

CampusKart

A campus-exclusive student marketplace - frontend MVP complete, backend in active development

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Executive Summary

CampusKart is a campus-exclusive marketplace concept restricted to verified .edu users. The frontend MVP (9+ pages, trust & safety UI, smart filtering) is complete; the backend and real-time features are in active development as part of an 11-person senior capstone team at Pace University.

The Problem

University students need a secure, verified, and community-driven marketplace to buy, sell, and exchange essential items without the risks associated with public platforms.

Key Features

- Marketplace homepage with deal-of-the-day, category browsing, and advanced search (frontend MVP)
- Persistent chat UI with localStorage-backed conversation state
- Price-bracket filters, wishlist/bookmarks, and smart badges (Hot Deal, Trending, New)
- Reviews, ratings, and campus-verification UI flows
- Responsive, mobile-first design with dark mode

Technology Stack

React 18	TypeScript	Vite	Tailwind CSS
shadcn/ui			

Architecture

The shipped frontend MVP is a React 18 + TypeScript (strict mode) app built with Vite and styled with Tailwind CSS and shadcn/ui, using localStorage to simulate persistence for listings, chat, and wishlists ahead of the real backend.

Roadmap / Future Work

The backend (Sprint 1+ on the team roadmap) will add Node.js/Express with Prisma and PostgreSQL, JWT-based .edu email verification, Socket.io-powered real-time chat, AWS S3/Cloudinary for image uploads, and SendGrid for email notifications.

Challenges & Engineering Decisions

Challenge Designing a full marketplace experience before a real backend exists.	Solution Shipped a complete, polished frontend MVP (9+ pages) using React 18, TypeScript, Vite, and shadcn/ui.
Challenge Making mocked, localStorage-backed data feel convincingly real for demos.	Solution Used localStorage to simulate persistence for listings, chat, and wishlists ahead of the backend.
Challenge Building trust-and-safety UI that must plug into real auth later without a rewrite.	Solution Designed campus-verification, review, and badge UI upfront so real .edu JWT auth wires in directly.
Challenge Coordinating frontend and backend work across an 11-person capstone team.	Solution Planned a clear Sprint 1-4 roadmap covering backend integration, chat, uploads, and deployment.

Takeaway

CampusKart's frontend MVP is production-quality and demo-ready while the backend follows a clear, sequenced roadmap - deliberate build ordering across an 11-person capstone team rather than a rushed full-stack build.

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