

Hour-Space Requirements Specifications

Introduction

The purpose of this requirements specification document is to detail the steps of development for the Hour-Space software project. Included within this document are the requirements specified by the stakeholders, expected outcomes after deployment of the software, and additional information regarding expected changes/ future updates to the software.

The Hour-Space project is meant to be software providing students and professors a space to better communicate their availabilities for meeting in person. The software will be a mobile application where professors can sign in and make themselves available for open office-hours and enter a location where they can be found during said time. Students can then use the mobile application to select the specific school (within UCI) they wish to view, and browse all available professors for office-hours. Students may then use the location specified within the application to find the selected professor, and attend their office-hours. The software is meant to be a one-stop-shop for all professors to broadcast their office-hours for students.

The software will meet the business objective of professors better utilizing their office-hours to provide more aid to students by broadcasting their availabilities in real-time. Within the first month of deployment, the objective is to see a 10% increase in students attending open office hours of available professors within all schools at UCI.

Description of the problem

Professors at university are among the best resources offered to students. They offer them experience, knowledge, and advice in their specialties where textbooks just won't cut it. However, there is a disconnect between professor and student availability resulting in professor office hours being under utilized.

Hour-Space will address the issue of communication and availability among students and professors commonly experienced during college. Office hours for professors are constantly in flux and it can be difficult for students to keep up with changing times and locations. Likewise, it is very difficult for professors to maintain a standard office hour time of availability throughout the quarter. By providing an application wherein these issues can be addressed, aid offered by professors will increase tandem to student comprehension, hopefully resulting in a higher grade point average among the classes.

Hour-Space will be available on all mobile platforms, allowing professors to direct their students to a quick reference application for office hour availabilities outside of their traditional website page. Students will be able to load the Hour-Space application and quickly refer to any

professors who are currently available, allowing for a greater potential in afforded aid to UCI students.

In order to appropriately utilize the Hour-Space application and therefore warrant its development, UCI must provide an up-to-date database of currently employed UCI professors through which Hour-Space can verify professor accounts when they wish to register to broadcast office hour availabilities.

Use Cases

Student – select a professor and find professor’s next office hour

Professor – enter available time and place

Description of the software solution

Features and Functional Capabilities

Hour-Space will allow professors and students to better utilize their availabilities to be spent on office-hours. Here are the functional requirements breakdowns:

Professors:

1. Professors must be able to create an account and ensure their account is secure, so that only they can maintain and manage their account, given proper credentials.
2. Professors should be able to pick the school at UCI they teach through, and should be given the opportunity to change that school if necessary.
3. Professors must be able to login and broadcast a length of time they intend to carry out their office hours.
4. Professors must be able to specify a location for their office hours, but also have a comment area for special instruction when necessary.
5. Professors should be able to cancel their office-hours at any time.
6. Professors should be able to cancel their account with Hour-Space at any time.

Students:

1. Students do not need an account to use Hour-Space.
2. Students must be able to specify a school within UCI they expect to find a professor
3. Students must be able to browse professors available in alphabetical order by name
4. Students must be able to select a Professor that is available to see their location and availability timeframe.

Software Attributes and general considerations

Hour-Space account registration for Professors needs to have access to a database list from UCI, which contains all currently employed Professor email accounts for verification purposes.

After a professor has opted to register an account with Hour-Space, their email must be verified with the UCI database of all currently employed professors at UCI. Accounts should not be activated unless the email used for registration is a valid professor email and isn't already registered. There must be a way for professors to validate the request for a new account within their actual email, and a place to select or change account passwords.

Additionally, the application must be compatible with Android, Windows Mobile, and iOS phones.

Operational requirements

The use of Hour-Space will meet the requirements of providing a space for students to have better access to professors when they are available for office hours throughout the day. It will also meet the requirement of providing professors with a better means through which to broadcast their availability in real-time and to make themselves MORE available to their students.

Long-term plans for future releases and features

In the future, Hour-Space needs to be able to accommodate the integration of other account types for Teacher Assistants, and Tutors. The application (in the future) must be able to narrow down searches not just by school within UCI, but also by Professor, TA, or Tutor. There is also a possibility of an additional feature that will provide users with a list of open Study Groups, where they are located and when they meet.

Maintenance and support costs

The OIT department within the ICS school of UCI will monitor the application.