

# 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**

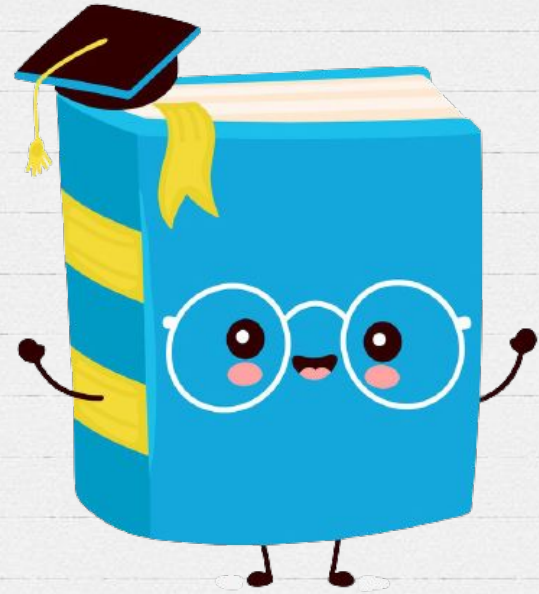
College Companion will help guide the student through the process. Through proactive guidance on the application itself and combining all relevant information in one user-friendly place, College Companion will help students conquer their applications! Our focus is on community colleges.



Conquer  
your college  
apps with  
College  
Companion!

# Agenda

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





# Heuristic Evaluations

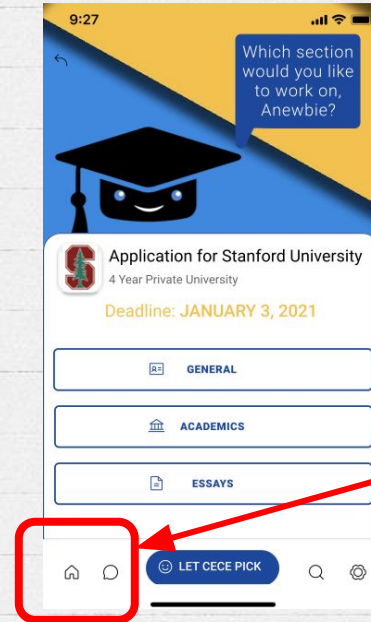


# Design Change #1: Severity 3-4

## H1: Visibility of Status

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

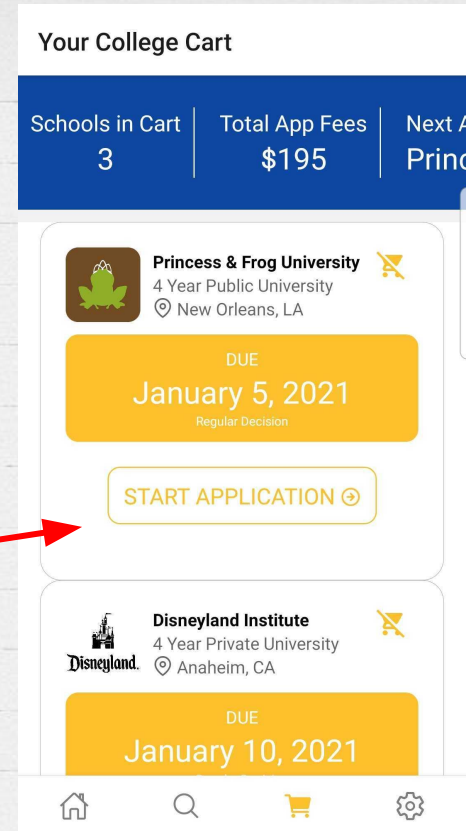
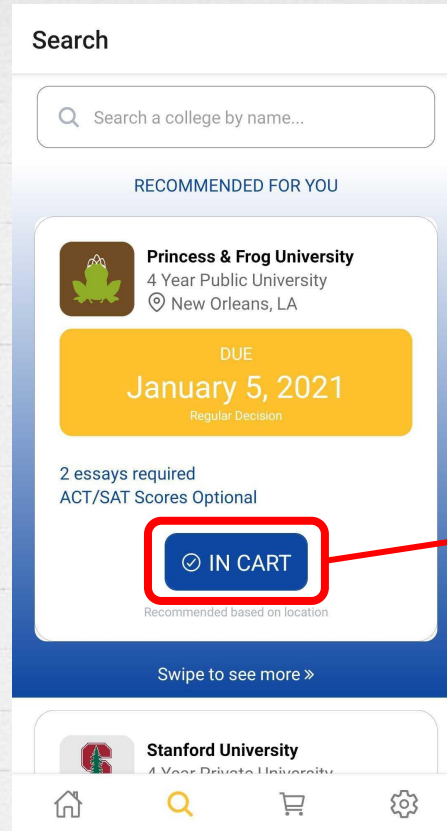
“No confirmation that the school has been added to the cart” (Severity 2)



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)

The screenshot displays a mobile application interface for university recommendations. It features two cards, one for Frozen College and one for Stanford University, both recommended based on the user's location. Each card includes the university's name, type, location, a due date for regular decisions, and the number of essays and test scores required. An 'ADD TO CART' button is present on each card. At the bottom, there are three dots and the text 'Swipe to see more >>'.

**Frozen College**  
4 Year Public University · \$  
Arendelle

DUE  
JANUARY 10, 2021  
Regular Decision

2 Essays Required  
ACT/SAT Test Scores Required

+ ADD TO CART

Recommended based on location

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

**Stanford University**  
4 Year Private University · \$\$  
Palo Alto, CA

DUE  
JANUARY 3, 2021  
Regular Decision

9 Essays Required  
ACT/SAT Test Scores Required

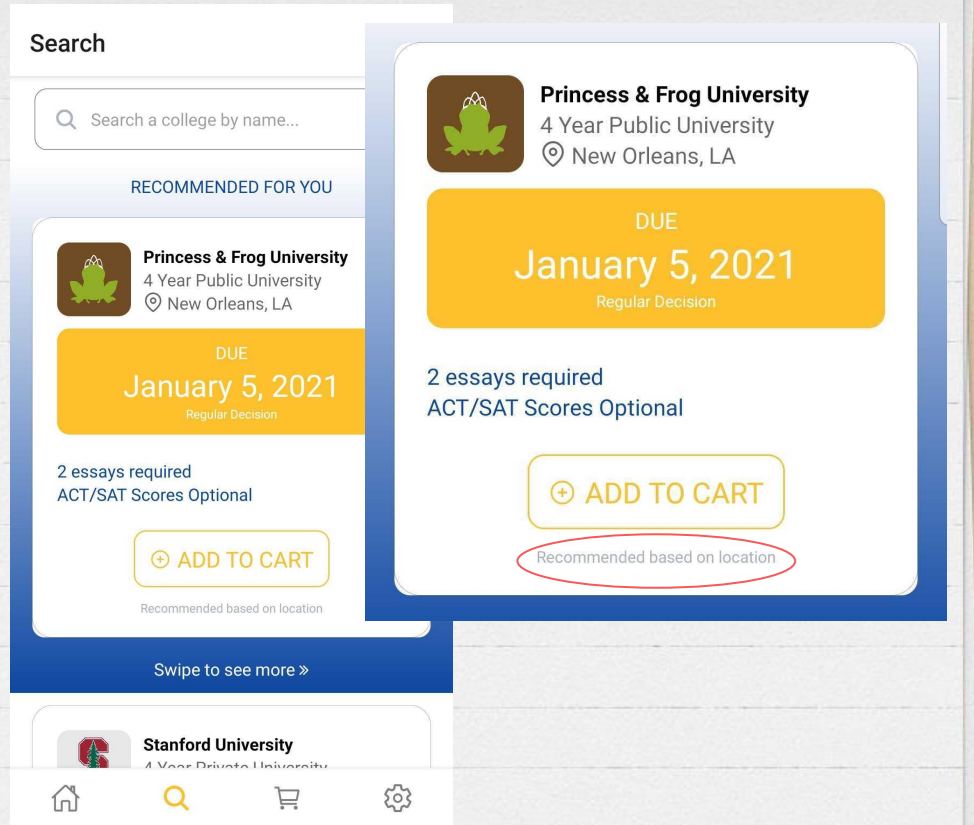
+ ADD TO CART

Recommended based on location

● ● ●  
Swipe to see more >>

## Fix #2

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



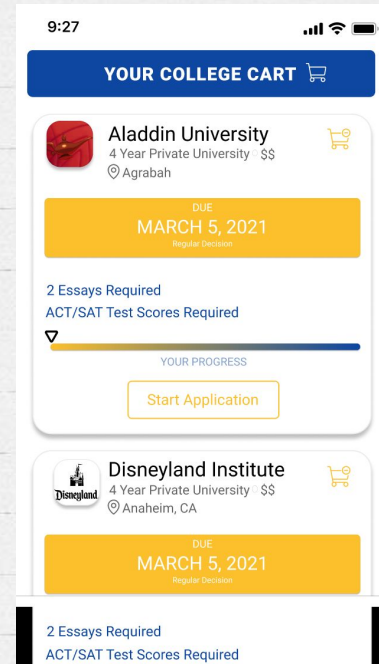


# Design Change #3: Severity 3-4

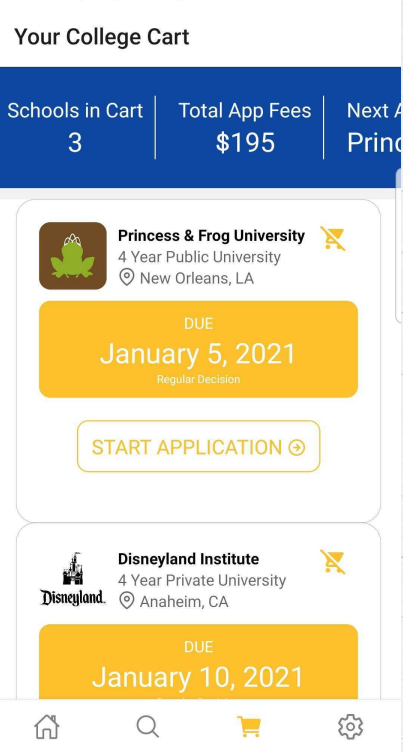
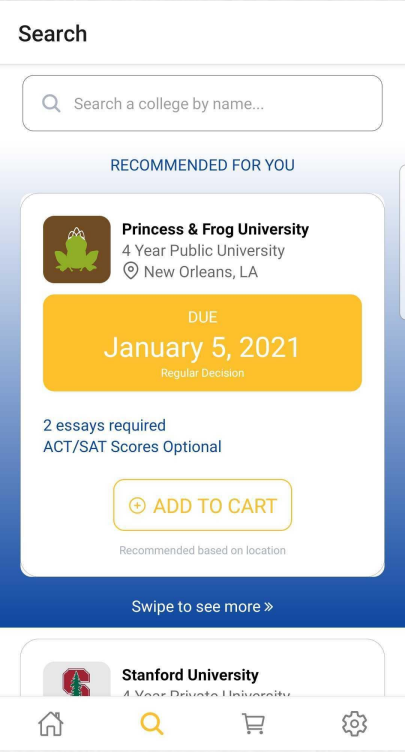
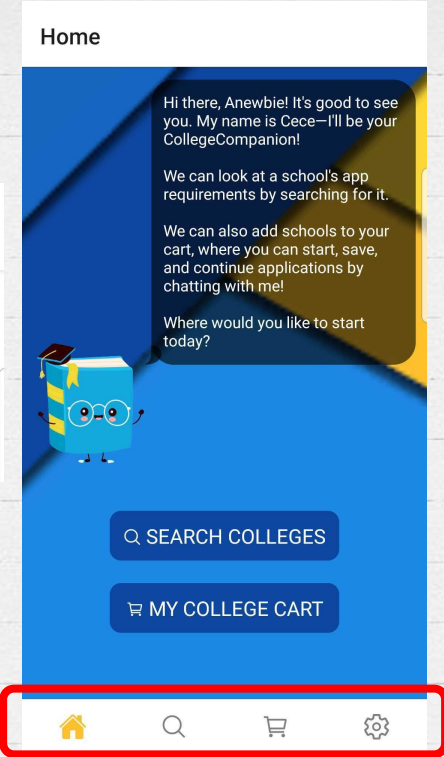
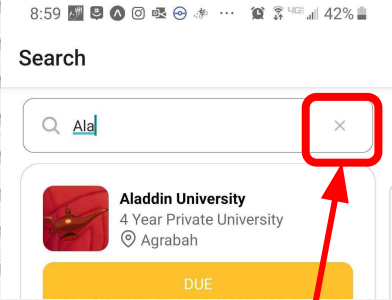
## H3: User Control

“ 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

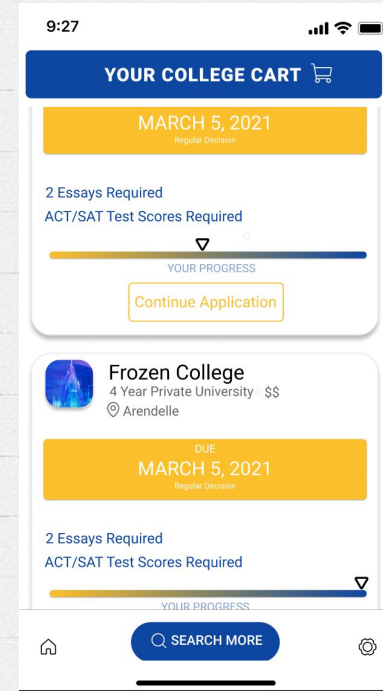


A "x" button to clear the search

# 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

Your College Cart


Schools in Cart	Total App Fees	Next A
3	\$195	Princ



**Princess & Frog University**  
4 Year Public University  
New Orleans, LA

DUE  
**January 5, 2021**  
Regular Decision

START APPLICATION



**Disneyland Institute**  
4 Year Private University  
Anaheim, CA

DUE  
**January 10, 2021**


Home Search Cart Settings

Your College Cart

Schools in Cart	Total App Fees	Next A
3	\$195	Princ

**January 10, 2021**  
Regular Decision

START APPLICATION



**Tangled College**  
2 Year Community College  
A Tower, Corona

DUE  
**February 24, 2021**  
Regular Decision

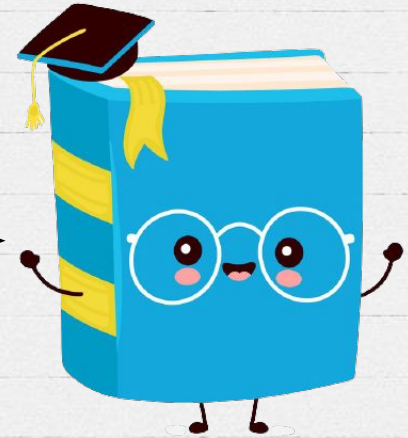
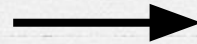
START APPLICATION

Home Search Cart Settings

# 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



Aladdin University  
4 Year Private University - \$\$  
Agrabah

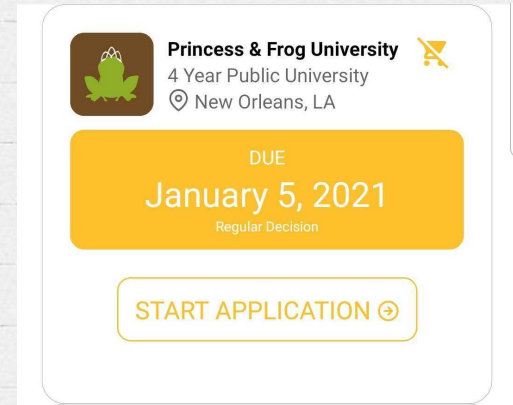
DUE  
**MARCH 5, 2021**  
Regular Decision

2 Essays Required  
ACT/SAT Test Scores Required

YOUR PROGRESS

Start Application

This card features a red icon, a shopping cart icon, a yellow progress bar, and a 'Start Application' button.



Princess & Frog University  
4 Year Public University  
New Orleans, LA

DUE  
**January 5, 2021**  
Regular Decision

START APPLICATION

This card features a green frog icon, a shopping cart icon, a yellow progress bar, and a 'START APPLICATION' button.

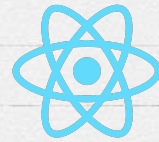


# Prototype Implementation



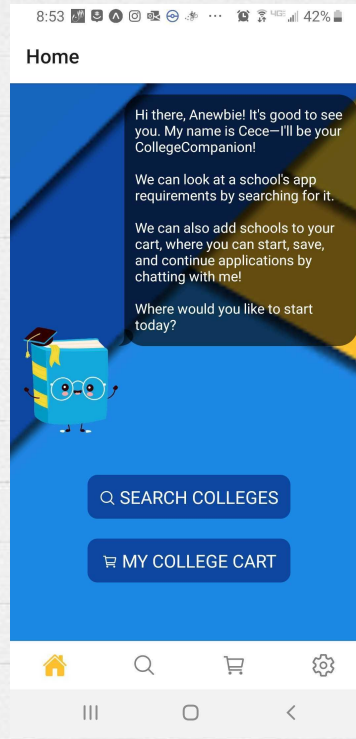
# Prototyping Tools

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

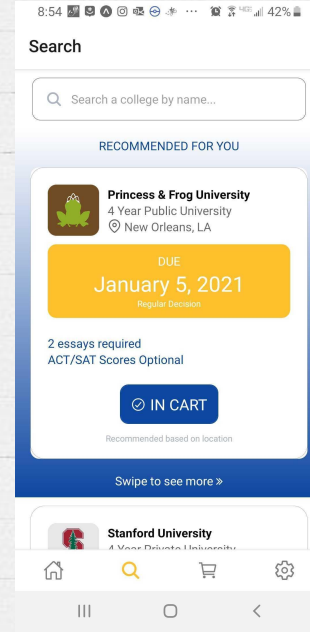
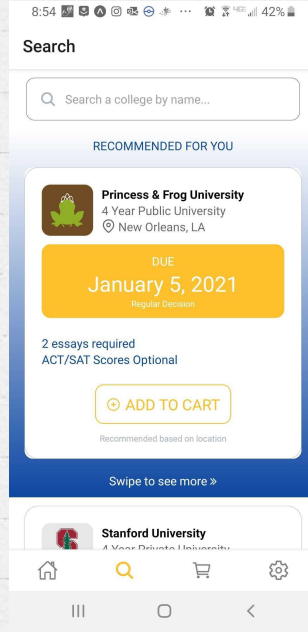
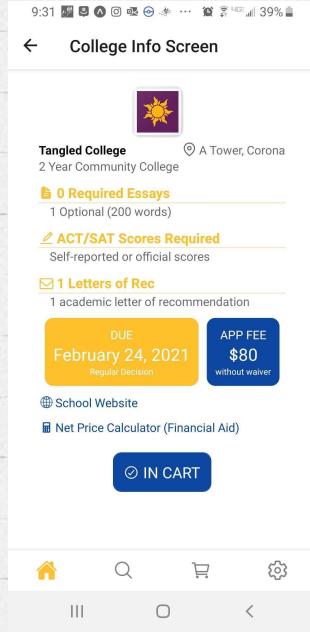
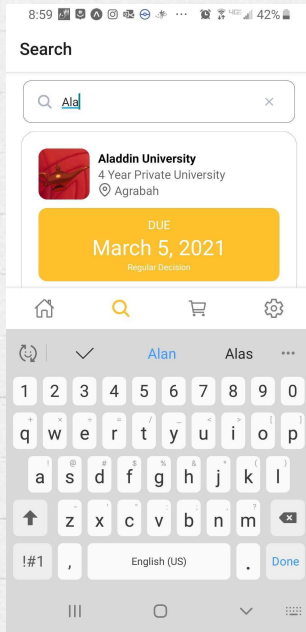




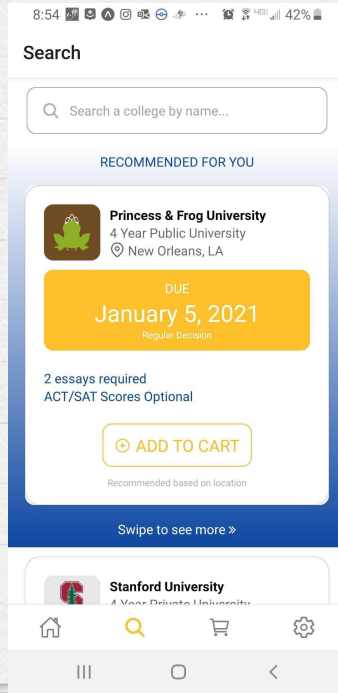
# Implemented Feature: Home Screen



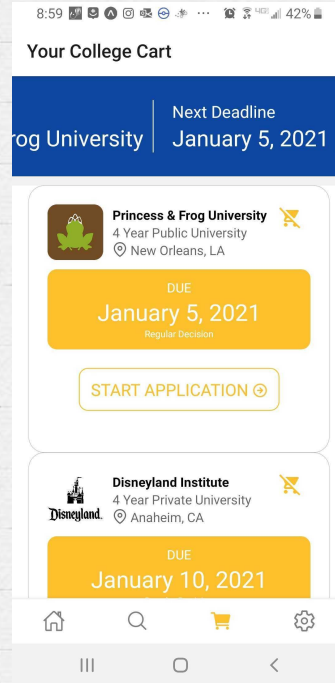
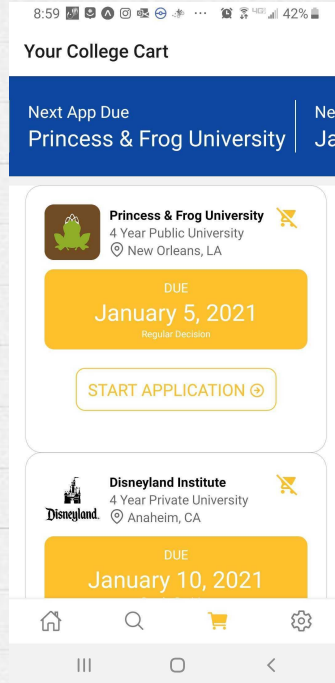
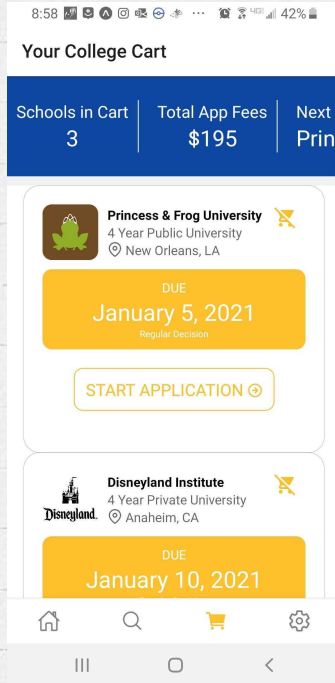
# Implemented Feature: Searching and Adding School (Task 1)



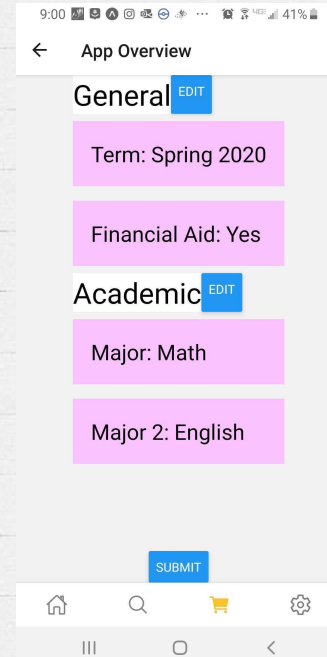
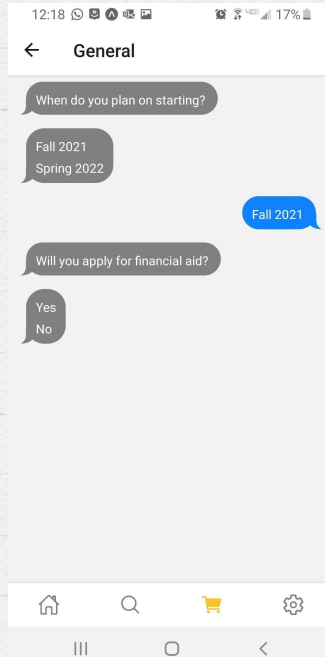
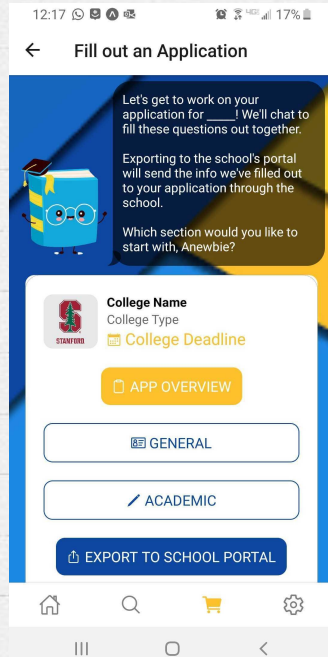
# Implemented Feature: Finding Recommended Schools (Task 2)



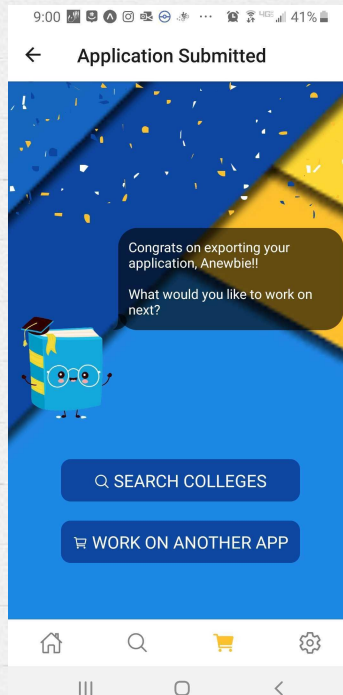
# Implemented Feature: Cart



# Implemented Feature: Application (Task 3, WIP)



# Implemented Feature: Celebration



# Features to be Implemented

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

## Wizard of Oz Techniques + Hard Coded Data

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



Demo







Summary



## Summary

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

Questions?

