

# Re-designing Detail-Rich Course Registration

By: Taylor Smith, Gabriel Fosco, and Jocelyn Friedman



# Emblematic problem scenario

Gavin is a third-year student returning to college after taking a gap year. He's confused as to what his path forward will be because he doesn't know what credits he has or courses he should start with.

Gavin is concerned that he can't organize all this information by himself and that he can't remember everything from over a year ago. Since he's already taken a gap year, his initial confusion already makes him want to give up on the college experience.

# Solution

In our version of re-designing course registration we wanted to make the user able to smoothly proceed from the process of learning about the requirements that they need to meet into scheduling with the intent to meet those requirements, or be able to quickly bypass the process altogether by having the system do the heavy lifting of finding the schedule for them. Our main goal is to relieve the stress off of students like Gavin, by making the transition process as easy and smooth as possible. Our system is based off of three main categories: Course Management, Course History and Academic Progress, and Degree Planning. Using these three categories, the user can explore all registration and informational needs.

# Demo

The following slides represent our demonstration of the “Course Management” segment of our “Course Registration Home” homepage.

The course management section allows you to register and browse available courses, view completed courses, and view the requirements of the courses in which the student is already enrolled.



## Course Registration Home



Course Management



Course History &  
Academic Progress



Degree Planning

### Scheduling News Center

#### Upcoming:

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April 28th: Withdrawal Deadline

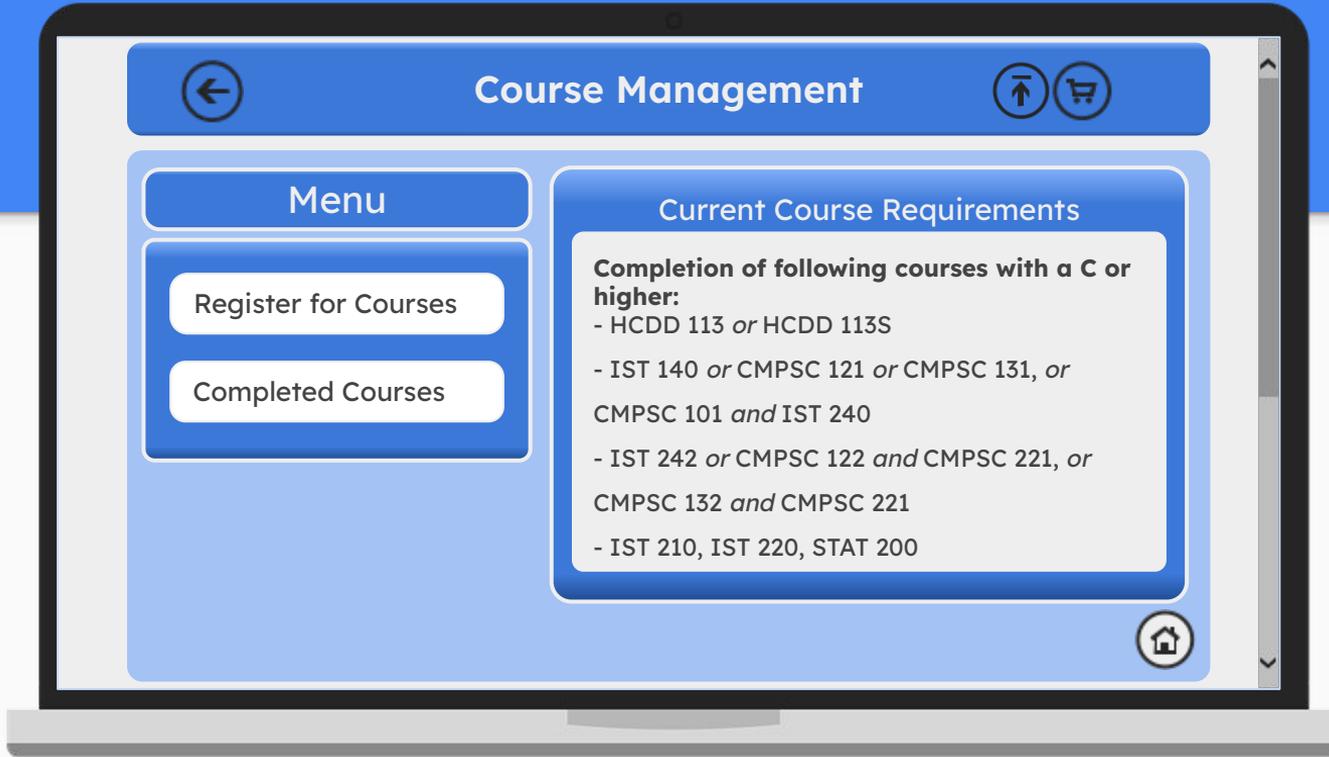
#### Past:

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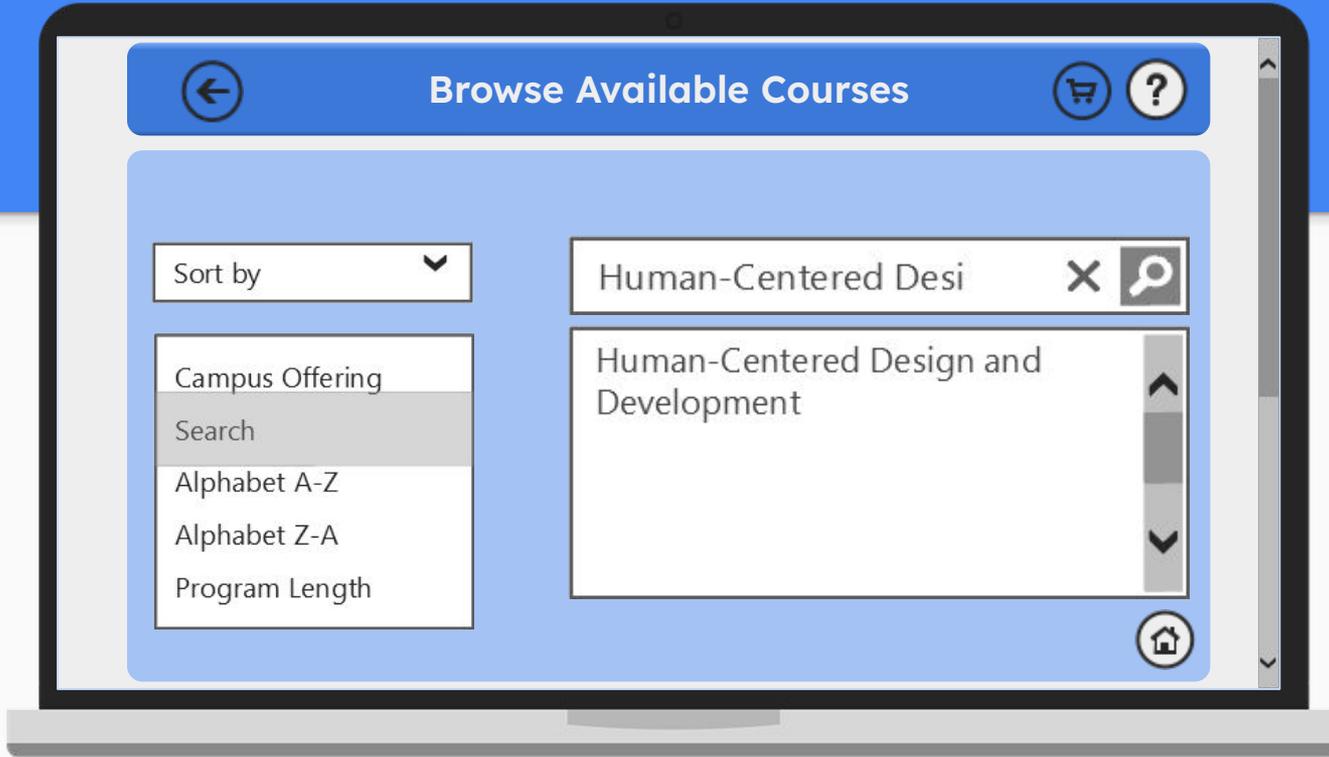
April 7th: Late Drop Deadline

March 27th: Course Registration  
Opens

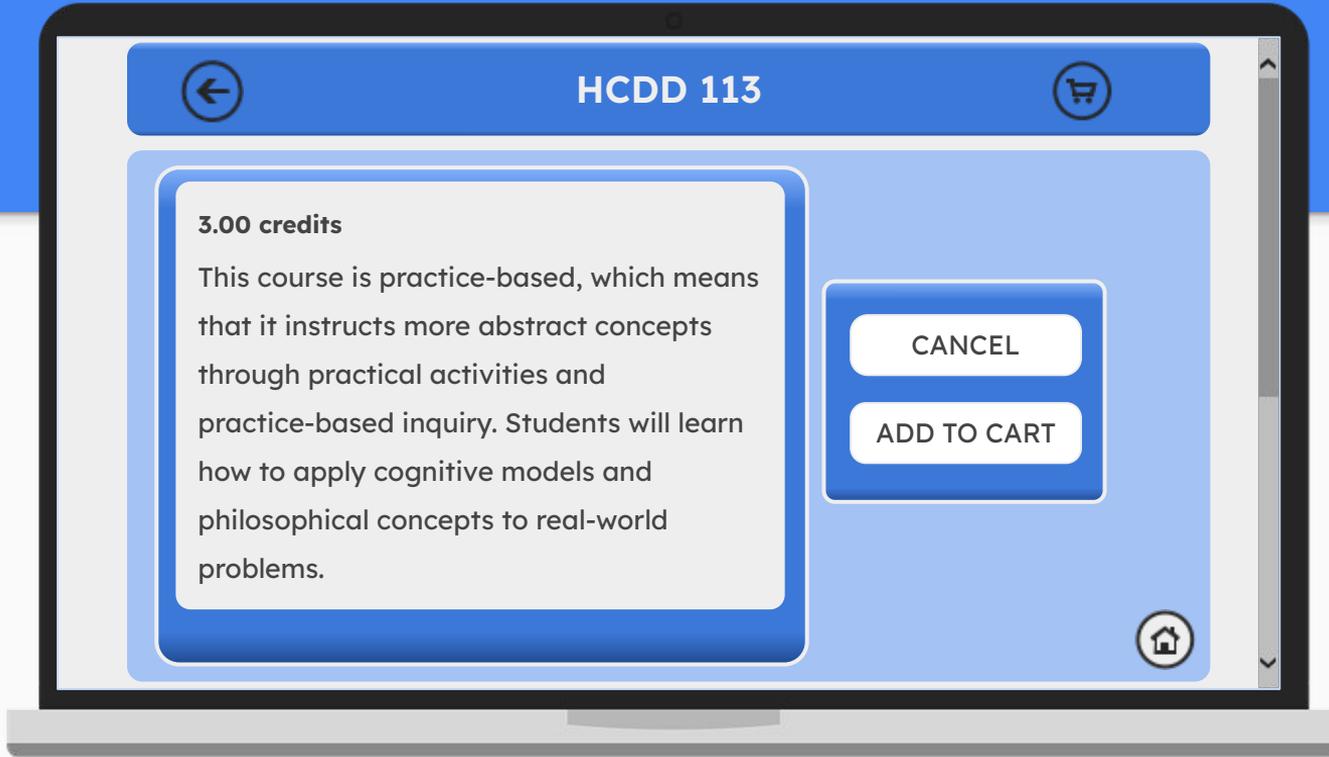
This view is the course registration homepage. Here, you can pick from any of the 3 main registration categories: Course Management, Course History and Academic Progress, and Degree Planning. Additionally, news pertinent to the scheduling process, both upcoming and passed within the semester, are shown in the Scheduling News Center. If you'd like to change your preferences for the news, you can click the settings gear at any time.



This view is the “Course Management” page linked from the homepage. Here, you can register for courses, view required courses for your major, and view your past completed courses. The cart icon directs you to your course enrollment cart, the upload icon lets you upload past classes, and either of the home icons direct you back to the homepage.



This view allows the user to browse available courses. On this page, you can browse by a variety of sorted options. If the user selects the "Search" option, the user can then type their desired course into the search bar. This view also allows the user to refer back to the homepage or their enrollment cart.



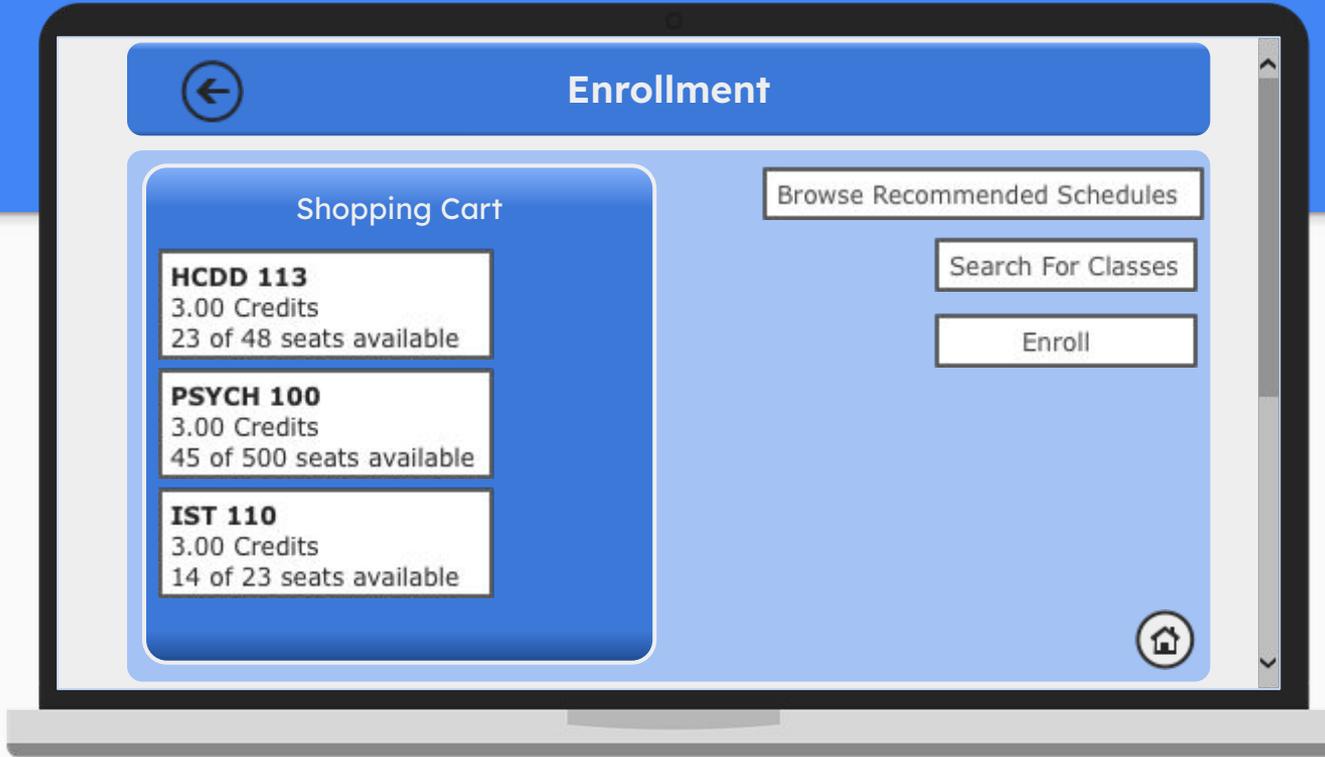
**3.00 credits**

This course is practice-based, which means that it instructs more abstract concepts through practical activities and practice-based inquiry. Students will learn how to apply cognitive models and philosophical concepts to real-world problems.

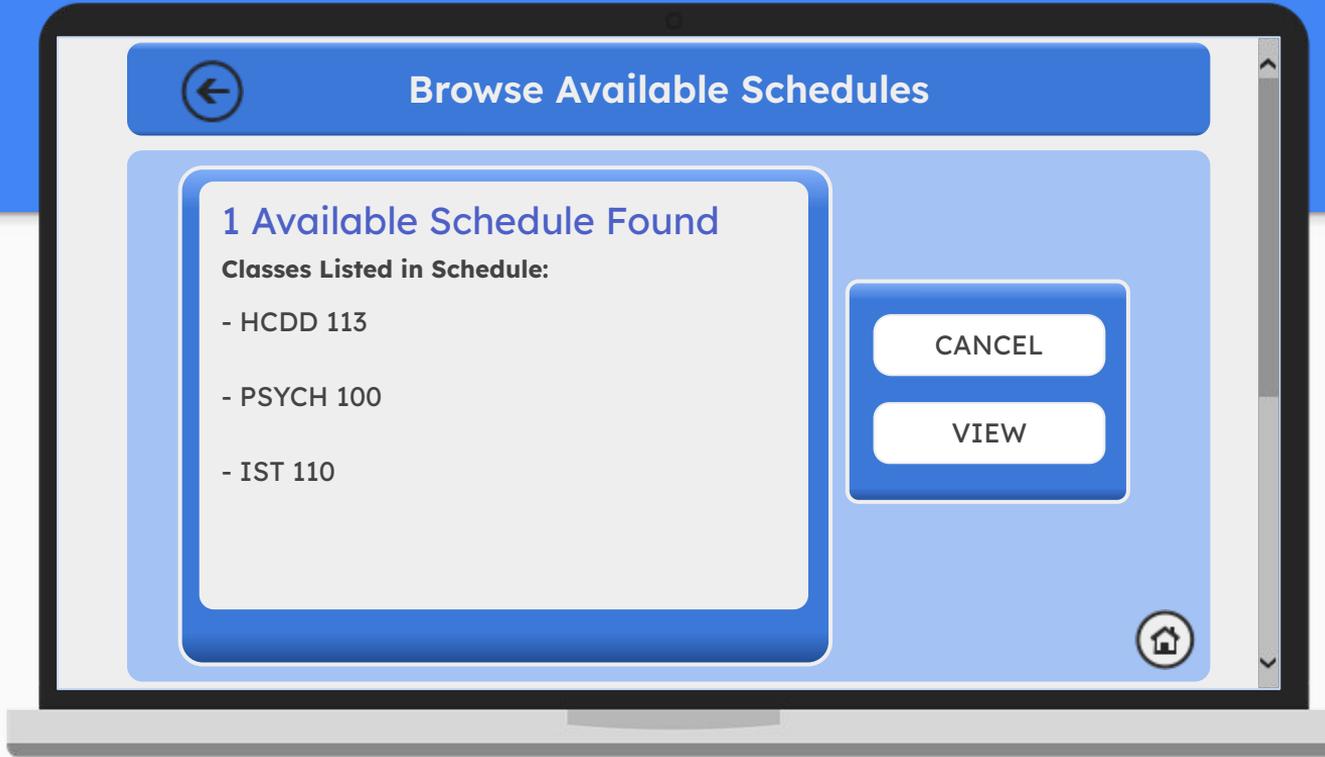
CANCEL

ADD TO CART

This view gives a pop-up description of the desired course including the number of credits the course is worth. The pop-up gives the user the option to either add the course to their enrollment cart or go back to browse other available courses. This view also allows the user to refer back to the homepage or their enrollment cart.



This view is an overview of the user's enrollment shopping cart. The cart's contents include all courses that have been added to the cart in the past. From here, you can browse and add more classes to the cart, enroll in the current courses in the cart for the upcoming semester, or browse recommended schedules based on these courses. This view also allows the user to refer back to the homepage.



This view is a pop-up that occurs when the user selects the “Browse Recommended Schedules” button. It automates a number of generated schedules that fit with the user’s courses from their enrollment cart. Here, you can either view the schedule or go back the enrollment cart to make changes. This view also allows the user to refer back to the homepage.



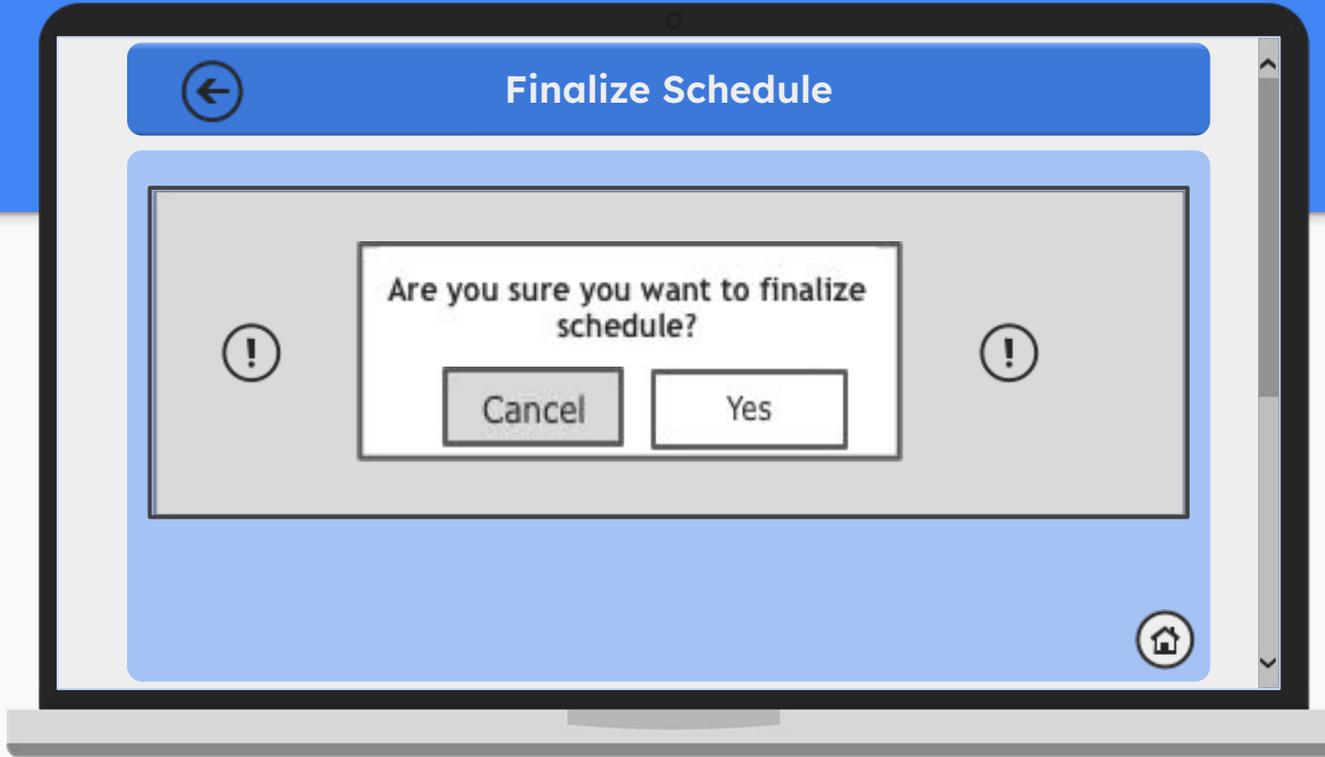
## Browse Available Schedules

FINALIZE

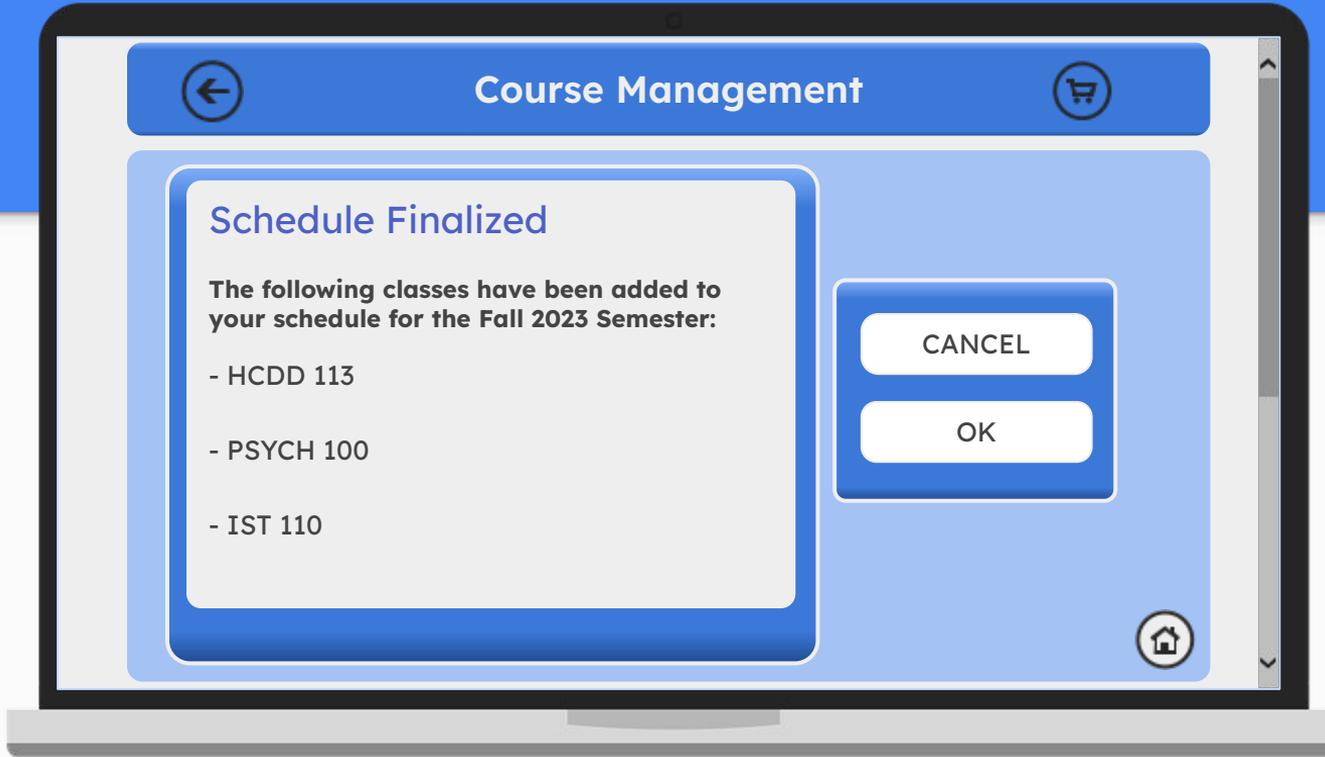
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8					
9					
10	<b>IST 110</b> 9:05 AM - 10:45 AM Westgate Building		<b>IST 110</b> 9:05 AM - 10:45 AM Westgate Building		<b>IST 110</b> 9:05 AM - 10:45 AM Westgate Building
11					
12		<b>HCDD 113</b> 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Westgate Building		<b>HCDD 113</b> 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Westgate Building	
1					
2	<b>PSYCH 100</b> 1:35 PM - 2:50 PM Forum Building		<b>PSYCH 100</b> 1:35 PM - 2:50 PM Forum Building		<b>PSYCH 100</b> 1:35 PM - 2:50 PM Forum Building
3					



This view is a pop-up that occurs when the user selects the “Browse Recommended Schedules” button. It automates a number of generated schedules that fit with the user’s courses from their enrollment cart. Here, you can either view the schedule or go back the enrollment cart to make changes. This view also allows the user to refer back to the homepage.



This view is a pop-up that occurs when the user selects that they are ready to enroll in courses and validate their final schedule. The pop-up comes with warning symbols to emphasize the importance of the message. The user can either go back to browse available schedules or agree to finalize their schedule for the upcoming semester. This view also allows the user to refer back to the homepage.



This view is a pop-up that occurs when the user selects to validate their final schedule. The pop-up displays the classes that the user has enrolled in for the upcoming semester and a heading that the schedule has been finalized. The user can either cancel or select "Ok" to dismiss the message and revert back to the "Course Management" page. This view also allows the user to refer back to the homepage.



## Course History

### General Requirements

- CAS 100**  
Grade: A | Credits: 3
- ENGL 15**  
Grade: B+ | Credits: 3
- MATH 36**  
Grade: B- | Credits: 3

### Entrance to Major

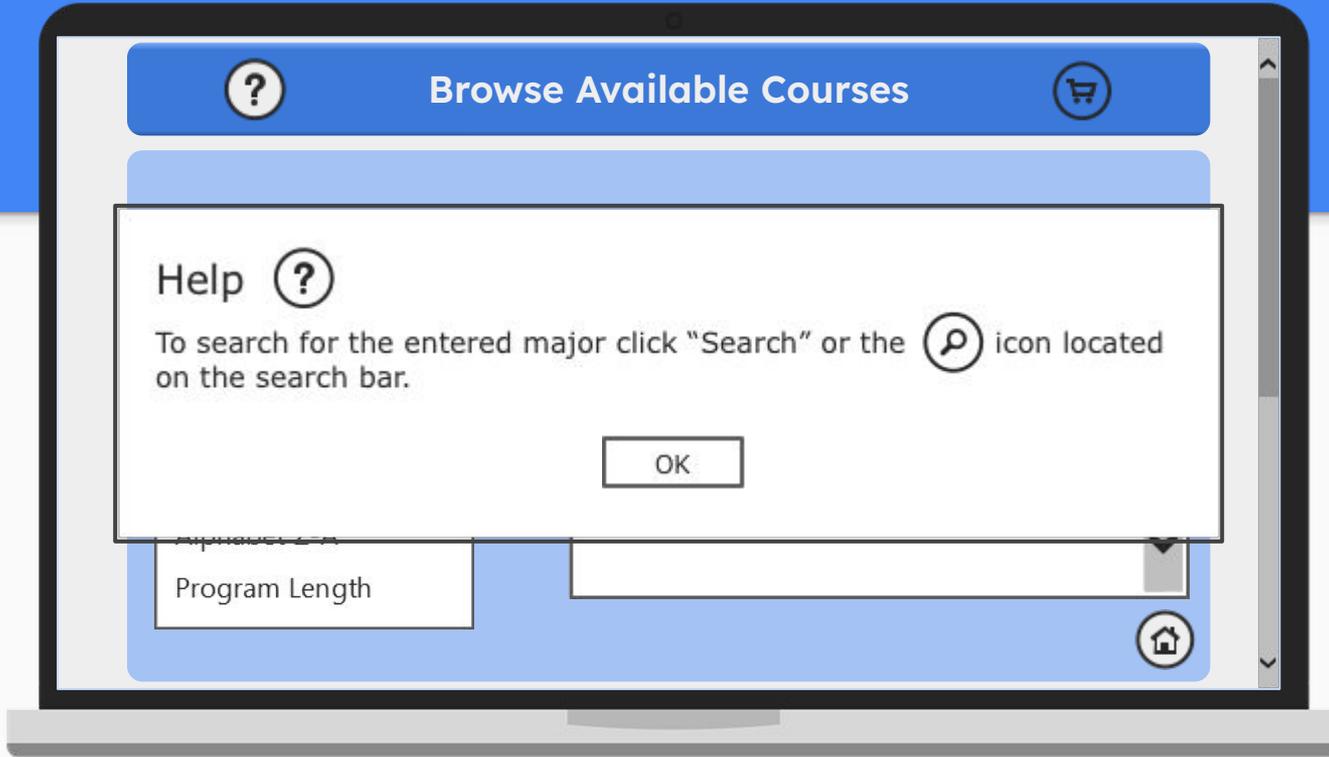
- IST 140**  
Grade: C+ | Credits: 3
- HCDD 113**  
Grade: A+ | Credits: 3
- IST 210**  
Grade: B | Credits: 3
- IST 220**  
Grade: B+ | Credits: 3

### Major Requirements

- HCDD 264**  
Grade: B- | Credits: 3
- IST 311**  
Grade: A | Credits: 3
- IST 495**  
Grade: B | Credits: 3
- IST 242**  
Grade: A | Credits: 3



This view displays all past completed courses. The completed courses are divided into three categories: general, entrance to major, and major requirements. This view also allows the user to refer back to the homepage or the previous page.



This view allows the user to browse available courses. On this page, you can browse by a variety of sorted options. If the user selects the "Search" option, the user can then type their desired course into the search bar. This view also allows the user to refer back to the homepage or their enrollment cart.

# Evaluation results

Through our evaluations, we found that the overall prototype was mostly successful.

- The user was successfully able to identify where to complete the goal of each prompted scenario simply based on the homepage.
- The user was able to successfully find their way back to the homepage each time they finished a task or realized they clicked the wrong option.

The prototype provides the majority of the useful functions required for course registration in a simple and non-repetitive manner.

# Evaluation Issues

- **Visibility issues**

- “There are portions where text is too small to read comfortably. This impairs the user’s experience. While the prototype could be functioning on its own, it is entirely useless unless the user can see what it is doing. Pop-ups of information cause the information to be squished into a box rather than being rightfully and properly presented to the user...”

- **Complications with search engine/bars**

- the user/reviewer was not able to identify that they needed to click the options under the search bar on multiple occasions
- To combat this issue, we added a “help” option displayed as a question-mark icon that provides the user with further instruction when clicked.

- **Button ordering issues**

- Some of the buttons were not linked to the correct slides or simply not linked to anything at all.

# Evaluation results

There are many advancements and changes that need to be made in order to release the prototype as an actual product/website

Suggestions for changes moving forward

- Simplifying even further → using more recognizable symbols
- Reduce pop-ups
- Using experts in cognitive walkthroughs to identify even more issues
- Test the product using actual students, professors, and university employees.

Q & A