Collegiate Times Grades

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Client: Alex Koma, managing editor, Collegiate Times
Blacksburg
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Virginia Tech
CS 4624
Outline

- Overview of project
- Review of deliverables completed
  - Design guidelines
  - Initial and final designs
  - Initial prototype
- What’s next?
Project overview

- The Collegiate Times collects Virginia Tech course grades
- Collated into a publicly available database
- The CT recently changed web hosts and has not migrated the database
- The project will create a new public home for this data
Market research

- Interviewed employees, former users and prospective future users.
- Identified a number of trends
  - Mainly used by students when choosing classes to identify classes that are favorable
  - Used to compare class results across semesters and years
  - Can identify grading trends and patterns across courses
Design guidelines

1. Prominently display data
2. Must be easy to understand
3. Data must be sortable
4. Data must be paginated
5. Queries must be easy and productive
6. Must be identifiable with Collegiate Times brand
Initial design

Course #  Subject
Year       Semester

Reset      Submit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Hour</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>%A</th>
<th>%B</th>
<th>%C</th>
<th>%D</th>
<th>%F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Enter search criteria
## Final design

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Hour</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>%A</th>
<th>%B</th>
<th>%C</th>
<th>%D</th>
<th>%F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3214</td>
<td>CS</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>FALL</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3214</td>
<td>CS</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>FALL</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.72</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3214</td>
<td>CS</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>FALL</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3214</td>
<td>CS</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>FALL</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.85</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Initial prototype

1. HTML form process user request
2. Connects to database
3. Queries database with information provided by user
4. Outputs results into table with PHP
5. Formats table with JavaScript
Initial prototype

- Can be viewed here: database.collegemedia.com/databases/grades/grades.html
- Setbacks:
  - Course number and subject are ID numbers in main table that are defined in another table
  - Dynamic dropdowns not populating
  - Pagination not working with variable results
What’s next?

- Meet with client to go over changes made due to setbacks
- Complete full set of webpages
  - Fix bugs and formatting issues
  - Close any security gaps
  - Complete wrapper code that connects the page to the rest of the Collegiate Times website
- Usability inspection with experts from CT and computer science
- Make changes and additions to site based on evaluation
- Complete final pages that are launch-ready