Counselling and Seat Allocation at SRM University

SRM University, Chennai is one of the most prestigious private universities in India with more than 38,000 students and 2600 faculty across all the campus, it offers wide range of programs such as undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programs in Engineering, Management, Medicine. They are collaborated with universities MIT, Carnegie Mellon, UC Davis, Warwick and Western Australia etc.

This counselling process is a collection of linked tasks which find their end in the delivery of providing admission to a student. This process has a set of activities and tasks that, once completed, will accomplish an organizational goal. This makes the counselling process a business process. The triggering event in this process is the student attending the counselling. The next step in the process is selecting a campus and the field of study. Now, the top 20 students are granted a full funding. Based on their eligibility criteria, Other students are allowed to apply for various academic scholarships. Depending on the decision, they are awarded scholarships. The process ends once the student pays the confirmation deposit to join the university.

All the qualified students are allotted seats on the basis of the performance in the SRM Joint Engineering Entrance Examination (SRMJEEE) conducted by SRM University. Offline Admission process is conducted by SRM University to admit students into different educational campuses and programs. Once a student is qualified in the entrance examination, he is invited for counselling in order to select the educational programs of their choice.

The counselling done at the university is hassle. It involves all the qualified students vising the campus. Over 50,000 students visit the campus to occupy 20,000seats. Students select the program they like on the spot with help of a counselor by filling the paper work. This process takes more than10 days to complete, they call ranks 1-6000 range on the first day, 60001-12000 on second day and this goes on till 60,000 ranks.

In addition, students are offered scholarships based upon their academics. Scholarships vary depending on the credentials of the candidate (75%,50% or 25%).University encourages sports and merit scholarships along with the initial funding assistantship When a candidate has 95% or more in his high school academics and among the first 30 candidates in a particular program, a candidate has a possibility of getting a half fee waiver. The candidates in top 20 ranks in the exam are offered a full fee waiver. Moreover, there are different scholarships for sports and defense categories. Once they are selected into a program they have to pay the confrmation fee, which is non-refundable.

One of the major problems in the as-is process is that every step is manual and includes paper work starting from the application process throughout the counselling which is very slow and consuming much effort and time. All the students who wish to study in different campuses are required to visit the main campus for counselling. Since all the work is done is in papers, it is very hard locating a record of a particular student. Also, university administration requires huge man power to organize counselling for every student over a period of 10 days. It takes 7 more days to make decisions on scholarship results while student have to wait until he/she hears the decision to pay the confirmation fee.

**To be process**: It is required to Develop a web based portal for counselling process which enables the students to appear for the counselling process, select campus of their choice, select field of study, to apply for scholarships and track their application through online. Database maintained by this system usually contains the applicant’s data, academic data and fee related data. It focusses on storing and processing (Insertion, updation) based on web pages. University can analyze and perform computations using this data. A faster responsive system performing CRUD operations will help in making admission and scholarship decisions quickly.

This will make the counselling process a hassle free one. The decision on the scholarship for a student is made available to the student on the same day. This would save a week’s time for the student. It also saves time and money for the students because they need not come to the campus. The recommended process also reduces the human effort put in to conduct and organize counselling. Since this application development is once for all, All the counselling process in the future can also make use of this application.