

Helping students choose valid combinations of courses



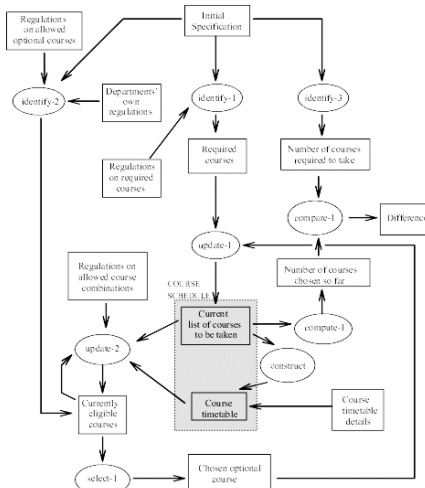
Description:

- ◆ **Students in the Department of Business Studies at the University of Edinburgh have wide flexibility in their course choices**
 - ◆ **but timetable clashes rule out some courses**
 - ◆ **and Department regulations require some outside courses to be taken for 2 or 3 years.**
- ◆ **Directors of Studies used to spend 15-20 minutes explaining this to each of 50-60 students.**
- ◆ **Course Selector is a knowledge based system that advises on legal course combinations and sensible course choices.**

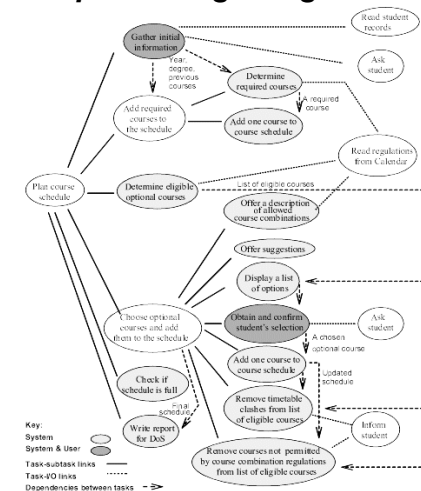


Technical approach:

- ◆ Knowledge acquired from one interview and from the University Calendar.
- ◆ Knowledge analysed and system designed using KADS methodology.
- ◆ System implemented using CLIPS, “stripped down” for delivery on student lab PCs.
- ◆ Used ‘negative truth maintenance’ – course Y was marked as *unavailable* due to clash with course X, unless course X was deselected.
- ◆ Entire project took 8 man weeks.
- ◆ *Success due to good methodology and structure-preserving design.*



Model showing inferences & domain knowledge



Model showing control & interactions