Gretchen • The Efficient Master-Planner

“Do not waste my time.”

Goals
• Be efficient with academic planning and administrative tasks
• Complete the program within 2 years (as it’s designed)
• Land my dream job before graduation
• Feel that I’m on top of my academic plan

Frustrations & Pain points
• Course Planning is difficult: information is scattered all over the UW systems and unclear.
• I am not sure I have the latest & authoritative information: conflicting information and ever-changing program curriculum, instructor, and confusing number of credits information.
• Registration is difficult with my interdisciplinary concentration/study.

Who is Gretchen?
A busy, smart graduate student starting her 2nd year in the Master of Science in Information Management (MSIM) program. She is also a Teaching Assistant for 300 level classes in the iSchool.

Deciding on Courses
• Follows the course map that denotes a general degree plan each quarter and the curriculum outline that depicts the program’s core courses for first year planning
• Relies on her advisor to help ensure her successful degree completion.
• Taking classes from MSIM’s class list kept academic planning simple
• wants to take interdisciplinary courses to expand her knowledge

Planning Anxiety & Tools
• Misinterpreted new course maps and had to meet with adviser to regain confidence she was progressing towards graduation
• Had to navigate multiple pages on websites to gather information about courses including when they were offered
• Contacted another department adviser for add codes in courses outside iSchool
• Didn’t know about priority registration requirements

Skills & Knowledge
UW System Knowledge: ★★★★★
Computer Skills: ★★★★★

Activities
Planning: ★★★★☆
School Work: ★★★★☆
Social Activities: ★★☆☆☆