

CSCI 5839
Peer Review Form

Project Name: Dalphin
Reviewer's Name: Julie Jarzemsky
Review Date: 9/20/2021

1. What are the strengths of this project? What is interesting about this idea? How could it be helpful to people?

There is a clear need for an app like this. Searching for colleges is a complex process, and I'm sure it is even more confusing from an international student perspective. Because this is something you already have experienced, you will bring your own insight in addition to findings from research. This app really could make a difference for students that don't have the resources or support in choosing a school, a major, finding financial aid, and all that goes into the college application process.

Even as a domestic student, I found it difficult to choose a major, very time consuming to apply to both undergraduate and graduate school, and hard to get a sense for a school without physically visiting or speaking with students or staff. I changed majors and transferred schools during undergrad. Part of the problem for me was that I had no idea that I would enjoy computer science. Luckily an advisor at my university recommended I take an intro course after I expressed my interest in math, logic and being creative. Perhaps if I had suggestions from students with similar interests, a useful quiz/questionnaire, or some other direction besides my random intuition and high school counselor's advice, then I would have found this path sooner.

2. What ideas do you have about how to improve this project? Are there existing projects that would be useful for the creators to know about? Are there other potential uses or opportunities related to this project?

(Include at least 3 actionable suggestions for things to look up, think about, change, etc.)

I would suggest doing research on how prospective students are currently looking for schools. Things have probably changed since I first applied to undergrad... maybe high schoolers use Tik-Tok or other resources online that weren't around back then?

Maybe you could take advantage of how adapted we are to virtual meetings now. It would be interesting to connect prospective students with current students virtually to give a richer perspective on what the school is like. Or connect international students with advisors within the US who might know the ropes of the process here better than those abroad. Or get students into a support group where they can learn from each other's experiences as they go through the same process.

Your second interaction design challenge could take on some really interesting forms. What are the most accessible ways to find information about something when it's not in your native

language? You could pull from sources outside of the college search process for ideas. I could see using iconography, video or animations, crowdsourcing translations, infographics, etc.

For your third interaction design challenge, there are a lot of examples to pull from. Stitchfix has a quiz for learning about personal style, TurboTax makes taxes easy by doing Q&A instead of filling out forms, and you could research what tools guidance counselors use (even if they are still in the form of paper pamphlets).

3. Add any other comments you have here. Add pages if necessary. Your feedback will help make these projects the best they can be.

Love the idea and think you can make something really useful here! There is the potential to get stuck on how to best aggregate all the data that goes into searching for a school, so maybe focus on what you've laid out in your interaction design challenges (how to present information clearly and gather insights about the person searching for a school) rather than how the app will get all of the info about colleges.

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Project Name: Dalphin
Reviewer's Name: Lara Chunko
Review Date: Sept. 18, 2021

1. What are the strengths of this project? What is interesting about this idea? How could it be helpful to people?
 - This is an awesome area to focus on! I think it's incredibly creative and needed.
 - I like that it helps students learn about the opportunities that exist for them.
 - I can see a huge benefit to people who want to pursue higher education in a country outside of their home country. I think the language barrier makes it very challenging to find and understand resources in another country, and this project proposes simplifying the process.

2. What ideas do you have about how to improve this project? Are there existing projects that would be useful for the creators to know about? Are there other potential uses or opportunities related to this project? (Include at least 3 actionable suggestions for things to look up, think about, change, etc.)
 - I think this project is a great idea, and I agree with the first design challenge that this could be a very broad app. I think narrowing down the idea for this project (even though it can be much larger) would make it easier to focus on the design aspect regarding what users want in the project.
 - Potential areas to narrow down: focus on a specific geographic area, focus on a specific major, focus on a specific second language, focus on a student view or a parent view
 - I think it might be really cool to see if users would like a "common application" that can serve as a template for applying. I used a "common application" for applying to colleges, and it made applying a lot easier for me, because I only had to input my information once and then I could tailor my application essays to each college.
 - I like the idea of providing college resources in the user's first language. You could see if there is a way to add google translate to your project to translate materials into the user's native language.

3. Add any other comments you have here. Add pages if necessary. Your feedback will help make these projects the best they can be.
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Peer review: Project proposal

Dalphin

<https://fize98.github.io/fize98/>

The goal of your app is great and I think you have a good set of ideas on how to execute it. There is absolutely a lack of non-English language information about US institutions and creating a single tool that could aggregate all of that into one place would be of tremendous help to people across the globe that are looking at universities in the US. The match-making system is also a major asset to the platform and your overall goal and that will certainly be one of the best features it has to offer when compared to other platforms. There are over 5000 recognized college level institutions in the US and sorting through all of them manually is a colossal undertaking. The parental mode is also a strong point of your proposal, particularly with the substantial cost some universities can carry.

Overall I think your focus should be on building out the workflows for interacting with the catalogue of university information and suggesting relevant institutions based on the users skills, interests and academic history.

Project Name: Dalphin
Reviewer's Name: Sahitya Kollipara
Review Date: 21/09/2021

**1. What are the strengths of this project? What is interesting about this idea?
How could it be helpful to people?**

Answer: This project idea is very relevant and useful as it aims in giving a sense of direction on how to approach university application process. Someone like me who has faced the same situation can understand this app has the potential of not just being a single roof for all resources but as a roadmap for people who do not have awareness on how to get started. However, there is one resource known as Yocket which was very helpful for me during the application process which has many features that Dalphin intends to target. Nevertheless it has many different elements like making resources available in effective ways to non-native speakers and questionnaire to choose the correct major match.

2. What ideas do you have about how to improve this project? Are there existing projects that would be useful for the creators to know about? Are there other potential uses or opportunities related to this project?

(Include at least 3 actionable suggestions for things to look up, think about, change, etc.)

Answer: To differentiate it from some existing resource like Yocket, I can see that representation of knowledge, data and resources not just like some tabs but like some roadmap and milestone level may be more effective. One of the challenges while applying for universities of my choice was categorizing them into safe, moderate and risky as chances of getting an acceptance based on my profile. Yocket suggests which universities from a bunch of list can be moderate, risky and safe but I cannot check if a particular university is risky, safe or moderate for me, so any feature like that as a part of future scope may be really helpful. For questionnaire may be a small psychometric tests used in career counselling workshops can be modified and used for gauging the interests and recommendation based on those results could be helpful. Many people like me would like to help or guide someone who is going through the same difficulties, so may be having a way to onboard users who want to help in mentoring others might be effective in the way of ranking quality of resources but again it might raise some cyber security issues, so may be trade-off can be explored !

3. Add any other comments you have here. Add pages if necessary. Your feedback will help make these projects the best they can be.

Answer: I would highly recommend having a look at Yocket website or mobile app! I see a lot of scope of creativity in the way the data can be represented to give a user a sense of direction and a personalized experience.