A Guide to Using Course Match

Course Match is an advanced algorithm developed by Cognomos. It is a tool that assigns classes based on your preferences. This guide, adapted from instructions from Cognomos, explains how it works and how to best get the results you want.

How Course Match Works

With Course Match, you sign up for classes by selecting every class you want to take and then ranking them in order of preference.

The algorithm uses the rankings submitted by you and other students to determine the demand for every class. Using that information, it tries to give you as many of your highly ranked class as best as it can.

The Course Match algorithm is a direct application of market design theory, a Nobel Prize-winning field of economics. If you are interested, the academic literature explains its underlying mechanism in greater detail and can be found here.

Step 1: Select the Right Number of Classes

Give Course Match options. It assigns your course(s) by trying to give you as many of your top ranked classes as it can. If it cannot give you a top pick, Course Match will put together a combination of courses that gives you as many of your remaining top choices as possible.

Course Match needs options to do this, so it is vital that you select an appropriate number of classes. You can select as many classes as you like.

Selection Guidelines:

- Select any class that you might be interested in taking (even if it is not your top pick)
- Do not select a class that you would not want to take
- Course Match needs options, as such, do not select just one course.

Step 2: Rank Your Classes Correctly

Your best course of action is to rank your classes according to your preferences. You can drag-and-drop your selected classes into four buckets: **Favorite, Great, Good,** and **Acceptable.** The order in which you rank your classes in each bucket matters.

You can place as many classes as you wish in any bucket, except for Favorite, which can only have one class.

Ranking Guidelines:

- Rank your classes according to your preferences (and not based on how you think other students will rank their selections)
- Use buckets for large distinctions in preference
- Use the order within buckets for small distinctions in preference

Step 3: Review Your Rankings

Course Match will you show **possible** outcomes based on your rankings. It is critical that these schedules reflect what you actually want. If they do, you are done. If not, go back and adjust your selections and rankings.

Review Guidelines:

- Make sure you like all of the classes that you see
- Check that the course time works for you
- Go back and adjust either your selections or rankings until you are satisfied.