College Companion

Midway Milestone

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College Companion

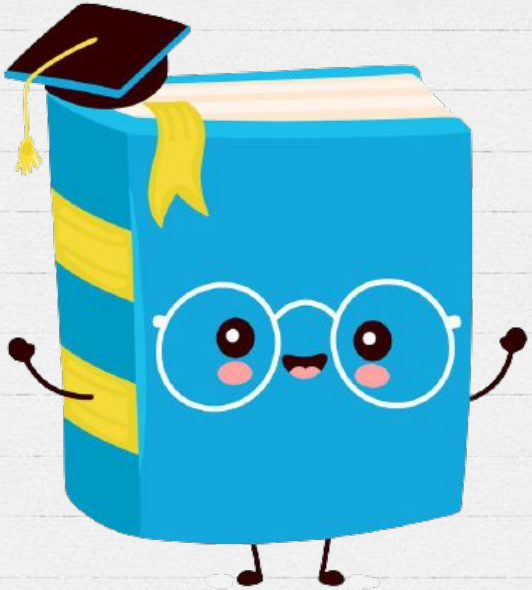
Problem
The college application process is convoluted and stress-inducing. The application is unintuitive and information about how to apply is not consolidated in one place.

Solution
College Companion will help guide the student through the process. Through proactive guidance on the application itself and combining all relevant information in one user-friendly place, College Companion will help students conquer their applications! Our focus is on community colleges.

Conquer your college apps with College Companion!

Agenda

1. Heuristic Evaluation Results + Revised Designs
2. Prototype Implementation
3. Demo
4. Summary



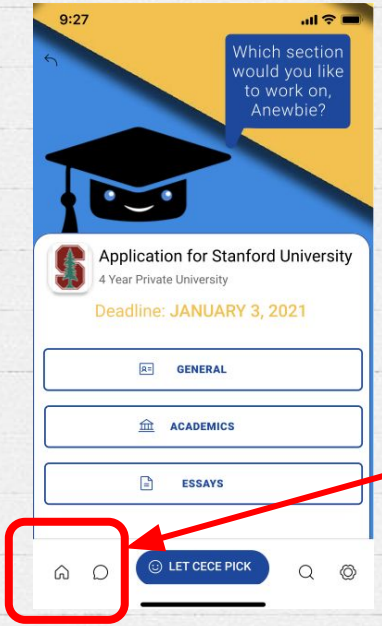
Heuristic Evaluations

Design Change #1: Severity 3-4

H1: Visibility of Status

" Going back to home after selecting universities does not preserve those selections. Only the username is preserved" (Severity 3)

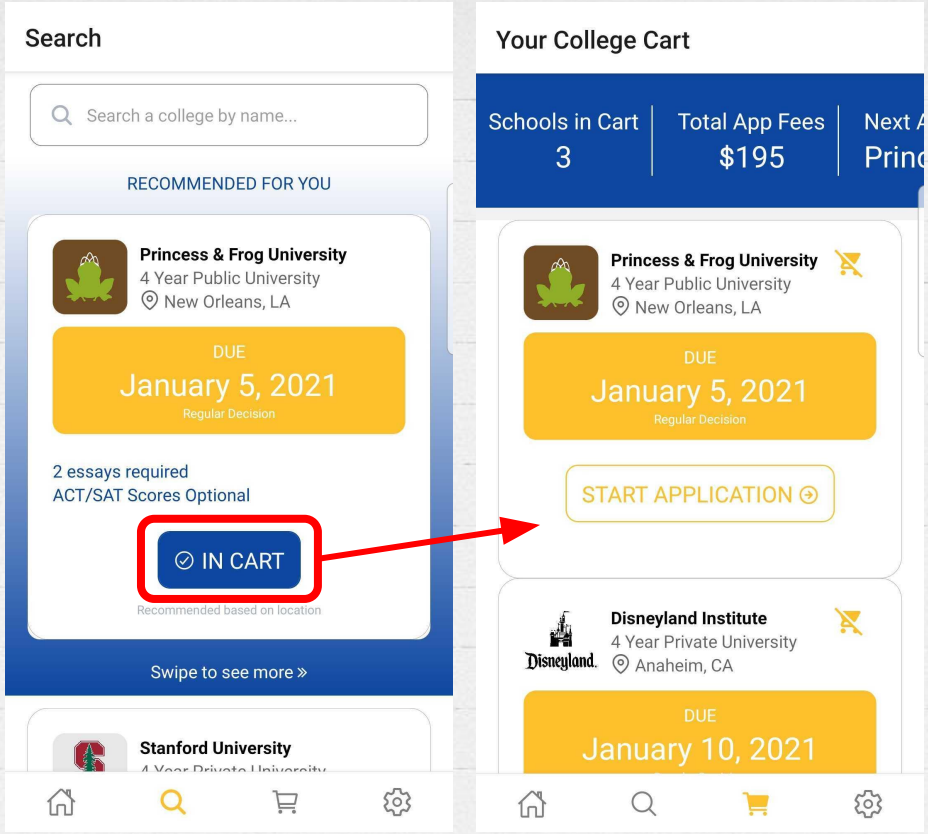
"No confirmation that the school has been added to the cart" (Severity 2)



Clicking home erased all the data that the user was originally working with

Fix #1

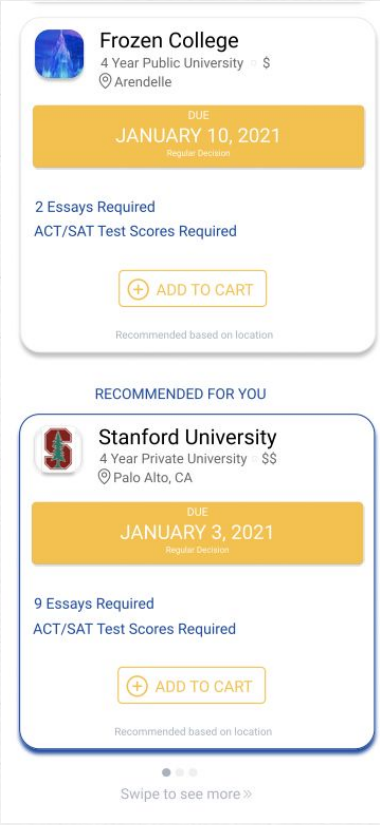
- Use AsyncStorage in ReactNative to save user's cart selections and application information



Design Change #2: Severity 3-4

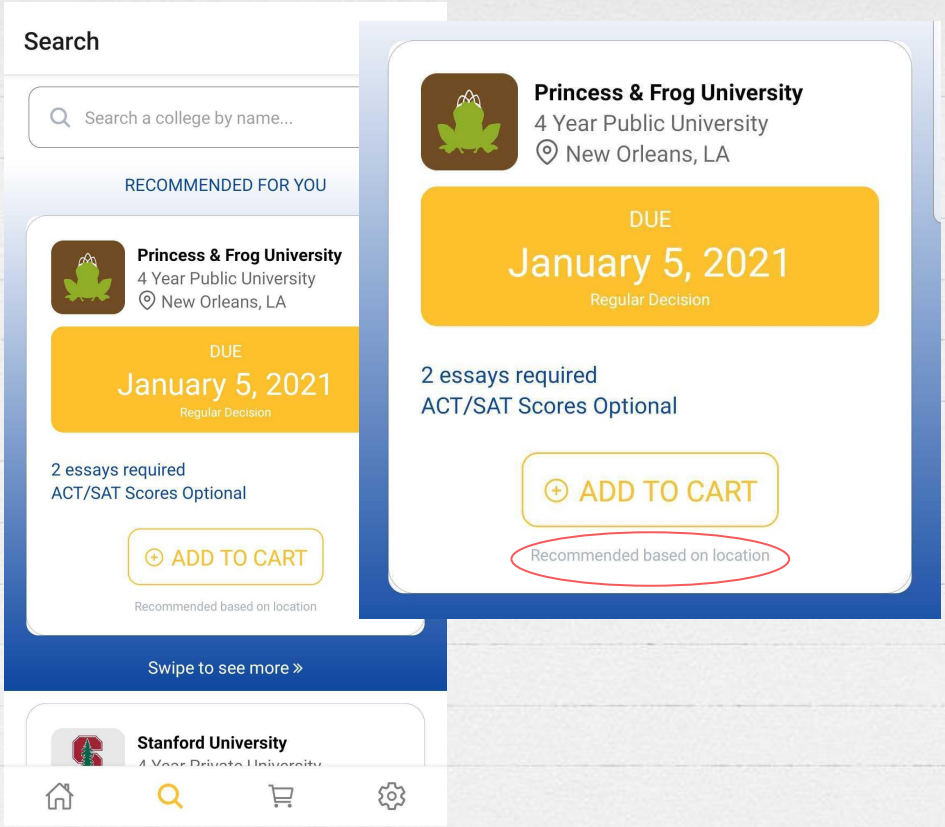
H2: Match Between System and World

" List of universities recommended are confusing, why have they been recommended to me?" (Severity 3)



Fix #2

- Focus on recommendations based on *location*
- Particularly relevant to our audience of community college applicants

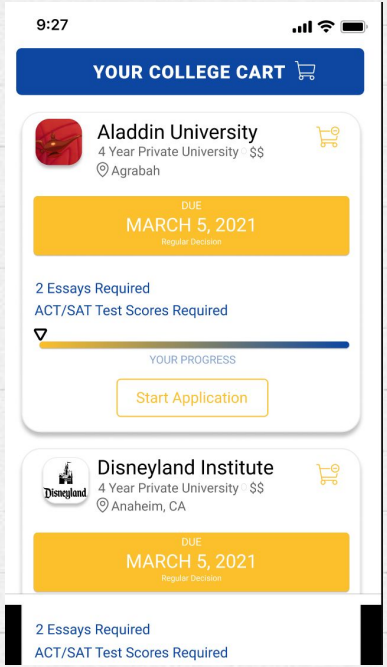


Design Change #3: Severity 3-4

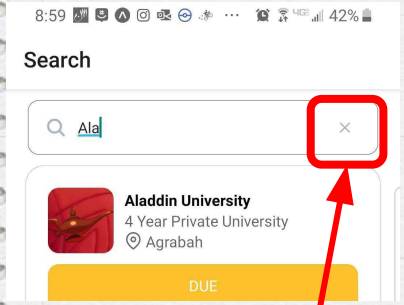
H3: User Control

" Stuck in a loop between View Cart and Search" (Severity 4)

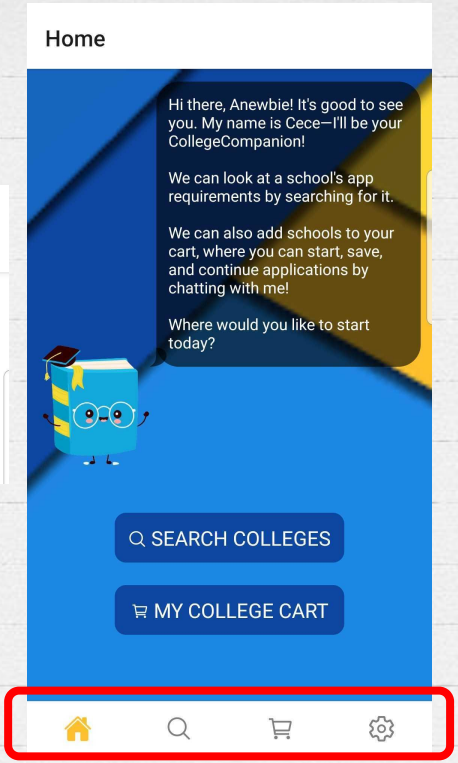
"No option to exit out after searching for a college" (Severity 4)

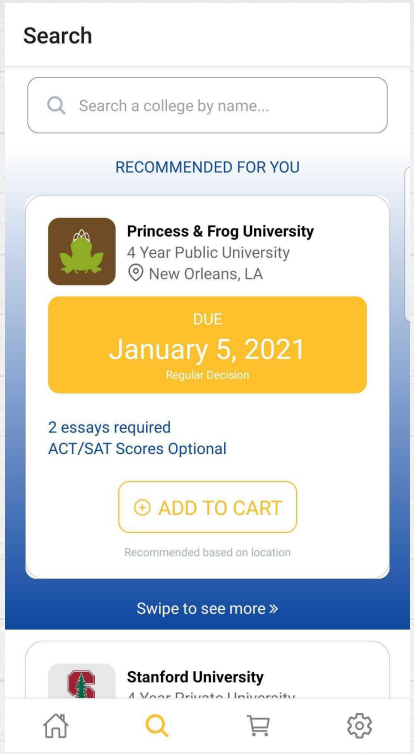


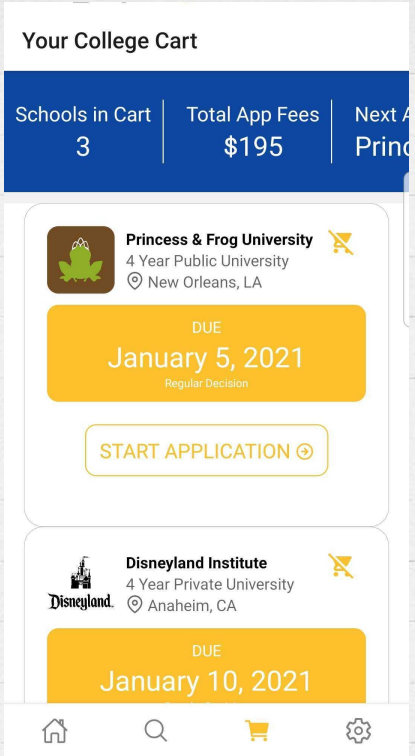
Fix #3



A "x" button to clear the search



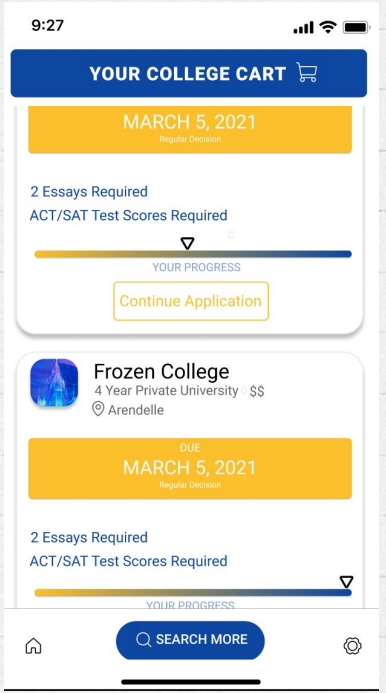




Design Change #4: Severity 3-4

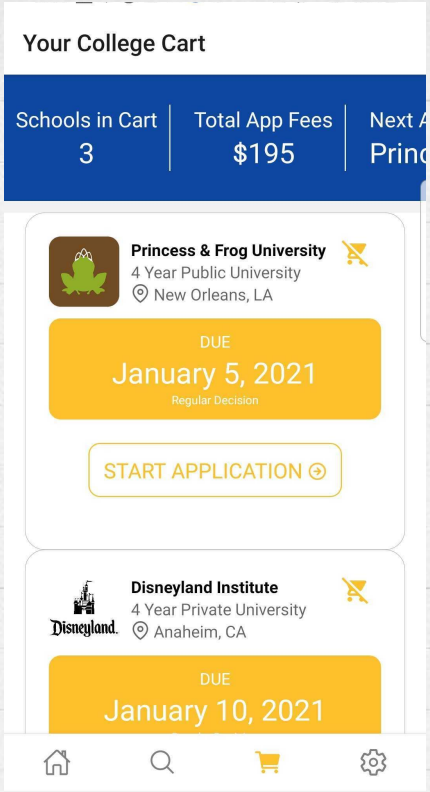
H4: Consistency and Standards

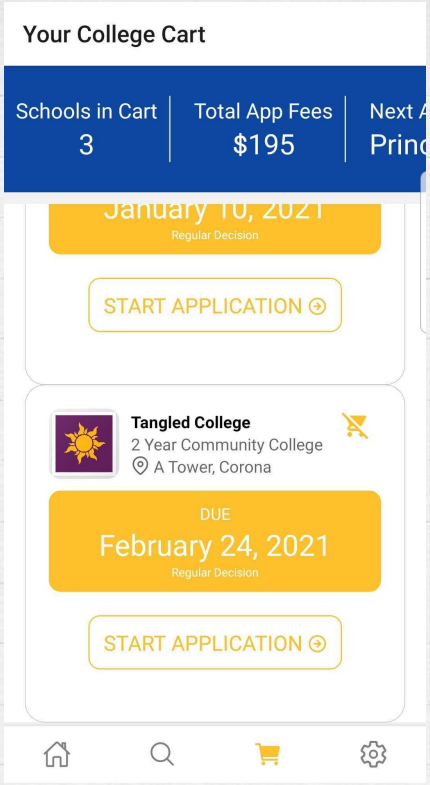
" College Cart scrolling is incomplete - can't see the "View Application" button of the last college" (Severity 4)



Fix #4

- Scrolls down to the bottom of the CollegeCart list

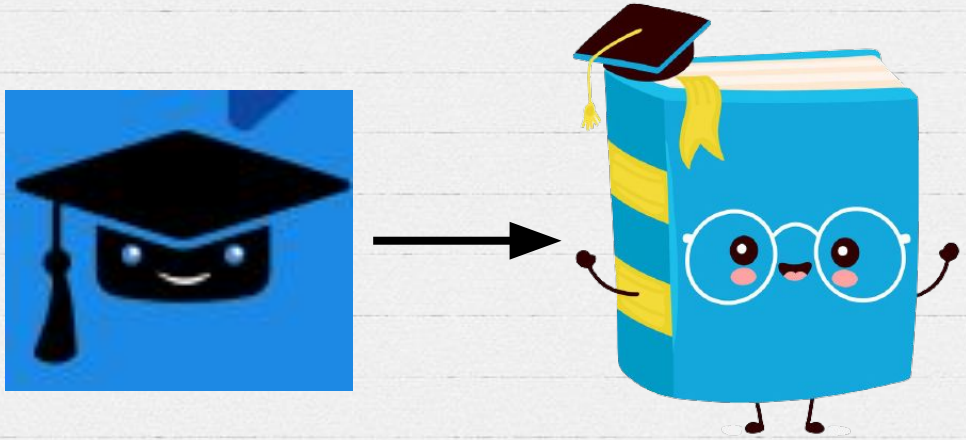




Further Design Changes: Severity 2

H8: Aesthetic Design

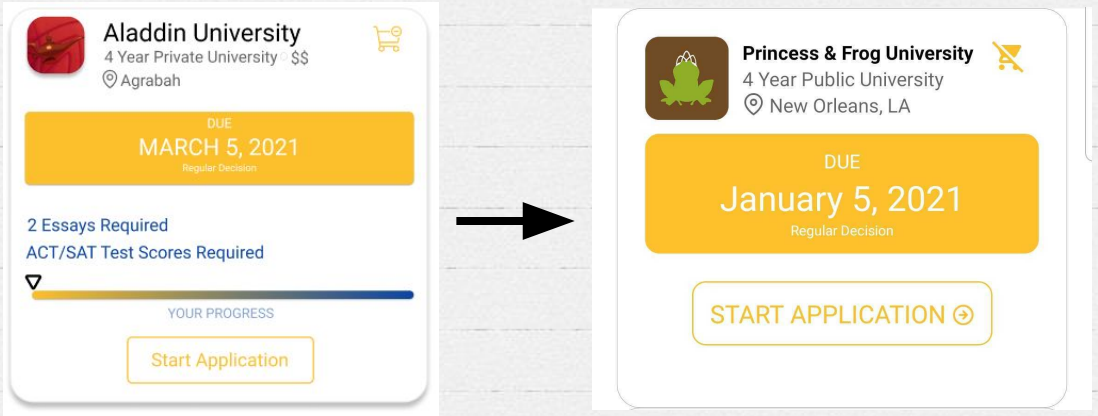
- A new Cece with a more harmonious color scheme

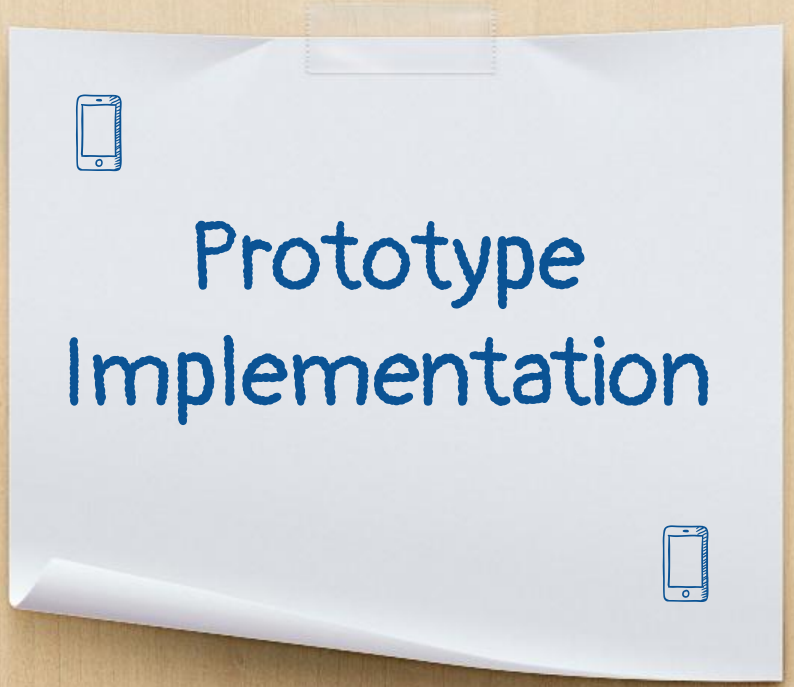


Further Design Changes: Severity 2

H1: Visibility of Status

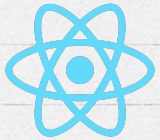
- Removal of progress bar and dollar signs on College Cart



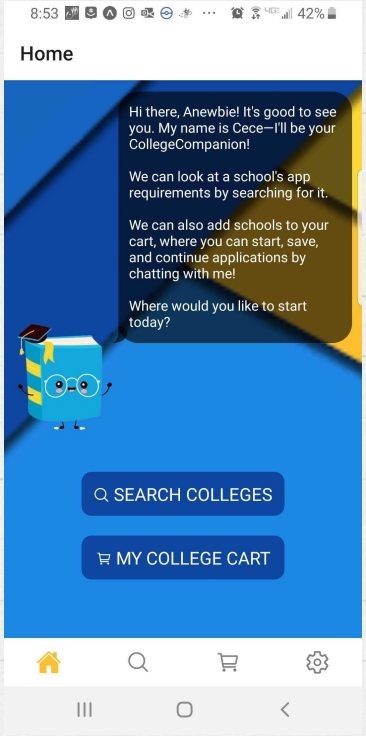

Prototype
Implementation

Prototyping Tools

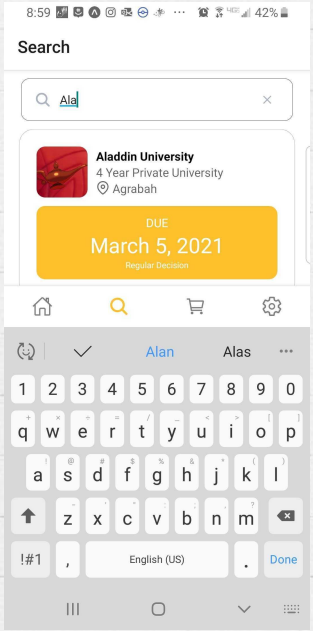
- ✗ React Native (application framework)
- ✗ Expo (building and simulation)
- ✗ VSCode and Webstorm (IDE)
- ✗ XCode (simulation and testing)
- ✗ Figma (for design)

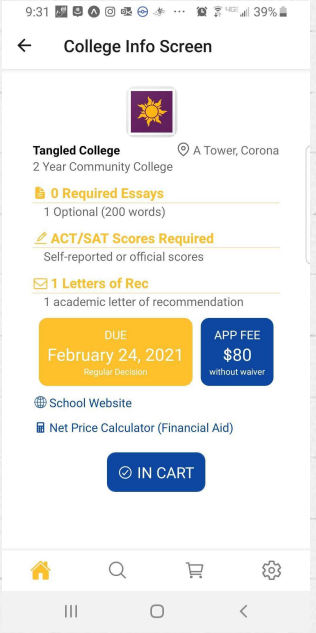


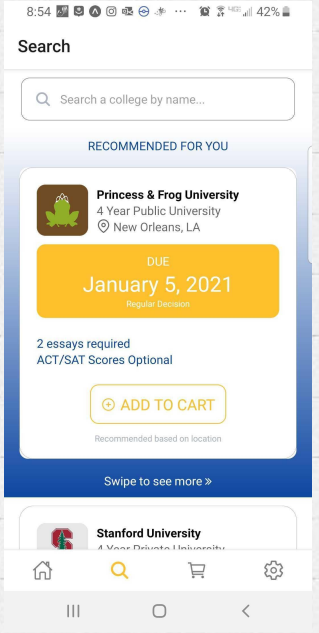
Implemented Feature: Home Screen

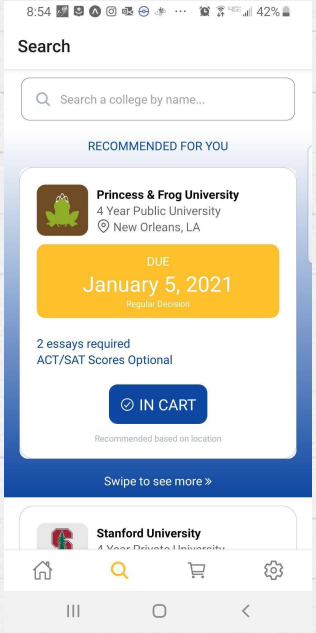


Implemented Feature: Searching and Adding School (Task 1)

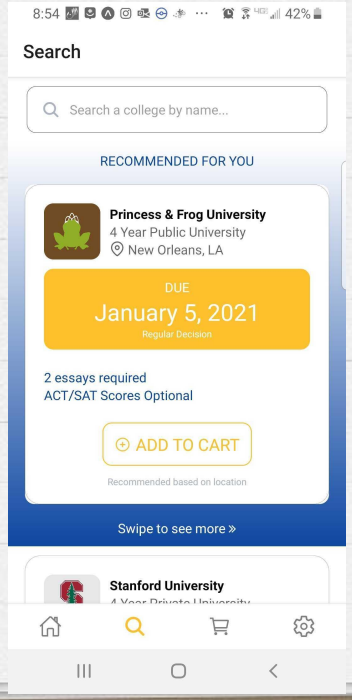




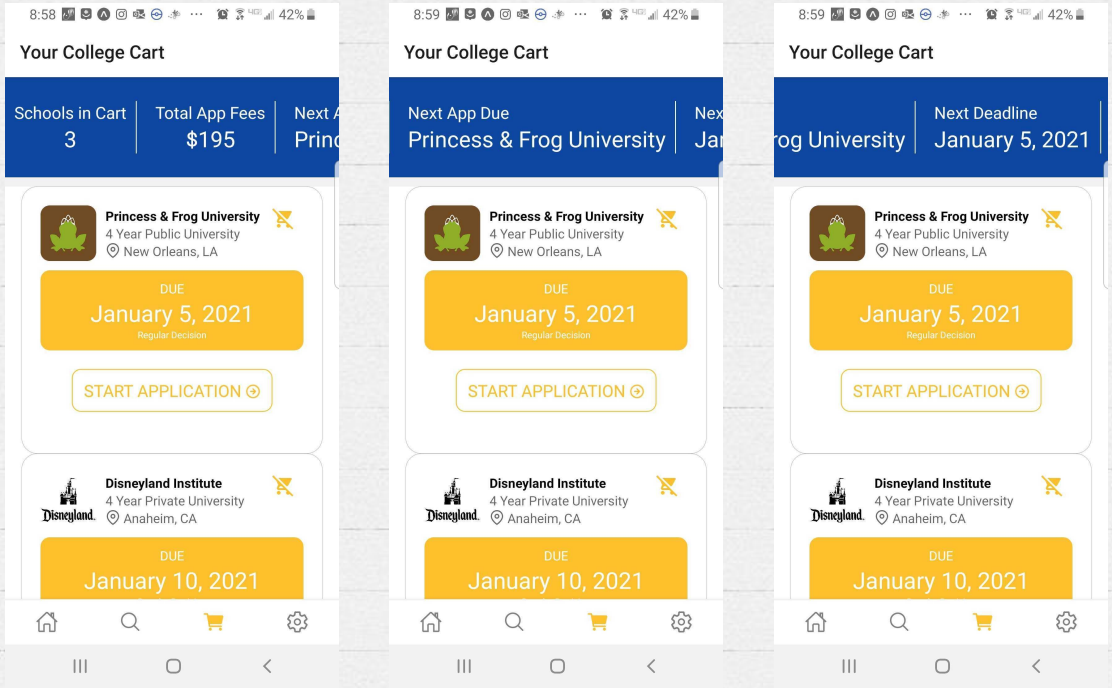




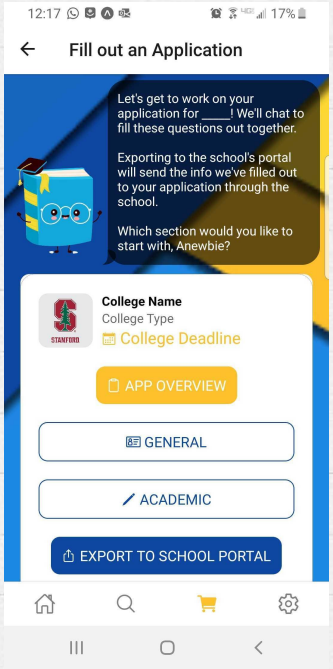
Implemented Feature: Finding Recommended Schools (Task 2)

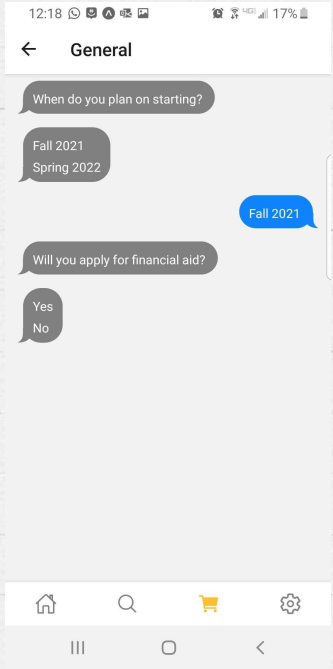


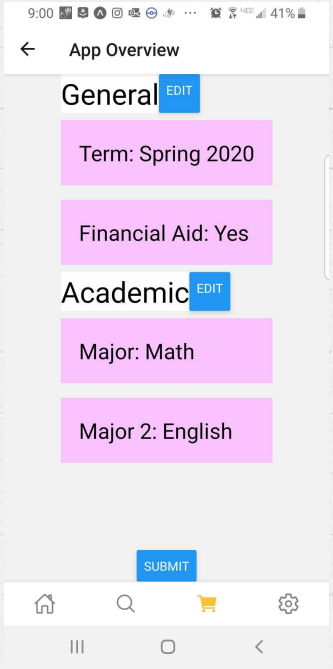
Implemented Feature: Cart



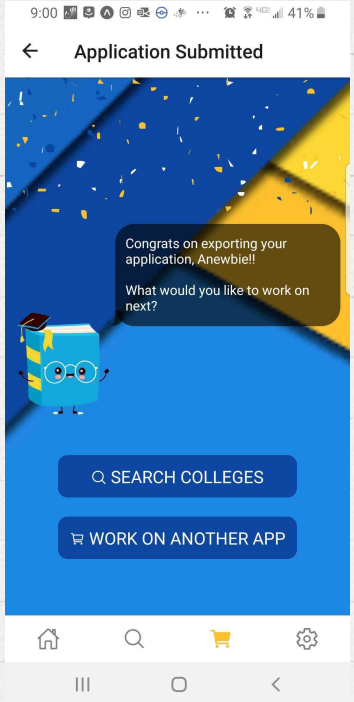
Implemented Feature: Application (Task 3,WIP)







Implemented Feature: Celebration



Features to be Implemented

- ✗ Task 3 Functionality: Application (30% finished)
  - ✗ College specific questions
  - ✗ Cece chat UI components
  - ✗ Save users' answers
- ✗ App Overview page to allow users to edit sections
- ✗ Home Page
- ✗ Login Page
- ✗ Styling and design
- ✗ Page navigation

Wizard of Oz Techniques + Hard Coded Data

- ✗ Chat (hard coded)
- ✗ List of colleges + information (hard coded)
- ✗ Application (hard coded, not actual data)

Demo

Summary

Summary

- ✗ Heuristic evaluations -> lots of design changes in the app flow
- ✗ College search and recommendations implemented
- ✗ Moving Forward
  - ✗ College application implementation
  - ✗ Focus on community colleges
  - ✗ Usability testing to test end product
  - ✗ Final report and pitch

Questions?