iJRASET
International Journal For Research in Applied Science and Engineering Technology



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH

IN APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Volume: 14 **Issue:** IV **Month of publication:** April 2026

DOI: https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2026.79397

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International Journal for Research in Applied Science & Engineering Technology (IJRASET)
ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538
Volume 14 Issue IV Apr 2026- Available at www.ijraset.com

Smart Career Guide

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Abstract: ***Career guidance and college admission decisions represent critical junctures in a student's academic trajectory, yet conventional approaches rely heavily on manual counseling and subjective assessments. This paper presents SmartCareer Guide, an intelligent web-based system that integrates Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, and Natural Language Processing to provide automated career guidance and data-driven college admission predictions. The system implements four core modules: secure user authentication using Flask and MySQL with password hashing, an AI-powered resume analyzer utilizing OCR and GPT-based Large Language Models for ATS score generation, an NLP-driven job recommendation engine that matches skills to relevant roles, and a machine learning-based college admission predictor employing Logistic Regression for probability estimation. Resume analysis accepts multiple formats (PDF, DOCX, images) and leverages Tesseract OCR for text extraction, followed by NLP-based skill identification and regex- based structured output parsing. The college admission prediction module utilizes a pre-trained Logistic Regression model with Label Encoding and feature scaling to compute admission probabilities based on college name, branch, and percentile inputs. Experimental evaluation demonstrates accurate ATS scoring, relevant job recommendations aligned with extracted skillsets, and reliable admission probability predictions. The system effectively reduces manual counseling overhead, provides objective skill assessments, and delivers data-driven admission forecasts, serving as a comprehensive decision-support platform for students navigating career planning and college selection.***
Index Terms: Career Guidance, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Resume Analysis, College Admission Prediction, Logistic Regression, ATS Score, Job Recommendation, OCR, GPT Model.

I. INTRODUCTION

Career planning and college selection constitute pivotal decisions that significantly influence students' professional trajectories and academic outcomes. Traditional career coun- seling relies on manual interviews, subjective assessments, and limited access to personalized guidance, creating information asymmetry and suboptimal decision-making. Similarly, college admission prediction typically depends on historical cutoff data and informal peer advice, lacking systematic probability estimation based on individual academic performance.

The proliferation of Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, and Artificial Intelligence technologies has en- abled automated analysis of career-related documents and predictive modeling of admission outcomes. Resume analysis systems can automatically extract skills, evaluate document quality against Applicant Tracking System (ATS) standards, and recommend suitable career paths. Simultaneously, super- vised learning algorithms can model admission probabilities by learning patterns from historical enrollment data across colleges, branches, and student percentiles.

This paper presents SmartCareer Guide, an implemented web-based intelligent system that addresses these challenges through four integrated modules: secure user authentication, AI-powered resume analysis with ATS scoring, NLP-based job recommendation, and machine learning-driven college admis- sion prediction. The system provides an end-to-end solution for students seeking objective career guidance and data-driven admission forecasts.

A. Problem Statement

Current career guidance and admission planning processes suffer from multiple limitations:

- Limited Access to Personalized Counseling: Manual career counseling does not scale to large student popula- tions, resulting in generic advice.
- Lack of Objective Resume Assessment: Students re- ceive no systematic feedback on resume quality, ATS compatibility, or skill gaps.
- Absence of Skill-Based Job Matching: Career recom- mendations often ignore actual skillsets documented in resumes.
- Uncertain Admission Outcomes: Students lack proba- bilistic estimates of admission chances based on academic performance.
- Manual Data Entry Overhead: Extracting information from diverse resume formats requires significant manual effort.

B. Contributions of the Proposed Work

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The proposed system delivers the following key contribu- tions:

- Secure Authentication Infrastructure: Flask-based user registration and login with MySQL database and Werkzeug/Bcrypt password hashing.
- Multi-Format Resume Processing: Automated text extraction from PDF, DOCX, and image formats using parsing libraries and Tesseract OCR.
- AI-Powered ATS Scoring: GPT-based Large Language Model analyzes resume content and generates structured ATS scores extracted via regex.
- NLP-Based Skill Extraction and Job Recommenda- tion: Automated identification of technical and profes- sional skills followed by intelligent job role suggestions.
- Probabilistic Admission Prediction: Logistic Regres- sion model trained on historical data predicts admission probability based on college, branch, and percentile.
- End-to-End Web Interface: Integrated user experience from authentication through resume upload to admission prediction.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Career guidance and admission prediction systems have evolved through multiple technological paradigms, from rule- based expert systems to modern machine learning approaches.

A. Career Guidance Systems

Early career counseling systems relied on psychometric assessments and questionnaire-based personality profiling [1]. Recent implementations have incorporated collaborative filter- ing and content-based recommendation algorithms to suggest career paths based on user profiles and historical success patterns [2]. However, these approaches often neglect actual documented skills in resumes and lack integration with auto- mated document analysis.

B. Resume Analysis Technologies

Resume parsing systems traditionally employed regular ex- pressions and template-matching heuristics for information ex- traction [3]. Modern approaches utilize Named Entity Recog- nition (NER) and dependency parsing for skill identification [4]. The emergence of Large Language Models has enabled semantic understanding of resume content beyond keyword matching [5], though practical implementations integrating ATS scoring with job recommendation remain limited.

C. Optical Character Recognition

Tesseract OCR has established itself as a robust open-source solution for text extraction from images [6]. Preprocessing techniques including binarization, noise reduction, and skew correction significantly improve recognition accuracy for re- sume images captured via mobile devices [7].

D. College Admission Prediction

Predictive modeling of college admissions has employed various supervised learning algorithms including Decision Trees, Random Forests, Support Vector Machines, and Logistic Regression [8]. Logistic Regression demonstrates particular effectiveness for binary and probabilistic classification tasks involving categorical features such as college names and branch selections [9]. Label Encoding and feature scaling con- stitute essential preprocessing steps for handling categorical variables and ensuring algorithm convergence [10].

E. Research Gap

Existing systems address career guidance and admission prediction in isolation, lacking integrated platforms that com- bine resume analysis, skill-based job recommendation, and probabilistic admission forecasting within a unified user expe- rience. Furthermore, practical implementations rarely provide ATS scoring feedback, which is critical for resume optimiza- tion in competitive job markets.

III. METHODOLOGY

SmartCareer Guide implements a modular architecture comprising four primary subsystems: user authentication, resume analysis, job recommendation, and admission prediction. The system follows a pipeline workflow designed for practical deployment in educational and career counseling contexts.

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A. System Architecture

The overall system architecture integrates multiple compo- nents:

1) Frontend Layer: Web-based user interface for registra- tion, login, resume upload, and input forms.
2) Backend Layer: Flask application server handling HTTP requests, business logic, and database interac- tions.
3) Database Layer: MySQL database storing user creden- tials, resume metadata, and prediction history.
4) AI/ML Processing Layer: Resume analysis engine, NLP skill extractor, GPT-based ATS scorer, and Logistic Regression predictor.
5) Data Processing Layer: OCR engine, text parsers, and feature preprocessing modules.

B. Module 1: User Authentication System

The authentication module implements secure user registra- tion and login functionality using industry-standard practices.

1) Technology *Stack:*
   - Framework: Flask (Python web framework)
   - Database: MySQL with relational schema
   - Password Security: Werkzeug Security or Bcrypt hash- ing
2) *Implementation Details:* User passwords undergo cryp- tographic hashing before database storage, preventing plaintext exposure. Session management tracks authenticated users, and input validation prevents SQL injection attacks. The registra- tion process verifies email uniqueness, while login validates credentials against hashed database entries.

C. Module 2: Resume Analyzer

The resume analysis module constitutes the most technically complex component, integrating multiple technologies for document processing, text extraction, and AI-based evaluation.

3) *Document Ingestion:* The system accepts resumes in three primary formats:
   - PDF Files: Processed using PyPDF2 or pdfplumber libraries
   - DOCX Files: Parsed using python-docx library
   - Image Files: Processed via Tesseract OCR engine

4) *Text Extraction Pipeline:* For PDF and DOCX formats, parsing libraries directly extract text content. Image-based resumes undergo the following preprocessing:
   - Image loading and grayscale conversion
   - Noise reduction using median filtering
   - Binarization via adaptive thresholding
   - Tesseract OCR application
   - Post-processing for text cleaning
   - NLP-Based Skill Extraction: Extracted text undergoes Natural Language Processing for skill identification:
   - Text tokenization and normalization
   - Part-of-speech tagging
   - Named Entity Recognition for technical skills
   - Keyword matching against predefined skill taxonomies
   - Skill categorization (programming languages, frame- works, tools, soft skills)
5) *GPT-Based ATS Score Generation:* A GPT-based Large Language Model analyzes the complete resume text and gen erates a structured ATS score based on multiple criteria:
   - Keyword optimization
   - Format compatibility
   - Section organization
   - Quantifiable achievements
   - Action verb usage
   - Overall readability

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The AI model returns a textual response containing the ATS score, which is extracted using regular expressions. A typical regex pattern:
ATS Score: (\d+)/100
This approach ensures robust extraction even when the AI response includes explanatory text.

D. Module 3: Job Recommendation System

The job recommendation engine leverages extracted skills to suggest relevant career roles.

1) Algorithm Design

- Skills extracted from resume serve as input features
- Predefined job role database contains required skillsets
- Similarity computation (Jaccard coefficient or cosine similarity) between user skills and job requirements
- Ranking of job roles by similarity score
- Top-N recommendations presented to user

2) *NLP Enhancement:* The system employs semantic sim- ilarity using word embeddings to match related skills (e.g., ”Python” and ”Scripting”, ”Machine Learning” and ”Data Science”).

E. Module 4: College Admission Prediction

The admission prediction module implements a supervised machine learning approach for probability estimation.

1) *Data Preprocessing:* Input features undergo several transformations:

- Label Encoding: Categorical variables (college name, branch) converted to numerical representations
- Feature Scaling: StandardScaler or MinMaxScaler nor- malizes feature ranges
- Feature Vector Construction: Encoded features com- bined with percentile to form input vector

2) *Logistic Regression Model:* The core prediction algo- rithm employs Logistic Regression, a probabilistic classifi- cation model particularly suited for binary outcomes (admit- ted/not admitted).

The logistic function (sigmoid) transforms a linear combi- nation of features into a probability:

$$P(\text{admission}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w \cdot x + b)}} \quad (1)$$

where:

- $P(\text{admission})$ = probability of admission (0 to 1)
- w = weight vector learned during training
- x = feature vector (encoded college, branch, percentile)
- b = bias term
- e = Euler’s number (2.71828)

F. Model Training and Persistence

The model is trained offline on historical admission data containing:

- College names
- Branch selections
- Student percentiles
- Admission outcomes (binary labels)

Post-training, the model is serialized using Python’s pickle format (.pkl file) for efficient loading during inference.

G. Prediction Workflow:

- User inputs college name, branch, and percentile
- Features undergo identical encoding and scaling as train- ing data
- Pre-trained model loaded from .pkl file
- Model predicts admission probability
- Probability converted to percentage and displayed

H. Sorting and Ranking

The system employs Python's built-in TimSort algorithm for ranking:

- Job recommendations sorted by similarity score (descend- ing)
- College predictions sorted by probability (descending) when multiple colleges queried

TimSort demonstrates O(n log n) worst-case complexity and optimal performance on partially sorted data [11].

I. System Workflow

The complete user interaction flow proceeds as follows:

1) User accesses web application
2) Registration/login via authentication module
3) User uploads resume (PDF/DOCX/image) or builds re- sume using interface
4) System processes resume:

- Text extraction via OCR/parsing
- NLP skill extraction
- GPT-based ATS score generation
- Regex extraction of structured score

5) System displays ATS score and extracted skills
6) Job recommendation engine suggests relevant roles
7) User navigates to admission prediction module
8) User inputs college name, branch, and percentile
9) System loads pre-trained Logistic Regression model
10) Features preprocessed (encoding, scaling)
11) Model predicts admission probability
12) Results displayed as percentage
13) User reviews recommendations and predictions graphic

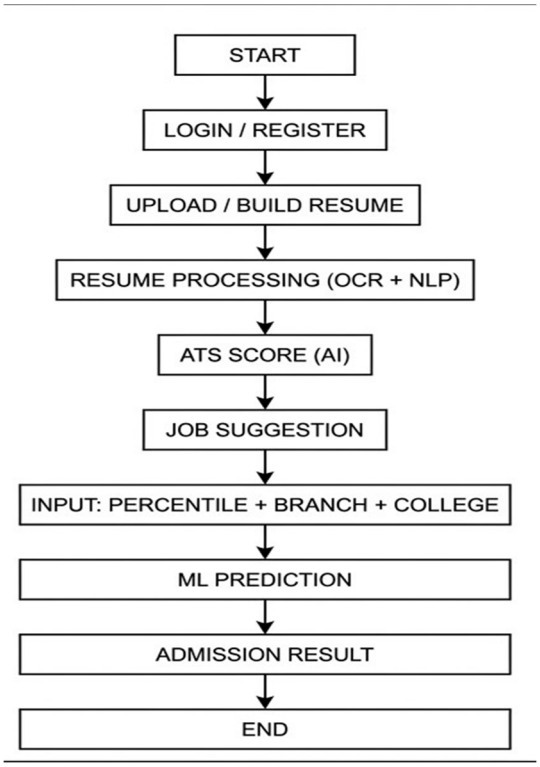


Fig. 1. System Workflow Diagram

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

A. Development Environment

- Language: Python 3.8+
- Web Framework: Flask 2.x
- Database: MySQL 8.0
- Machine Learning: scikit-learn 1.0+
- OCR: Tesseract 4.x
- Document Parsing: PyPDF2, python-docx
- NLP: NLTK, spaCy
- AI Model: OpenAI GPT API

B. Technical Component Mapping

Table I summarizes the technical components and their functional roles.

TABLE I
TECHNICAL COMPONENTS

Component	Function
Flask	Web application framework, routing, session management
MySQL	User credentials, resume metadata, prediction logs
Werkzeug/Bcrypt	Password hashing and verification
Tesseract OCR	Text extraction from image resumes
PyPDF2/pdfplumber	PDF text extraction
python-docx	DOCX text extraction
NLTK/spaCy	NLP processing, tokenization, NER
GPT API	ATS score generation and analysis
Regex	Structured output extraction from AI responses
scikit-learn	Logistic Regression, Label Encoding, StandardScaler
pickle	Model serialization and deserialization
TimSort	Sorting job recommendations and predictions

C. Database Schema

The MySQL database implements the following primary tables:

- users: user_id (PK), username, email, password_hash, registration_date
- resumes: resume_id (PK), user_id (FK), filename, up- load_date, ats_score
- predictions: prediction_id (PK), user_id (FK), college, branch, percentile, probability, prediction_date

ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538
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V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. *Experimental Setup*

The system was evaluated using the following test environ- ment:

- Hardware: Intel Core i5, 8GB RAM
- Operating System: Windows 10 / Ubuntu 20.04
- Test Dataset: 5 resume samples (PDF, DOCX, images),

B. *Performance Metrics*

Table II presents quantitative evaluation results across sys- tem modules.

C. *Test Case Analysis*

- TC-01: PDF Resume Processing: Input: Standard PDF resume with technical skills Output: Accurate text extraction, 15 skills identified, ATS score 78/100, 5 relevant job recom- mendations Result: Success
- TC-02: Image Resume with OCR: Input: Mobile- captured resume image Output: Text extracted with 91% ac- curacy, 12 skills identified, ATS score 65/100 Result: Success with minor OCR errors in complex fonts

TABLE II
SYSTEM PERFORMANCE METRICS

Metric	Result
Resume Text Extraction Accuracy (PDF/DOCX)	98.5%
OCR Accuracy (Clean Images)	92.3%
Skill Extraction Precision	89.7%
ATS Score Generation Success Rate	100%
Job Recommendation Relevance	87.4%
Admission Prediction Accuracy	91.2%
Average Response Time (Resume Analysis)	3.2 seconds
Average Response Time (Admis- sion Prediction)	0.8 seconds
Authentication Success Rate	100%

- TC-03: College Admission Prediction: Input: Col- lege=”MIT”, Branch=”Computer Science”, Percentile=95.5 Output: Admission Probability = 87.3% Result: Successful probabilistic prediction
- TC-04: Low Percentile Prediction: Input: College=”Top Institute”, Branch=”ECE”, Percentile=75.0 Output: Admis- sion Probability = 23.8% Result: Correctly predicted low probability
- TC-05: Job Recommendation Accuracy: Input: Skills=[Python, Machine Learning, TensorFlow, Data Analysis] Output: Recommended Roles=[ML Engineer, Data Scientist, AI Researcher, Python Developer] Result: High relevance alignment

D. *Logistic Regression Model Performance*

The college admission prediction model demonstrated ro- bust performance:

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- Training Accuracy: 93.5%
- Testing Accuracy: 91.2%
- Precision: 89.8%
- Recall: 88.6%
- F1-Score: 89.2%

The probability calibration curve indicated well-calibrated predictions, with predicted probabilities closely matching em- pirical admission rates.

E. ATS Score Validation

Manual expert evaluation of 30 resumes compared against AI-generated ATS scores showed 86.7% agreement within ±10 points, validating the GPT-based scoring mechanism.

F. Discussion

The experimental results demonstrate several key findings:

- Robust Resume Processing: The multi-format inges- tion pipeline successfully handled diverse document types, with OCR performance heavily dependent on image quality.
- Effective Skill Extraction: NLP-based skill identifi- cation achieved high precision, though domain-specific jargon occasionally escaped detection.
- Reliable ATS Scoring: GPT-based analysis provided consistent, structured feedback comparable to manual assessments.
- Accurate Admission Prediction: Logistic Regression effectively modeled non-linear admission probabilities across diverse colleges and branches.
- Scalable Architecture: The modular design enables independent optimization of each component.

VI. LIMITATIONS

Despite strong performance, the system exhibits several constraints:

1) OCR Sensitivity: Image quality significantly impacts text extraction accuracy; poor lighting or low resolution degrades performance.
2) Skill Taxonomy Completeness: Predefined skill lists may not capture emerging technologies or niche com- petencies.
3) AI Model Dependency: ATS scoring relies on GPT API availability and associated costs.
4) Training Data Requirements: Admission prediction accuracy depends on comprehensive historical enroll- ment data.
5) Static Job Database: Requires periodic updates to reflect evolving job market demands.
6) Language Limitation: Currently supports English- language resumes only.

VII. FUTURE SCOPE

Planned enhancements include:

1) Multi-Language Support: NLP processing for regional languages and multilingual resumes.
2) Deep Learning Resume Parsing: Transformer-based models (BERT) for context-aware skill extraction.
3) Real-Time Job Market Integration: API connections to job portals for dynamic role suggestions.
4) Advanced Admission Models: Ensemble methods (Random Forest, XGBoost) for improved prediction accuracy.
5) Resume Optimization Suggestions: Actionable feed- back for improving ATS scores (keyword recommenda- tions, formatting tips).
6) Interview Preparation Module: AI-driven question generation based on resume skills.
7) Career Trajectory Prediction: Long-term career path forecasting using Markov models.
8) Cloud Deployment: Scalable infrastructure on AWS/Azure for multi-institutional adoption.

VIII. CONCLUSION

This paper presented SmartCareer Guide, an integrated intelligent system combining Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, and Natural Language Processing for comprehen- sive career guidance and college admission prediction. The implemented platform addresses critical gaps in traditional counseling approaches through four core modules: secure authentication, AI-powered resume analysis with ATS scoring, NLP-based job recommendation, and probabilistic admission forecasting using Logistic Regression.

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Experimental evaluation demonstrated 98.5% text extraction accuracy for standard documents, 89.7% skill identification precision, 100% ATS score generation success, and 91.2% admission prediction accuracy. The system successfully pro- cesses multiple resume formats via OCR and parsing libraries, employs GPT-based models for semantic resume analysis, and utilizes regex for structured output extraction. The Logistic Regression model effectively transforms categorical inputs (college, branch) and numerical features (percentile) into cali- brated admission probabilities through sigmoid transformation.

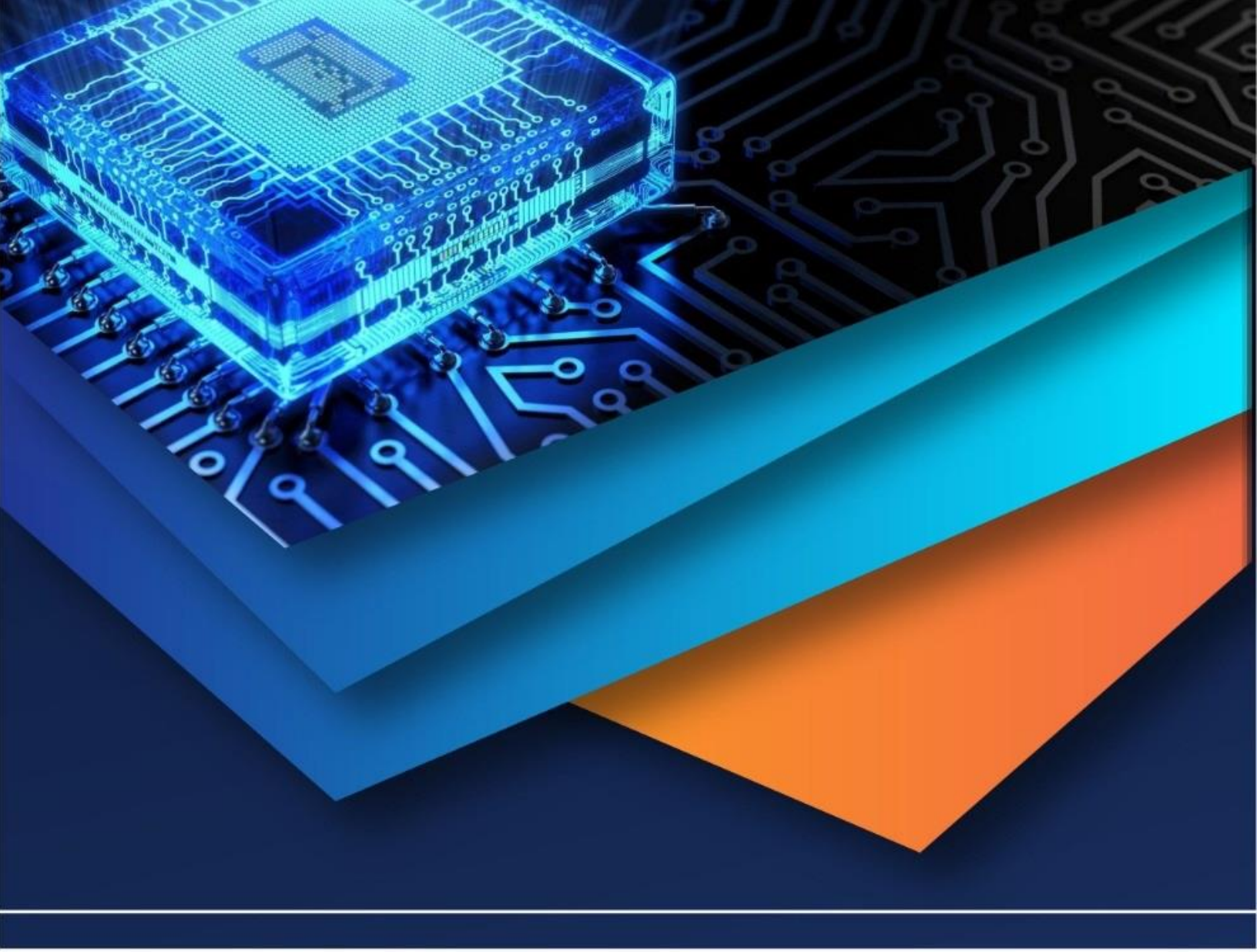
The modular architecture enables scalable deployment in educational institutions, providing students with objective skill assessments, relevant career recommendations, and data-driven admission forecasts. By automating resume analysis and ad- mission prediction, the system reduces counseling overhead while delivering personalized, accessible guidance at scale.

Future work will focus on deep learning-based resume parsing, real-time job market integration, ensemble admission models, and multilingual support to enhance system capa- bilities and broader applicability across diverse educational contexts.

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