

Project Name: CourseRoad

2/22/12

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Need

During my first few days of Freshman Orientation this past fall, I picked up a copy of the MIT Bulletin and immediately discovered exactly how complicated planning out class could be. Sorting between the intricate web of pre- and co-requisites while trying to figure out what the HASS and CI requirements had to do with each other quickly became a daunting task. We have services like the 2008 iCampus Prize winner Course Picker, which helps students plan their day-to-day schedules through a semester; however, there's never really been anything to focus on the long-term degree planning.

Description

CourseRoad attempts to fill that gap by building a user-friendly page where users can map out their classes through their undergraduate careers. CourseRoad presents the user with a vertical timeline of her undergraduate semesters, and makes it easy to add, remove, and drag classes between terms. The site then provides a web of prerequisite and corequisite connections behind the class modules and visually alerts the user to any conflicts. Meanwhile, the left vertical bar provides additional information on selected classes and generates a handy table of the user's progress through the GIRs. Future additions to CourseRoad will allow users to select degree requirements for particular majors, to save and share their course mappings with others, and to better control course options (such as overriding prerequisites with special permission from an instructor).

Impact

CourseRoad will allow users to quickly and intuitively build understanding of the GIRs and aid in future class planning. I imagine CourseRoad could become a vital tool in MIT's Advising offices, allowing advisors and students to plan out requirements and assure that both parties are aware of the others' plans.

Scale Up

I'm planning to create a login system for CourseRoad, to allow users to save, load, and share various course maps they have made, and flesh out the requirements checklist to include major-specific requirements. I'd also like to squash a few minor Javascript bugs which are still squirreled away, fix some user-interface issues, and improve cross-browser compatibility (currently tested on Chrome and Firefox).

Team (of one): Danny Ben-David '15

Coded solo on this one. I'm a freshman hailing from New York City, and I'm completely self-taught in web programming and design. I discovered the iCampus contest at the end of IAP, decided to actually try for it sometime last week, and built CourseRoad over the long weekend.

License: I'm releasing CourseRoad under an MIT License.

Working Prototype/Functional Implementation: <http://scikidus.com/courseroad/>