2025 Cal State LA - STEM Core Summer Making, Academic prep, and Research for Transfer students (SMART) Internship Program

LA ECST

GROWTH SECTOR

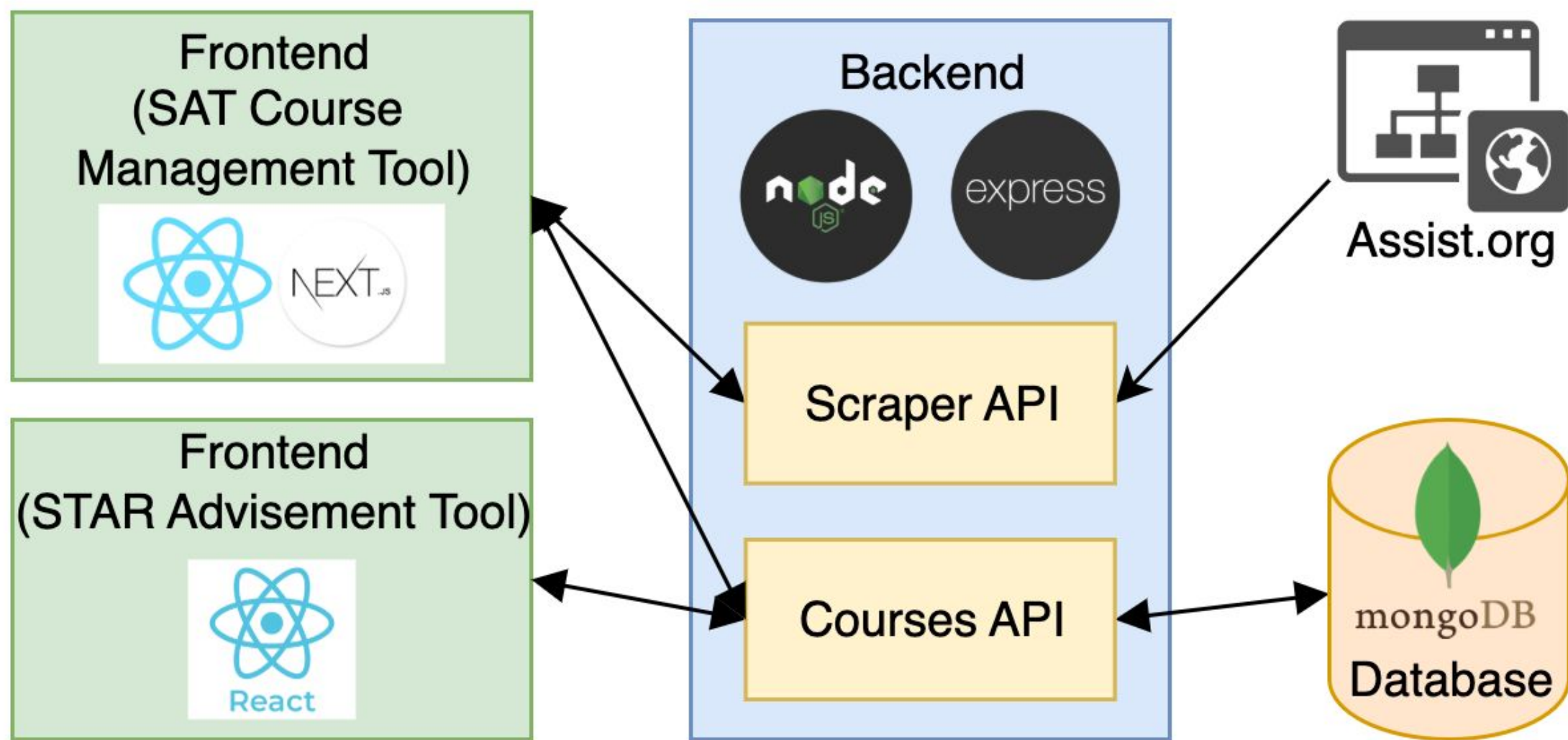# STAR Advisement Tool: Your Path to Academic Success
Team members: Jairo Quinones, Randy Berlin & Ethan Chen

- Introduction

The **STAR Advisement Tool (SAT)** is designed for transfer students at CSULA, helping them smoothly transition into their academic programs. With SAT, students and advisors can **track course progress**, **verify transferable courses**, and **plan a clear path to graduation**.
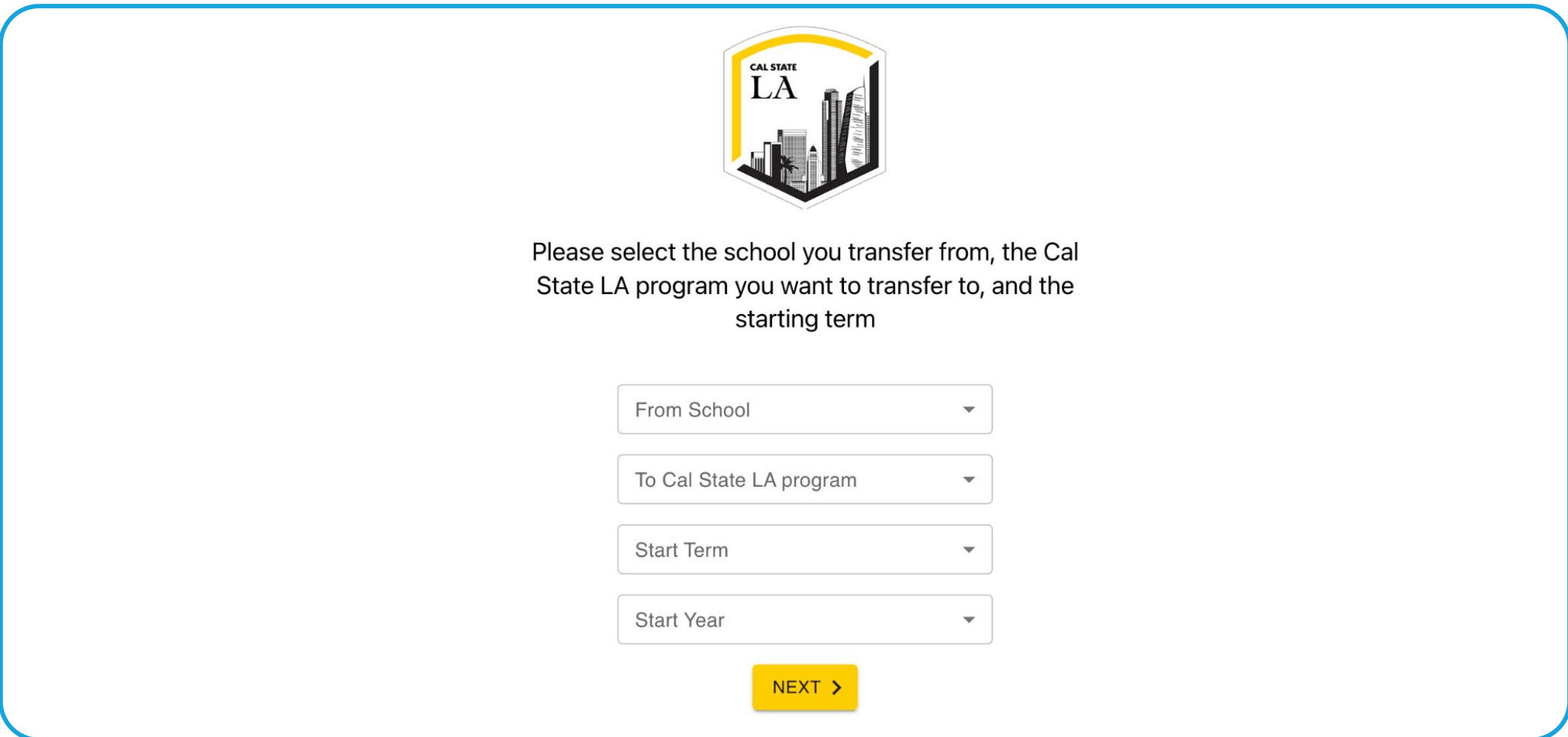
- Key technologies & tools used

We used several tools to build our project. **Visual Studio Code** was our main app for writing code. **Puppeteer** helped us control a web browser automatically to collect or interact with web pages. We used **MongoDB** to store and manage our data. For the user interface, we used **React** and **Next.js** to make the website fast and easy to use. On the server side, we used **Node.js** and **Express** to handle the main logic and connect everything together.

System Architecture

- Project highlights & activities

STAR Advisement Tool - Landing Page

STAR Advisement Tool - Courses Mapping Page

SAT Course Management Tool

- Intern testimonials

Jairo Quinones:
During my internship, I had the opportunity to work on the STAR project aimed at helping transfer and current CSULA students better navigate their academic journey. I designed and built a web scraper to extract course data from assist.org, which we used to populate our database to make class planning more accessible. I'm grateful for the opportunity and would recommend it to any prospective students.

Randy Berlin:
I am very grateful for the opportunity of being part of this programme and also honoured to be surrounded by such brilliant people. Being able to work with this app is a great experience. Learning more about Python coding and its similarities with Ruby is extremely valuable for the development of my career. I wish they would keep offering more opportunities like this.