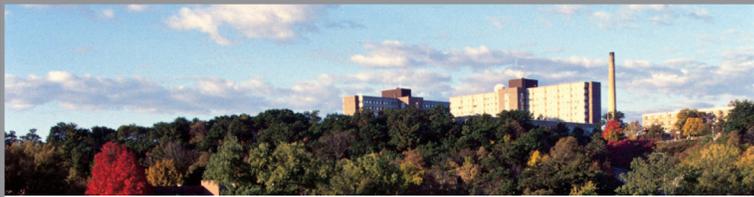


Using Schedule25 Cuts Academic Scheduling Time In Half

Quickly Resolves Room Conflicts Among Departments — Efficiently Schedules Final Exams



Inside

University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire

Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Products:

Schedule25® Bulk Scheduling Optimizer

Number of Sections:

1700 per semester

Why Schedule25?

To save time scheduling — “Schedule25 cut our time in half!” — quickly resolve departmental room assignment conflicts, and efficiently schedule final exams.

— Marge Frankenberger, Scheduling Specialist, Registrar’s Office

The Savings:

Use of Schedule25 cut by more than half the time it took to schedule sections each semester and allowed for quick resolution of department scheduling conflicts — and all this without requiring any changes to business processes that were working well.

And that’s not all. Eau Claire is now in its third semester using Schedule25 to rapidly resolve conflicts in the final exam schedule.

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Profile

UW-Eau Claire is a mid-size public university with 10,500 students and 1700 sections to schedule each semester. Sections are created and maintained in a homegrown student system that runs on a mainframe. For many years, Eau Claire has used a “priority room system” in which each department has access to a specific (but insufficient) block of classrooms for assignment. Departments create their own class schedules and assign available

classrooms in their block (and outside their block when necessary), then release their schedules to the registrar’s office for booking of unassigned sections and modifications to assignments made by departments necessitated by scheduling conflicts in the creation of the master class schedule. Allowing each department to decide when and where its own sections should occur, followed by final determination and control of the class schedule by the registrar’s office, has worked well for the university.

The Problem

Before Schedule25, it took two academic schedulers in the registrar’s office at least 40 hours each to resolve room conflicts among departments and place sections that didn’t have room assignments — and they did it using “a paper room book and a pencil!”

The Solution

Since licensing Schedule25 in 1997, UW-Eau Claire has cut its academic scheduling time by more than half. Departments submit their class schedules to the registrar’s office just as they’ve always done, but now it takes only one scheduler and less than half the time to create the master class schedule. Multiple runs of Schedule25 are used to quickly spot and resolve room assignment conflicts among departments, and to place sections departments were unable to assign. In fact, because Schedule25 has proved such an efficient and effective scheduling tool, when their science building was recently renovated, UW-Eau



Claire departments decided to have Schedule25 assign the classrooms in that building, allowing it to determine the best utilization of sections to classrooms.

In addition, Eau Claire recently had its IT staff modify their class extract program to read a final exam mapping table and create final exam records that can be sent to Schedule25 for room assignment. Again, Schedule25 proved invaluable in identifying potential scheduling conflicts among exams and allowing Eau Claire to create a final exam schedule in record time each semester.

The Benefits

As described by Marge Frankenberger:

- The time and number of schedulers it takes to create the academic class schedule has been cut in half.
- Room assignment conflicts among departments can be swiftly identified and resolved.
- Academic schedulers can easily and quickly adjust Schedule25 input and rerun its optimization algorithm as often as needed to get precisely the assignment results required by them and the departments that rely on their scheduling expertise.
- Schedule25 has made quick work of generating a conflict-free final exam schedule each semester.
- UW-Eau Claire has also used Schedule25 to reassign sections that have already been placed when rooms suddenly go off-line. “We zero out the room assignment on our SIS, run Schedule25, and it makes short work of the reassignments.”
- “Schedule25 is easy to use, because all the setup is behind the scenes and with a little documentation anyone can run it.”

Want to Know More?

To discuss the many ways CollegeNET’s products can save you time and money, and improve efficiency, contact sales@collegenet.com.

