

Apps For Good

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College Cooks

Executive Summary

At first, college life can be terrifying. Many college students are on their own for the first time and have no idea how to take care of their everyday needs. Many students have never cooked before, don't have much time to cook, or don't have much money to waste on expensive recipes. Our app, college cooks, provides users with quick, easy, and affordable recipes that any college student can make themselves. Many of these recipes are user-generated as well, which allows college students to share their own recipes with the college student community as a whole.

Introduction

Many college students are living on their own for the first time. This means that many have to learn to take care of basic tasks such as cooking, laundry, keeping organized, etc. The internet has a wide variety of recipes on it that can have wide ranges of difficulty, and this can make it hard for inexperienced students to know where to start looking for beginner-friendly recipes.

Tuition is also quite expensive and can eat up most of college students' money. For this reason, recipes that require a lot of ingredients (or expensive ingredients) can be outside of a college student's budget. This can make it difficult to find a recipe to cook, since it limits what types of recipes a college student is able to make.

Finally, the life of a college student can be quite busy and demanding, which doesn't leave students much time to cook recipes.

In general, the demanding life college students, many of whom are living on their own for the first time, can make it difficult for them to find time to make themselves tasty and nutritious meals. The high price of college tuition can also contribute to this problem, since it limits the type and amounts of ingredients that students are able to afford.

As stated above, our app aims to help college students. More specifically, this app aims to help inexperienced college students that have never had to cook before. Our app only allows users to enter 5 ingredients max, which means most recipes should be relatively simple to make. This also means that not many ingredients need to be purchased to cook the recipes, which also provides students with inexpensive recipes. Users are also

able to share their own recipes. In theory, if one college student finds/has a recipe that is easy for them to make, they are able to share it with a wider community of individuals via College Cooks. This will help users find a wide variety of simple, inexpensive recipes, all in one centralized location.

Many other apps perform similar tasks to CollegeCooks, including Budgeat, Pepper, and Bublup

- Budgeat

App Description:

“Budgeat acts as your digital kitchen assistant to help you find recipes, create meal plans, organize your shopping list, and track what's in your pantry. You'll eat better, save time and money, and waste less food. Optimize your home cooking with Budgeat!” – (Munoz, Munoz, & Fry, 2023)

Budgeat is a meal-planning app that can aid users with multiple tasks. However, after further, we were unable to find Budget on the app store or google play store, meaning it may have been shut down.

- Pepper

Pepper is another social app that allows cooks to share their own simple and personal recipes. This app has been featured on Gordon Ramsay's food stars and has more than 80,000 recipes created by users (peppertheapp.com, n.d.). However, this app is not aimed at any specific group of consumers, where as College Cooks is aimed directly at college students. This app also doesn't limit the price of recipes or number of ingredients.

- Bublup

Bublup is an online app that allows users to create private spaces for numerous different functions, such as events, school, work, recipe sharing, etc. However, this app behaves more like facebook communities and has no specific recipe sharing aspect to it.

Overall, current apps on the market aren't necessarily focused on specific users with specific purposes. College Cooks aims to create a community specifically for college students to post simple, inexpensive recipes, and find recipes from other college students as well.

Specifications

(Features)

College Cooks allows users to:

- Find and search for recipes that they would like to cook
- Save recipes so they are able to find them later
- Post their own recipes to the app

This app needs recipes to function correctly. Most of these recipes will eventually come from users, but recipes cannot come from users if there are none. Therefore we will add 25-30 sample recipes to the app so we are able to test the app and make sure that everything is functioning correctly. These recipes will come from sources such as allrecipes.com, food.com, foodnetwork.com, etc. After all the initial recipes are added, the rest of the recipes should ideally be added by users.

(Feedback)

We will obtain feedback from the community by directly sharing our app with members of the college student community. There are many different colleges in the area, and we could reach out directly and ask students to try out the app for a week. Any student that decides to try out the app will be provided with a google form that will ask questions about how effective the app is. This may include asking students to rate the effectiveness of the app, if the recipes provided were simple and inexpensive, etc.

(Potential Future Additions)

In the future, any feedback we obtained could be implemented into the app. Adding a feature where users are able to log into the app could also be added for an extra layer of security. We would like to add tags to the app, such as if the recipe is a dinner, breakfast, dessert, etc. We could also add a button to recipe page that allows users to choose if they would like to change the amount of each ingredient needed for the recipe to change the number of servings the recipe makes.

References

Pepper– The Social Cooking App to Share Food with Friends. (n.d.). Pepper– The Social Cooking App to Share Food with Friends. Retrieved April 23, 2025, from <http://www.peppertheapp.com/>

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