



Siscast.com: Bringing the CASPER worksheet into the 21st Century

New website launched by recent UC Davis grads allows CSUS students to automatically create schedules, purchase textbooks online, and network with fellow students

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Are you tired of wasting hours planning your schedule? Siscast has the solution: csus.siscast.com. Siscast is designed to help Sacramento State students create next semester's schedules, keep an online calendar, purchase textbooks and network with classmates.

With the launch of csus.siscast.com, students need no longer squander hours trying to fit classes together, avoid conflicts and evade the dreaded 8am class with the old-fashioned CASPER worksheet. Instead, the Siscast Schedule Composer gives students a graphical view of potential schedules (see <http://csus.siscast.com/press.php> for images). Students simply enter the classes they want to take and Siscast will display all of the different schedules that are available for registration.

For busy students, or those who simply refuse to wake up at 8am, Siscast allows users to place restrictions on their schedules like blacking out certain times or days. By using this feature, students can easily create a schedule that does not conflict with other time commitments.

Siscast even makes scheduling lunch with your friends easier. The schedule overlay feature (see csus.siscast.com/press.php for images) allows registered Siscast users to combine their schedules with friends' to visualize common free time (registration on Siscast.com is free). The overlay feature can also be useful in helping TAs to determine an optimal office hour, or help clubs determine the best time to hold a meeting.

About Siscast.com

Our goal in designing Siscast is to make life easier for students. We created Siscast.com to address difficulties we encounter as students. Planning for the upcoming semester is always a hassle, especially when you have midterms coming up. Siscast exists to streamline the pre-semester planning process saving students valuable time.

Siscast's two-man team includes Sean Regan and Arjan Dehar. Sean graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science from UC Davis in June 2005. Arjan also graduated this past spring from UCD with a major in Computer Engineering and a minor in Technology Management. The idea behind Siscast first emerged during the founders' freshman year. Overwhelmed and frustrated by the nightmarish prospects of scheduling classes, the two freshmen came up with the concept of automating the schedule creation process. However, adjusting to college, as we all know, takes a lot of time and Siscast was put on hold until the summer of 2003. Inspired to do something useful, work was started to make this scheduling dream a reality. After toiling through long hours of programming, Siscast.com finally came online in the fall of 2003 on a testing basis. The work did not stop there, and we have actively improved Siscast for the past several years. Many of these new improvements have come as suggestions from the active user community of Siscast.com

Siscast has enjoyed some success over the past couple of years at UC Davis. Siscast serves more than 6,000 students every quarter, roughly 25% of the student body. These students have built more than 1.6 million schedules in the past 6 months.

Many students find Siscast to be very useful. Emmanuel Manasievici wrote to Siscast "I commend your hard work and dedication. I've found that this site is quite comprehensive and very versatile.... Keep up the good work." Another user, Marion Adams, wrote, "Thank you so much for creating this super useful website. Best of luck."

The Siscast team appreciates all of the help provided by friends and classmates during the development of Siscast.com. We hope to continue working with them and look forward to making new friends at CSUS.

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