



Making Schedule Planning Easier for Students

Improved website allows students to preview thousands of schedules, view class/teacher ratings, find GE's, and purchase textbooks online

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Davis, CA – October 24, 2005 – In celebration of Siscast.com's second anniversary, we are pleased to announce the launch of Siscast 2.0. The new Siscast improves upon all of the features of its predecessor -- Schedule Composer, Search Classes, and Buy Textbooks -- and adds a few new features -- Find People, Class/Teacher Ratings, My Profile, and Find a GE.

Siscast is the best way for students to plan their schedules. The first step for many students is to find out what classes the university will offer for the upcoming quarter. Students can use the search classes feature to view a listing of all of the classes. They can also view class and teacher ratings to help them choose the best course.

The improved schedule composer now shows students even better schedules. The schedules can be filtered by setting time restrictions, only searching the Open Course List, or using the brand new ratings filter. Siscast now presents the results of the schedule composer in a brand new layout, which is designed to be easier to use. A student can even get a preview of his finals schedule.

The new profile section is the foundation for a number of new features. With the new profile section, students can save multiple schedules. By adding friends to their profile, students will be able to see how many friends and acquaintances they have in a course before the first day of class.

Siscast even makes it easier to schedule a lunch with your friends. The schedule overlay feature allows the user to combine her schedule with a friend's schedule to visualize common free time. Development is currently underway for allowing a user to overlay multiple schedules, potentially helping TAs to determine an optimal office hour, or help clubs determine the best time to hold a meeting.

For students with special schedule requirements, or those who simply refuse to wake up at 8AM, Siscast allows users to place restrictions on their schedules to black out certain times or days. By using these restrictions, students can easily create a schedule that does not conflict with other time commitments.

Using Siscast.com saves students from having to purchase the Fall/Winter/Spring Registration guide and manually search it. Siscast can generate thousands upon thousands of schedules in a matter of seconds, a feat no individual could hope to accomplish. More importantly, Siscast saves students the time and effort of creating schedules by hand.

Students will be able to search classes and build schedules for Winter Quarter 2006 beginning Monday, October 24, 2005.

Siscast.com also allows students to purchase textbooks online. Through partnerships with online retailers, students can have their books sent to them without having to visit the bookstore. *With Siscast, students never again need to hassle with ISBNs when trying to purchase textbooks online.* Siscast maintains a list of the textbooks for each class allowing students to purchase textbooks knowing only the name of their class. Students can now find their textbooks by searching for their class, or by clicking on the “Buy Textbooks” link. As many students know, purchasing textbooks online can lead to significant savings.

What was once a complicated and time-consuming task can now be done more thoroughly in a matter of minutes. *Combine Siscast’s schedules with class and teacher ratings and you get a powerful tool for student planning. Add in the ability to find GE’s that fit into your schedule, and life just got a whole lot easier.*

About Siscast.com

Our goal is to make life easier and better for students. We have taken the first step to accomplishing this goal with the redesign of Siscast. Siscast.com was created to address difficulties that we encountered as students. Planning for the upcoming quarter is always a hassle, especially when you have midterms coming up. Siscast exists to streamline the pre-quarter planning process, saving students’ valuable time.

The Siscast team includes three class of 2005 alumni: Arjan Dehar, Sean Regan, and Kevin Widjaja. Kevin graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He is presently studying abroad in China. Arjan, who majored in Computer Engineering and minored in Technology Management, works on Siscast full-time now. Teamed with Sean, who graduated with a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Computer Science, they have begun their own small business named Litespring.

In developing the new Siscast, our first step was to redesign it to add more functionality and improve the usability. Now that the first step is complete, our next move will be to expand to other campuses, including UCLA, Ohio State, UCSD, and UCB, among others.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.siscast.com/press>

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