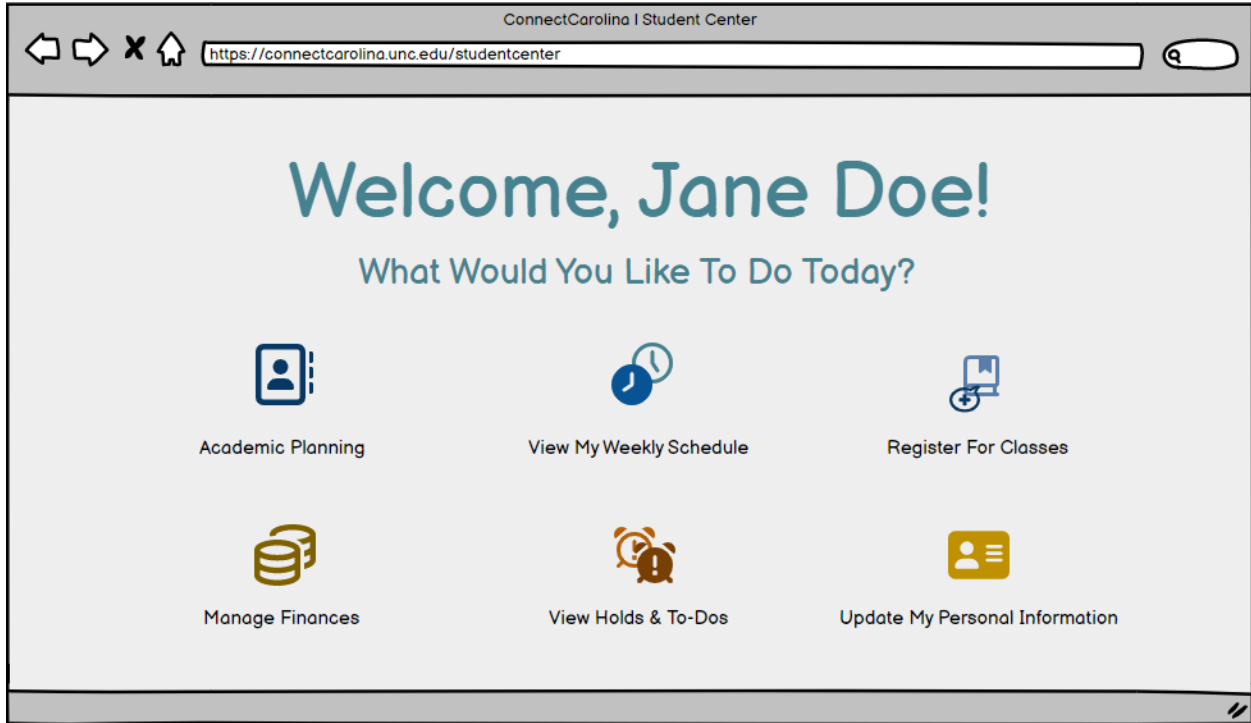


A New ConnectCarolina Interface

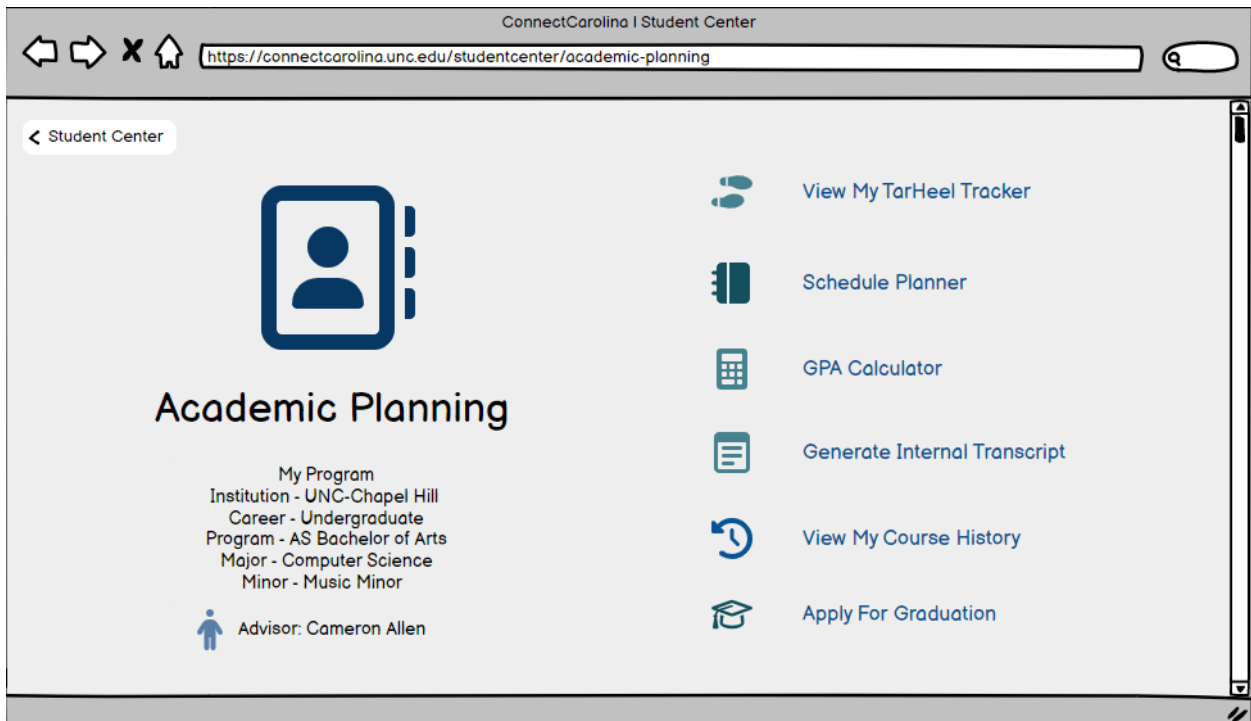
Every student at UNC-Chapel Hill has experienced their fair share of frustration with the university's portal titled ConnectCarolina especially during registration seasons. The application violates one of the most vital principles of Jakob's Ten Usability Heuristics: aesthetic and minimalistic design. Though the ConnectCarolina home page has been updated to resemble a GUI rather than a CLI, the Student Center interface still shows blocks of tiny hypertext clustered so tightly together that the user must squint or utilize the zoom function of their browsers to the maximum. These hypertext blocks are arranged in a uniform fashion that prohibits the user from quickly finding the link they seek, which sparks a plethora of navigation issues. The navigation system is the antithesis of intuitive given that ConnectCarolina does not alert users when they commit errors. Instead, the application returns the user to the Student Center every time. Moreover, ConnectCarolina is practically useless on mobile devices given the lack of portability. All of these issues impede students from finding and registering for the classes they need to fulfill their major requirements.

A simple solution can be implemented to assuage student woes, and that is to redesign the Student Center as a more GUI-based interface similar to the ConnectCarolina home page. Upon arriving at the Student Center, the user should see a portal with a greeting and a prompt asking the user what they would like to accomplish (C1). Below the greeting and the prompt are icons paired with captions that describe a potential task such as "Academic Planning," "View My Personal Information," and others (C1). Upon clicking each icon, the user will be led to a screen that offers them tools needed to complete their task (C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7). If the user makes an error, a warning box with a return prompt will appear onscreen (C8). Moreover, ConnectCarolina will be optimized for mobile devices to ensure portability (C9). With a GUI

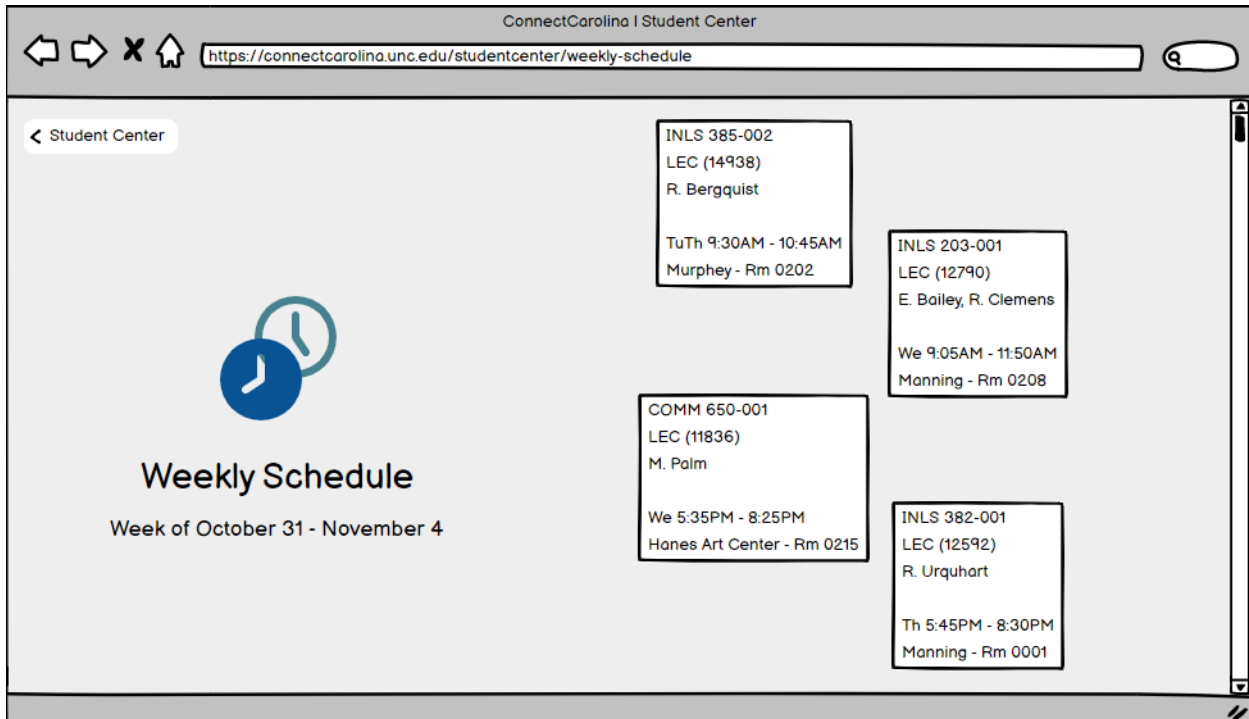
design and an improved navigation system, students will be able to complete their tasks with minimal headache.



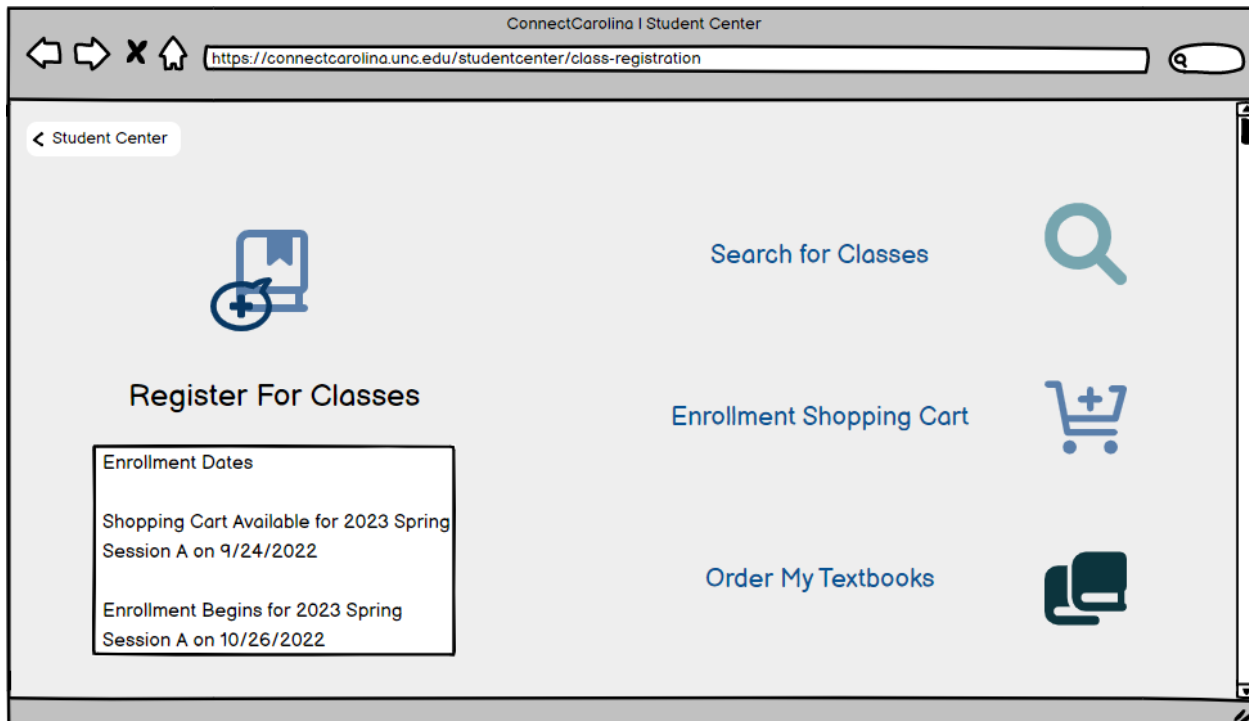
C1: Student Center



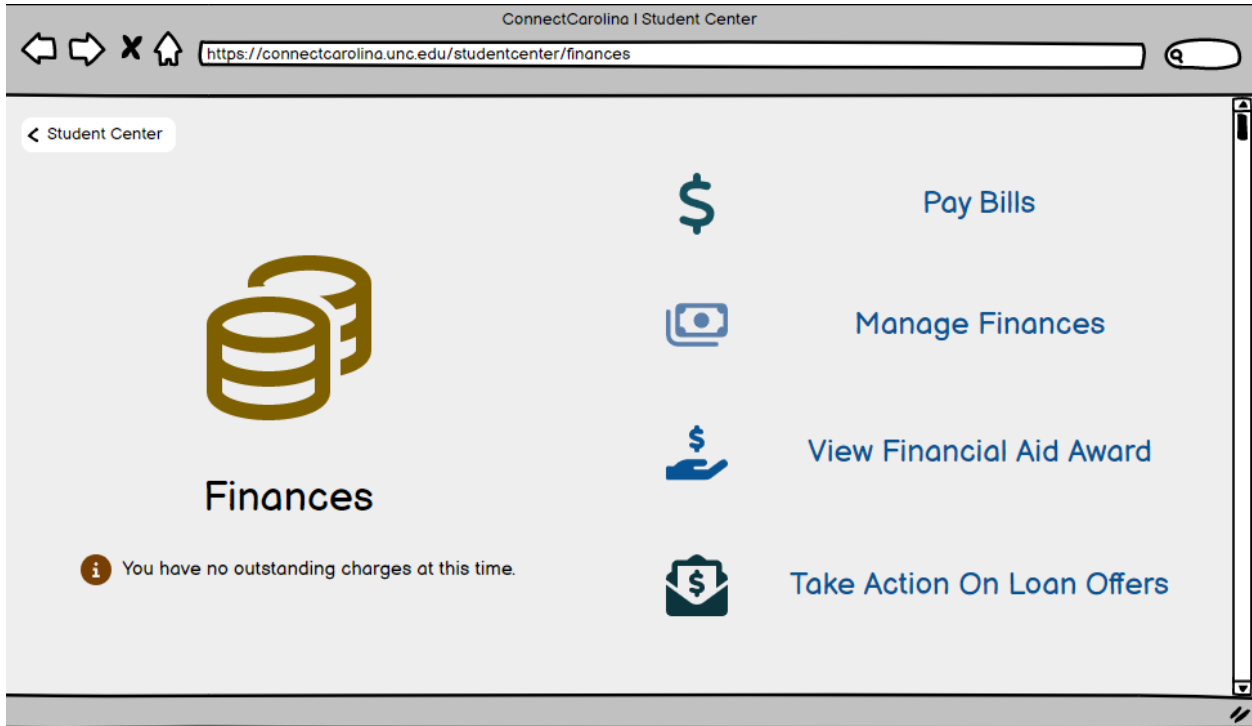
C2: Academic Planning



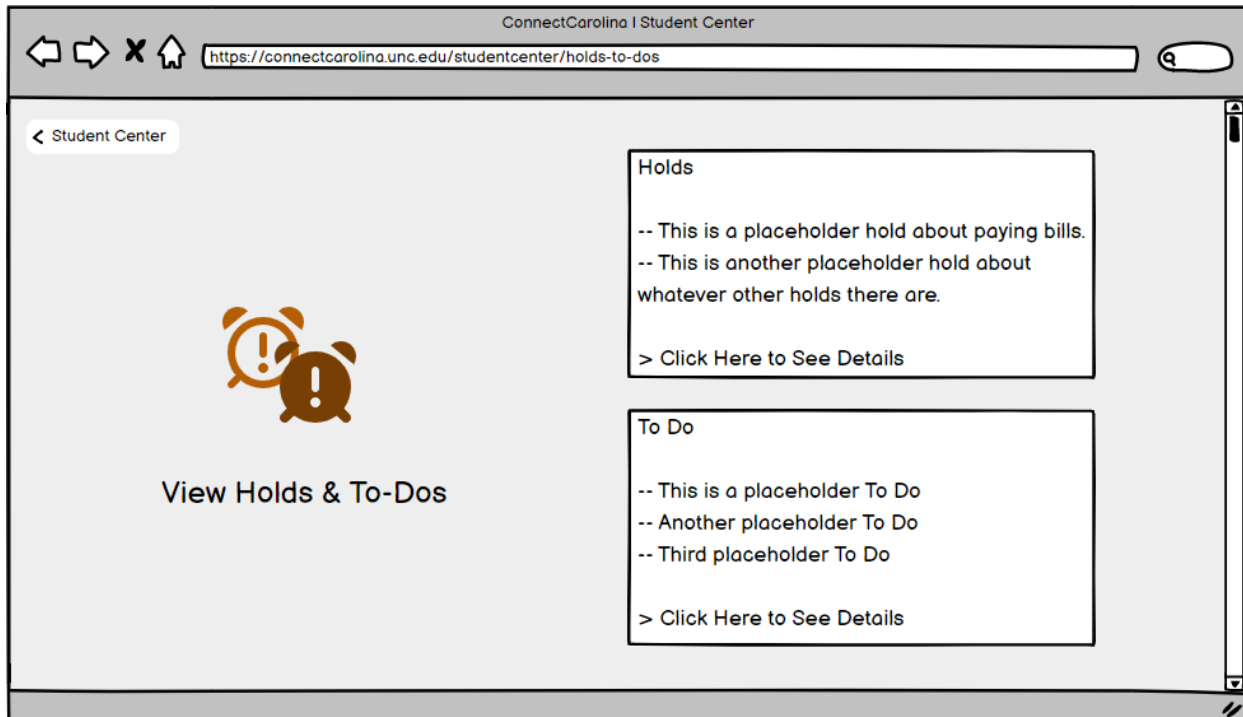
C3: Weekly Schedule



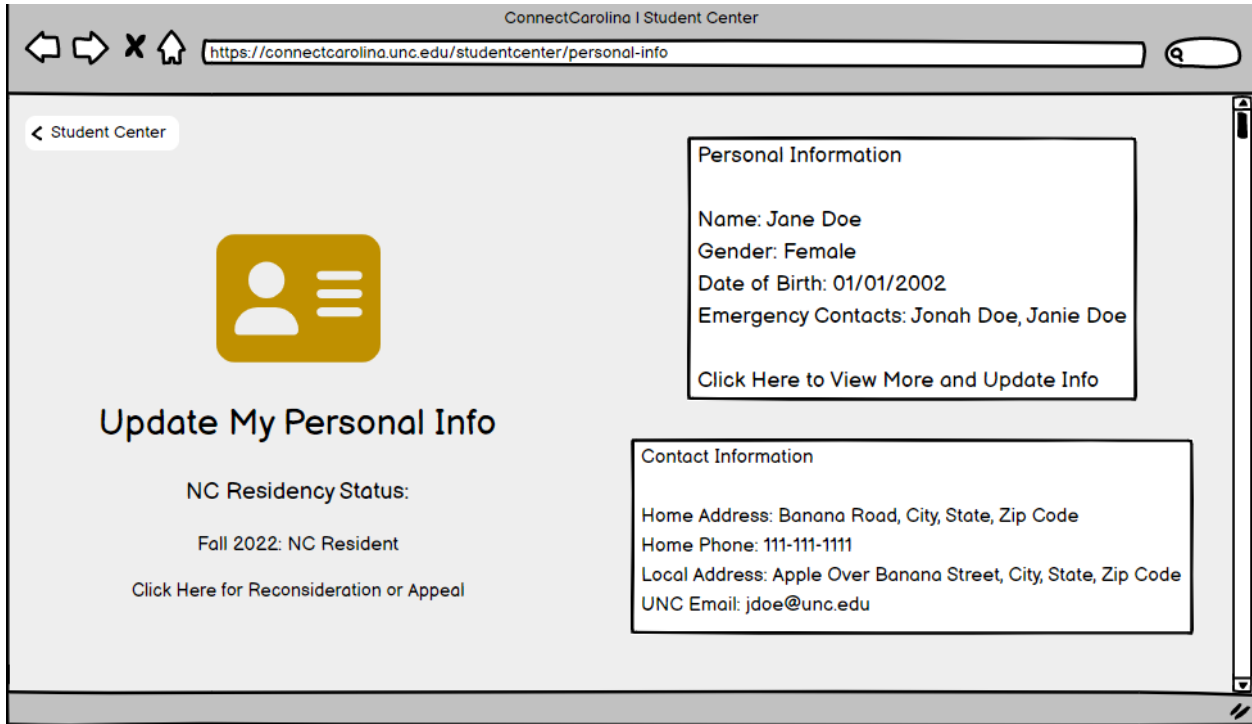
C4: Class Registration



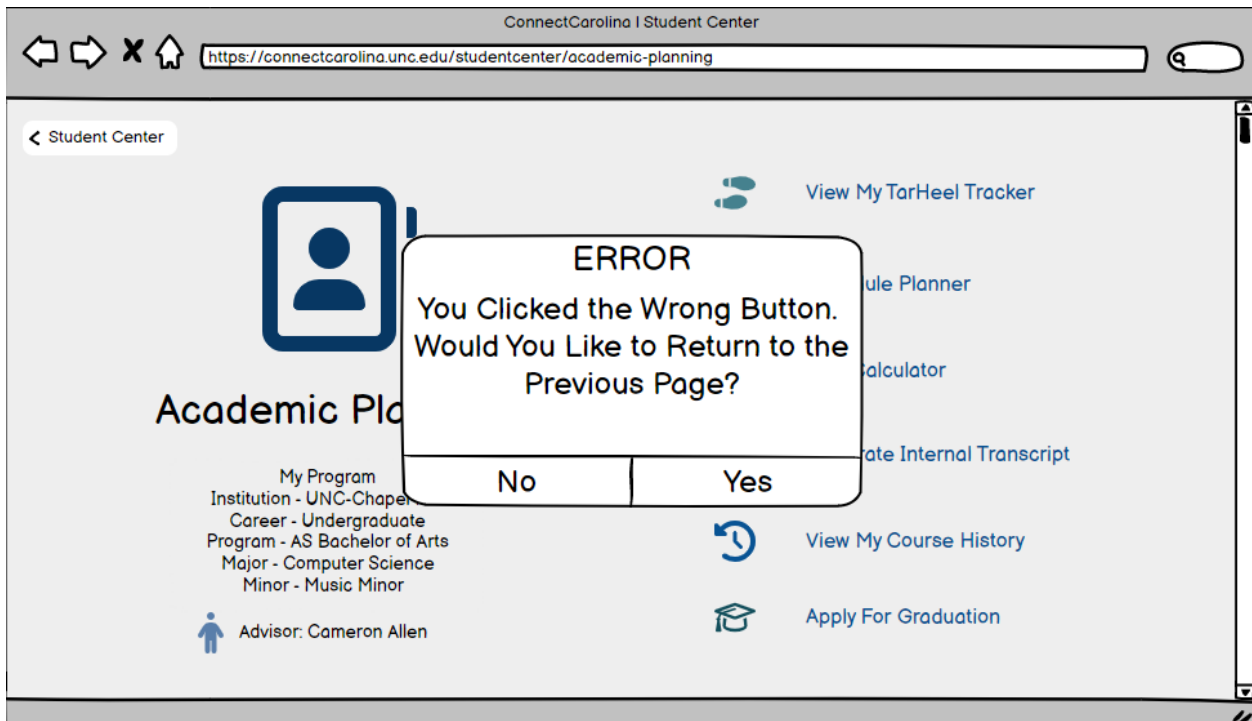
C5: Finances



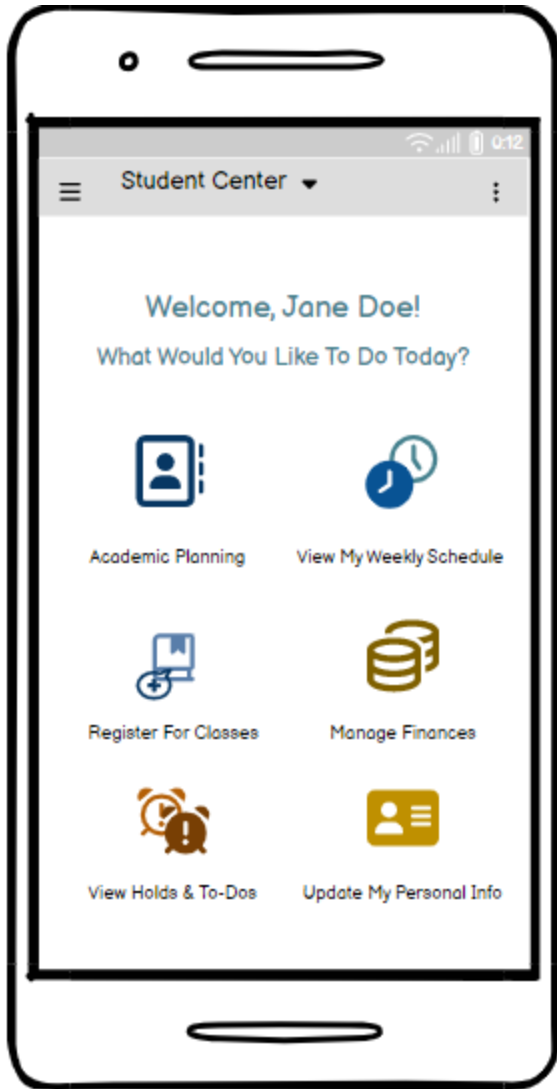
C6: Holds & To-Dos



C7: Personal Information



C8: Error Message Pop-Up



C9: Mobile View