Opportunity and Significance

Over a third of college students in America transfer at some point while pursuing their degree (NSCRC). Of those who transfer, 60% take no credits with them. With the cost of college continuing to increase, this places even more financial burden on college students. This project aimed to help students find transfer information in one place, rather than having to visit lots of websites or talk with an advisor.

Technical Approach, Accomplishments and Results

- Scraped course information from more than 600 U.S colleges.
- Scraped transfer information on over 70 colleges to WSU.
- Built web application using Django framework. Allows users to search for a course or courses and view information on those courses.
- Provide distance between user and each college, mapping of user’s location and location of each college, and sorting functionality on course result table columns.
- User’s can view if a course transfers to any of the colleges that transfer information was extracted from.
- User’s can view information on all of the colleges in our database and search for a specific college.

Home page:

Results page:

Next Steps for Development and Test

Continue developing web scrapers that extract more course and transfer information. Develop an algorithm to determine courses with the most value and highlight those courses to the user. Provide the largest markets for courses.

Commercialization Plan & Partners

This project was worked on in conjunction with Dr. Ann Marie Sastry, the founder and CEO of Amesite. Her company will work to commercialize not only this project, but also the other three Amesite projects that were a part of CSC 4996. Amesite will utilize the most important parts of each project, most likely the web scrapers, to help further the company’s goals of making higher education more feasible and a better experience.

Scraping some of this course information is challenging, specifically the course times, lecture type, and transfer information. It will be difficult to create one scraper that works on every college. What is more feasible is identifying groups of colleges that have content laid out in similar manners and developing a crawler that works on each group.

Related Work and State of Practice

Amesite was founded in late 2017 so there was no foundational work the project was built on. My web scrapers were built in conjunction with other Amesite groups and research on scraping best practices.

References