

CUNY Central Application

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to express the need for one centralized CUNY Mobile Application for students (primarily), faculty and staff.

CCS Concepts

•• Information systems Software Infrastructures • Mobile Application Simulation Concept according to The ACM Computing Classification Scheme:

CUNY Central Portable Document Format [CUNY Central.pdf](#)
Proto.io CUNY Central Mobile Application Prototype Link
<https://pr.to/T2UIGJ/>

Keywords

CUNY; Blackboard; CUNYfirst; DegreeWorks; Financial Aid; Student Life; CUNY Central; Campus Events; Undergraduate; Graduate; CUNY Social App; CUNY Wide; Club Central; Academics; Mobile Applications; Apps; App; Social Media

1. INTRODUCTION

Mobile Applications have come a substantially long way. No longer do you have to power on your computer or open up your laptop to accomplish a computer related task. With the advancement of mobile phones attaining more processing power yearly, less frequently does one need to power on a CPU intensive, specked out device. Traditional computer usage for myself is rather narrowed down to multimedia editing, word processing and slight web browsing. A lot of things relating to the web can now be retained on a mobile device.

2. Brief Mobile Application History

Mobile applications, software designed to run on a mobile device have been with us since the days of the blackberries, sidekicks, and palm pilots; or at least that's the earliest I can recall. PDA's, personal digital assistants have grown up into what we'd call a smartphone. The first iPhone was released by Apple in June 2007. The first android device was in it's developing stage a year prior but ready for consumers by October 2008. Mobile applications were now ready to go through a maturing stage.¹

3. CUNY Desktop Experience

The primary way to access information in relation to CUNY is through a web browser. The mobile experience doesn't compete with the desktop experience. Other than small tasks, we generally need access to some form of laptop and a web browser in order to navigate our school related sites effectively. There are many sites

we have to visit in relation to attending college. It would be nice if we could unionize all of those sites into one mobile application.

4. CUNY Central

CUNY Central is one centralized mobile application for all things CUNY, pertaining to things from academics, tuition, campus events and minimal professional social media interactions. Depending on which mode you sign in as, professor, faculty, undergraduate, graduate student, or new enrollee there is an experience for you. This would be one app for the 25 different campuses.

4.1 Importance

The importance of the CUNY Central application is to have one mobile centralized hub for all CUNY related things via apps. This application would combine all of the many separate CUNY mobile apps into one conglomerate application that services all needs for students, faculty and staff, regardless of which campus they attend. I understand that we rarely currently commute but imagine being able to actually get your work done during a commute on a mobile device if necessary. Having a choice and options can be vital.

4.2 Current Social Media Platforms

In today's online social climate, with remote learning, as a student it would be nice to know what my fellow classmates are doing in relation to school. The current social media platforms pertain algorithms that rarely promotes academic achievements other than specific times of the year ex. graduations. Positive peer pressure amongst students is needed. In an article by Nikki Hudak, on Positive and Negative effects of Attending College, they wrote, "it is great to make friends at college so that they can help him/her stay on track and not slack off". [1] Pre-covid I could walk past a computer lab and subconsciously see students enrolling in courses on CUNYfirst. That would be my reminder to enroll in classes before they all reach capacity. Seeing actual individuals, I know working towards their degrees motivates me to do so as well. While LinkedIn is for professionals, college students also need a place where they can seek out to work and play. In another article by Kristeen Cherney, What is Social Media Addiction, they wrote, "social media overuse is increasingly common today, and it may have some serious repercussions to your physical and mental health". [2] An addiction to getting work done can be rewarding. Engaging in a limited social media aspect in a non-addicting way is better for student's to be inspired while working remotely.

4.3 Usages

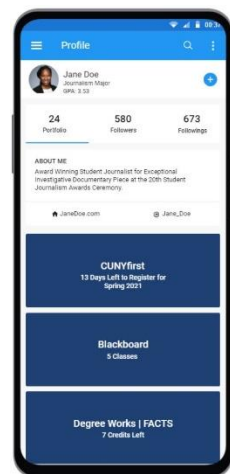
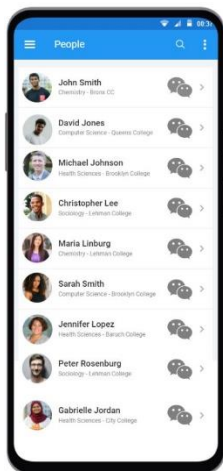
The CUNY Central app ranges from usages like admissions; registering and transferring schools, switching and declaring majors, deals with financial aid, scholarships and grants, CUNY-wide, and local campus news and events. As a Lehman student one would be able to connect with the bookstore and add books

¹ Which came first? Android or iOS? | TechizBlog@SG | <http://techizblogsg.weebly.com/which-came-first-ios-or-android.html>

directly to your cart upon enrollment in a course. A student may have access to the Wellness, Counseling, Writing Center etc. The services and resources offered by each campus are also displayed on the app as different campuses offer different services. Media professors can link with other media professor in seeking the best way to teach their students from fellow professors alike. Students can begin building a network to students in the same major as them as they plan to transfer schools.

4.4 CUNY Central Prototype

As per the CUNY Central app, one would not have to login every single time they want to use the app. It remembers your login credentials. Two step verification is recommended. Curious individuals seeking to attend college can browse around through different campuses gain a sense of what the school would be like with pictures, events, student life, etc. Upon actually signing in you can now access more things in relation to CUNY. You have access to CUNY first with the ability to enroll in classes from a smooth mobile experience, Blackboard to get assignments in by course, Degree Works to see if you are on your path to success or meet with a faculty advisor.



Other links are provided as you continue scrolling. Each college's landing profile page will display things in relation to the college they attend first. Student Life, the Bookstore, Wellness Center etc. are all some accessible links.

With CUNYfirst individuals can see which courses they're friends have enrolled in if their privacy allows. There is nothing like the motivation of taking a course with friends. Or knowing that a friend took a course you wish to take and left a review on the course instead of a rating on a professor. You can also seek out popular courses and various queries. Blackboard with a friendlier interface.

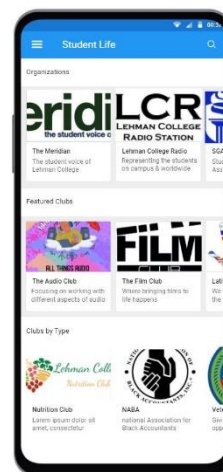
You now have the ability to interact with your classmates when you have a question, when you don't feel comfortable writing to the professor. No more sending emails to classmates for quick questions.

As CUNY is predominantly commuter schools, student life varies by campus. Pick a school and you can see what is going on with clubs and events. The importance of this section is you can network with students alike and bridge the gap between campuses. Hopefully students will be inspired to interact with students of the same major/minors and network.

You can receive notifications as things events are happening and classes are taking place. Get a reminder to apply for scholarships etc. You can also get a notification when your close friends have enrolled in a course to see what courses they've enrolled in to remind you that maybe you should enroll in a course as well.

4.5 Feedback

As far as feedback by a few, everyone loved the aesthetics of the app. In the article, The Aesthetic-Usability Effect: Why beautiful-looking products are preferred over usable-but-not-beautiful ones, Abhishek Chakraborty writes, "The aesthetic-usability effect describes a phenomenon in which people perceive more-aesthetic designs as easier to use than less-aesthetic designs". [3] In theory it wouldn't be easier to use until we get used to all of the apps being merged into one.



4.6 Conclusion

As we reach 2021 a full academic experience on mobile is achievable. A social media experience for college students to stay focused on their work would be cool. Positive peer pressure is like the good antibodies that we need to thrive. Non addicting algorithms to keep us hooked is needed today. A little bit of social can go a long way.

5. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our thanks to ACM SIGCHI for allowing us to modify templates they had developed.

6. REFERENCES

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