



STFC

Student Technology Fee Committee

At the University of Washington

Proposal

No annual report

MyPlan, Online System for Degree Planning & Registration

Introduction

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Owner darcyvp
Department UW Information Technology
Category Unknown
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Metric Score None

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Descriptions **Abstract**

MyPlan, which will make it easier for students to chart their academic plan and register for courses they need to graduate, is being submitted under the "Frontier Technology" category because it will serve as the launch pad and testing ground for development of rich, Web 2.0 features to improve the student experience. While the UW offers online tools for degree audit and registration, these tools do not provide student-centered features that support the complex research and planning required to chart out a 4 year academic roadmap and easily identify and register for courses of interest. By allowing students to project future courses, save favorites, and pre-populate a registration plan, MyPlan will make it easier for students to navigate the UW's academic offerings. MyPlan will also capture valuable information that can inform the UW's curriculum planning, eventually leading to better availability of high-interest courses and programs. Students are under more pressure than ever to graduate quickly, and need enhanced student-centered features that support their needs. This proposal addresses the first steps need to develop MyPlan: 1) an enhanced degree audit view with links to the time schedule and catalog and 2) a list of bookmarked courses of interest with notification when those courses are offered.

MyPlan will be developed collaboratively with students and advisors using industry proven user centered design processes. Early research and input from students will be used as appropriate to adjust scope to deliver the highest value features.

Category Justification

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Background

The UW implemented in the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS, now branded as u.Achieve) in 1996 to support students and advisors in assessing a student's academic progress toward completion of a degree in a student's declared or proposed major and then planning

appropriate coursework. There are currently 306 majors and 125 minors available in the DARS system for students to explore. Between May 1, 2010 and November 1, 2010, DARS served up over 170,000 audits for 30,000 students across the UW's three campuses. While DARS provides basic functionality to assess progress toward a declared or potential major, audit reports are difficult to read and do not currently integrate to the course catalog, time schedule, or registration - requiring students to spend more time researching and cross-referencing across multiple systems. 80% of participants in a recent student focus group indicated that they use specialized planning tools that they created in Word or Excel to support their need for better online tools, strongly indicating broader need for improved planning tools across the student body.

Benefits to Students and the University

MyPlan will make finding and registering for the right classes much easier and also offer enhanced planning tools that will allow you to project how future courses will impact time to graduation. MyPlan provides the following benefits to students:

Improved degree audit display makes it easier for students to interpret degree audit outcomes and develop an academic plan

Smart linkage from degree audit to on-line course catalog allows students to easily access course information to identify courses of interest that meet degree requirements

Planning tool allows students to bookmark courses of interest

Notifications alert students when courses of interest are offered in the time schedule

Future Benefits

Investment in this first phase of MyPlan will result in a strong foundational base for additional student-centered enhancements that could include the ability for students to: Pre-populate on-line registration with courses they want to register for, access richer information about courses and other learning opportunities, and connect more easily with advisors in academic areas of interest

Departmental Endorsements

"I am happy to endorse this proposal. MyPlan is in line with my goals to provide undergraduates with tools that help them plan for their years at UW. As proposed, MyPlan is a good first step in the development of a more robust suite of tools for academic planning."
Ed Taylor, Vice Provost and Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs;
Associate Professor, Educational Leadership & Policy Studies

"The Office of the Registrar (OUR) supports the development of the MyPlan system to better support student academic planning. MyPlan will empower students to make critical and strategic decisions about their degree program and registration plan by providing increased transparency of departmental course scheduling, course availability, and degree progress. MyPlan is a critical resource that will contribute to the effectiveness of the overall student system tool set, and will better position these systems to meet the technological demands of future students. OUR is committed to developing learning resources for student and departmental users of MyPlan in partnership with Student Information System development teams. OUR will maintain learning resources over the life cycle of the MyPlan system."

Virjean Edwards, University of Washington Registrar

"The College of Arts and Sciences supports these efforts to improve students' ability to track their progress, find the courses they need, and find and access better information about those courses. We want students to find the right courses - the courses that fit their interests and advance their progress toward their academic goals - because that is where and how they learn best. We need better tools to help them do this."

Kevin Mihata, Assistant Dean for Educational Programs, College of Arts & Sciences
Student Endorsement

Installation Timeline

July-Oct 2011: design, prototyping, usability studies with students and advisors
Nov 2011-Apr 2012: development
May 2012: Alpha test during Fall quarter priority registration
June 2012: Test and deploy

Resources Provided by Department

UW-IT will contribute a project manager, business analyst, user experience designers, and one researcher to help design and develop MyPlan, as well as senior engineers who will be responsible for integrating into the on-line systems already in place at the UW. Additionally, the Office of the Registrar will contribute a learning manager to develop on-line tutorials to support student adoption and Undergraduate Academic Affairs will contribute a web publisher to assist with design, as well as an advising subject matter experts. Additional advising subject matter expertise will be sought from across the UW's three campuses

Once developed, ongoing technical support for MyPlan will be provided by the Student Information Systems team within UW-IT, with student facing support provided by the Office of the Registrar

and the UW advising community.

Access Restrictions (if any)

As a web-based application, MyPlan will be accessible to all UW students who are currently eligible to register for courses on-line. As part of the design process, user experience designers will explore key interactions that may be well suited for mobile devices.

Student Endorsements

"MyPlan is huge step in the right direction. The MLA curriculum is like a labyrinth."

David Tomlinson, First Year graduate student, Masters of Landscape Architecture

"I definitely endorse MyPlan as outlined below. As a UW student, I have found the current UW registration and degree audit systems underwhelming and sometimes difficult to use in terms of features and functionality. A more robust system, such as MyPlan, would be greatly beneficial to students as they evaluate and plan their academic career."

Jason Nutter, Senior, Informatics

"I think that if implemented well, this application would be very helpful to students. If there was a system that tracked the classes that I need to take to graduate, that would save me a lot of time researching on MYUW as well all the pen and paper I used to re-generate possible schedules and course timelines."

Kim Pham, Senior, business marketing and entrepreneurship

"I think this sounds awesome! My one suggestion would be in the links, it would be nice if when you do a DAR's, when it says you need a natural science course for example, you could click on it and it would give you of what courses those are overall, and then the ones that are offered the coming quarter are offered in a hyperlink to the time schedule. That way, if you like one that's offered you can link to see if it's available when you are, or if you like a different class that's not offered that quarter (made known to you by no hyper link) you can plan on taking it another quarter and focus on a different requirement."

Shannon Barbre, Senior, English

Items	Group	Funded	Item	Unit price	Quantity	Subtotal
	Software	*	MyPlan Year Three Deliverables	\$455,000	1	\$455,000.

Total requested: \$420,000.00

Total funded: \$420,000.00

Comments

No comments