

Interview#4

Observations by Kenny

Name: Anh Nguyen

Age: 25

Major: ?

Year: Grad Student

Certainty of Major: certain

Most Important Priorities for Choosing Classes then Determining Schedule

1. Core classes
2. Interests
3. Professors, more important as undergrad, but less so since no choice in grad.
4. Conflicts (times)
 - elimination by bad professors (reputation)
 - distance temporal
 - locations

Other Factors

1. One semester planned at a time.
2. Plan for professors teaching course now or later.
3. Finals- more important as undergrad rather than grad, since more flexible as grad student.
4. Lunch break, or one break in general.

Tools Used

1. Class schedule
 - first paper version (\$0.50) now online (schedule.berkeley.edu) since more convenient
2. Department Internal Schedule
3. Paperwork - change classes a lot
 - add classes outside department
4. Excel
 - create schedule 8am-8pm with 1/2 hour intervals
 - print for first 1-2 weeks
 - never looks at again
5. Outlook
 - for daily planning and important events
 - no listing of classes, but tasks such as projects/exams
6. Bearfacts used first two weeks to check registration.
7. ratemyprofessor.com, comments useful for eliminating possible classes

-e.g. "prof is boring" would drive decision not to take a course.

Other Activities

1. Finance manager for
 - ~7 hours every week
 - meeting every other week

Temporal Breakdown

1. Lunch break, or one break in general.
2. Clump if possible over week, day off better than spread over week

Interaction Between Others/Other's Schedules

1. Sharing schedule by CAN meet times
 - usually done mentally
2. Group project
 - block out CAN meet times in Excel
3. Other's schedules in undergrad helped determine lab/dis sections.

Suggested Features

1. Available OFFLINE, Windows-based
2. Creates multiple possible schedules to choose from
3. Map with estimated travel times, amenities, scenic route, hills
 - most accessible pathway
4. Recommended courses by interest.
5. Export to PDA/cell.

Other Notes

1. Graduation requirements fulfilled through semester audit with advisor.
2. Advice for progress/required courses through student advisor emails.
3. No use of transit system, unreliable, easier to walk.