

Overview

JMU AcademiCS uSuite is a set of desktop applications that is designed to be used by administrators, faculty members, and students.

1. The Suite

When completed, the suite will consist of a variety of different products, including:

Assess	A WWW-based, client-server system that instructors can use to assess students knowledge (e.g., using exams, programming assignments).
Create	A desktop application that instructors/professors can use to create assessments for various electronic submission systems (e.g., Autolab, Canvas Quizzes).
Grade	A desktop application that instructors/professors can use to record and manage grades on assessments and calculate final letter grades.
Group	A desktop application that instructors/professors can use to manage groups/teams and grade group/team projects.
Peer	A desktop application that allows members of a group/team to evaluate their peers.
Plan	A desktop application that students (and their advisers) can use to plan when courses will be taken, ensure that graduation requirements are being completed, and print related forms.
Schedule	A desktop application departmental administrators can use to schedule course offerings for future semesters.
Study	A desktop application that students can use to study for exams.
Track	A desktop application that students (and their advisers) can use to track course grades, calculate GPAs, and forecast GPAs.

The products in the suite will interact with each other as summarized in the following table (where the *rows indicate products producing outputs* and the *columns represent products using inputs*).

Overview

	Assess	Create	Grade	Group	Peer	Plan	Schedule	Study	Track
Assess			■						
Create	■								
Grade									■
Group			■						
Peer				■					
Plan									■
Schedule						■			
Study									
Track						■			

2. Categorization

JMU AcademiCS uSuite can be categorized by thinking about the market for the suite, the feature set provided by the products in the suite, and the technological novelty that will be required to develop the products in the suite.

2.1 Market

JMU AcademiCS uSuite is a niche product, but the niche is fairly large.

The initial version of JMU AcademiCS uSuite is being designed for use by the Computer Science Department at JMU. However, we intend to support both other Departments at JMU and other Colleges/Universities in the future. So, it must be designed and constructed with that in mind.

2.2 Feature Set

Some of the products within the suite will be new and some will be derivative of existing products.

2.3 Technological Novelty

All of the products will use well-established technologies (i.e., technologies that have been widely-used in other products). No visionary, or even leading-edge, technologies should be needed.

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3. Constraints

The desktop portions of JMU AcademiCS uSuite must run on all major operating systems. As a result, the desktop portions must be implemented in Java.

4. Business Requirements

The way in which JMU AcademiCS uSuite will be licensed has not yet been determined. Hence, nothing must be done that would make it impossible to release as an "open-source" product.