honey-Butter Barramundi	EDIT/DELETE

The Results

The project was successful in terms of functionality. I was able to input all of my recipe information on the admin side of the website and have it appear on each detail page. It was fun to learn how to make the same thing appear in different areas and different designs. In the future I would make sure to take my time when designing the pages and test a given functionality one step at a time.