



The Ivy Scholars Pro-Bono Program

The Ivy Scholars Pro-Bono Program

Each year, Ivy Scholars helps a group of high achieving take on the college admissions process, free of charge.

Students build their college lists, craft stellar essays, and apply to their dream schools with confidence.

With one-on-one mentorship and a well-structured curriculum, students are given every tool they need to succeed.

Our students go on to attend great colleges, and dream of changing the world.



Our Story:

Founded in 2016, Ivy Scholars sought to fill a hole in the college admissions process. Many students are overwhelmed by the college admissions process, even if they have stellar grades in high school. Ivy Scholars seeks to help parents and students navigate this challenge, and get into the college of their dreams. Our pro-bono problem was created to address issues we saw in the admissions process.

Our Mission: *Provide students that demonstrate great potential the best possible mentorship so they can compete with their peers on an equal footing.*

Problem

1. The college admissions process is confusing, and what schools are looking for is not always clear.
2. Not all students have the same access to resources, or the same opportunities to succeed.

Solution

1. Ivy Scholars has created many resources to help students with the admissions process, and has them available for free on our site. From downloadable pdfs, guides to individual schools, and a blog to discuss all facets of admissions, we try to give students the resources they need to succeed.
2. Our pro bono program gives qualified students the tools and guidance necessary to maximize their odds of college admissions success.

Program Overview

Our program is designed to help students reach their full potential.



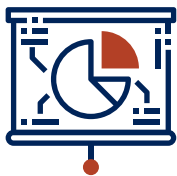
One-on-One Mentorship: Our students work one-on-one with our mentors, to give them personalized guidance, and teach them all they need to know.



Writing and Editing: We teach students to be better writers and editors, and how to shape their words on the page to create their desired result.



Future Planning: Where you attend college impacts your career and life going forward. We work with our students to determine their wants and needs for their life path.



Financial Strategy: College is expensive, and we help students figure out how to pay for it, both through financial aid, and applications to scholarships.



History

Since our founding, we have worked with almost 300 paying students, and around 10 pro-bono students. Our pro-bono students have come from schools throughout the Houston area, including Strake Jesuit, Bellaire, Clements, Austin, Kerr, Elkins, Dulles, and Tomball. Our pro-bono students have gone on to great colleges, and we are excited to see what they achieve in the future.

Results

Our students have gotten into great schools, including:



Our Team

A select group of writers, editors, and admissions experts.



Sasha Chada: Founder and CEO

- BA in Philosophy from Johns Hopkins University
- Over six years of college admissions experience helping over three hundred students
- Six years of admissions experience

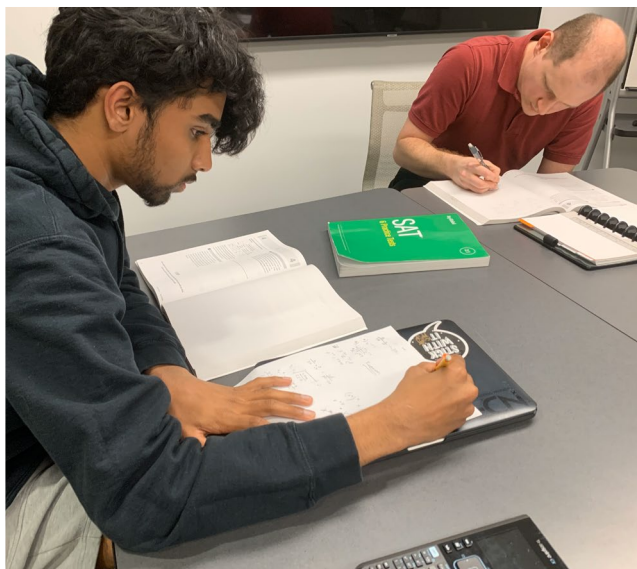
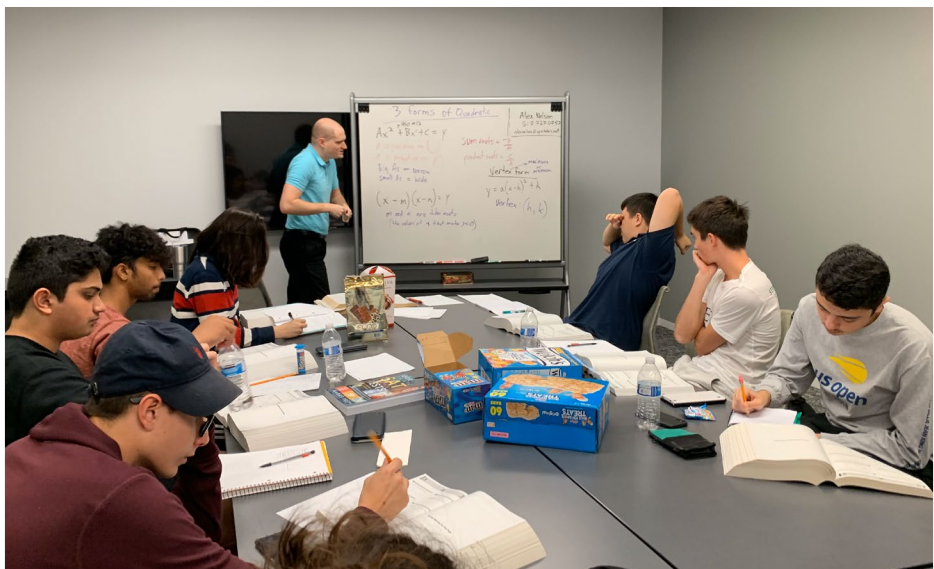


Antonio Cruz: Lead Mentor

- BA/MA from University of Chicago in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
- Master writer and editor
- Lead writer & editor for the Ivy Scholars blog

Program Timeline

December/January of Junior Year: Students <u>apply</u> to the program		March - June: <u>Application building</u>		Winter Senior Year: <u>Results</u>
	February: Students are accepted into the program		Fall Senior Year: Submission	



Curriculum Overview

We divide our program into five phases. This breaks the monumental task of college applications into more manageable pieces, and gives students clear tracks to success.

Phase 1: Planning

We start by discussing the student's goals and preparation for college. What do they want from the experience? What are their biggest concerns? What are their dream schools? We use this and the student's academic profile to build a list of schools to apply to.

Phase 2: Details

Next we deal with the details, the little pieces that trip you up if left too late. We help students fill out the application portals, compose their activities lists, and pick teachers to ask for letters of recommendation.

Phase 3: First Essays

Here we begin the writing process with the core essays. We start with the personal statement, and UT Austin's supplemental essays. These get students used to the writing process, and familiarize them with our methods.

Phase 4: Finish Writing

In this phase, we compose the remaining supplemental essays the student needs. This phase may be shorter or longer, depending on which schools the student is applying to, as different schools want varying numbers of essays.

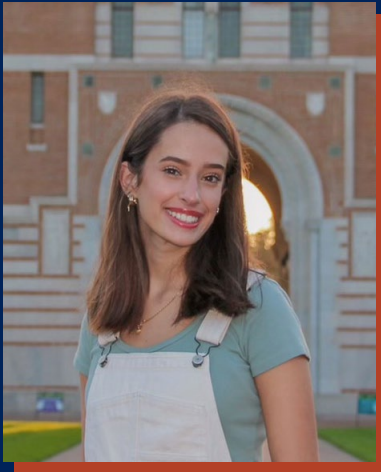
Phase 5: Final Touches

Finally we take care of any remaining details. Here we discuss interviews, applying for financial aid, and visiting schools. We also talk with students about how to choose between several schools. Our obligation to students does not end when the applications are submitted.

Student Case Studies

Here's how our past students benefited from our program.

Anna



The child of immigrants from Brazil, and recently a citizen herself, Anna was enthralled by American politics, and wanted to leave her mark on her new home. With a future goal of becoming a Senator, she had already involved herself heavily in politics in high school.

Anna knew she needed a great education to support her dreams however, and turned to Ivy Scholars to help her get it.

Our first priority with Anna was helping her determine where she should apply. Her grades were good enough to ensure admission to UT Austin, but she had her sights set higher. She wanted to attend a school out of state, and needed one which would help her with scholarships as well. We helped Anna build a list of great schools, all of which are dedicated to meeting financial need.

Anna had a great story, she just needed to tell it. We helped Anna brainstorm, draft, and edit her essays, showing her passion for the political process, and her drive to change the world and help people. Like many others, Anna desired to help as many people as she could, and saw politics as the best way to do that. In her personal statement, she showed the strength of her convictions, and how they drove her forward.

While her grades were well above average, we advised Anna to strategically retake her standardized tests in order to improve her chances of admissions success. She had done quite well on the reading section of the ACT, but her math and science scores lagged behind her potential. With some coaching, she was able to improve her scores, boosting her candidacy even further.

We sent out the applications, and Anna got accepted into Rice, USC, NYU, and UT Austin's prestigious Canfield Business Honors program. She attended the latter, due to the amazing scholarship she was awarded. We were happy to help Anna on her educational journey, and look forward to seeing how she will go on to change the world.

Student Case Studies

Here's how our past students benefited from our program.

Zara



The first in her family to apply to college in the United States, Zara was a brilliant student, but needed help to understand the admissions process. Her goal was to become a doctor, and dedicate her life to helping others. Ivy Scholars was glad to

help her on her journey.

Zara came to us with a strong academic background: her test scores and GPA were in the top 25th percentile for many of her target schools. Because of this, our primary responsibilities shifted to project management and essay assistance. Zara leveraged one of our proprietary tools to remain focused through the college admissions process and ensure no deadlines were missed. This was especially important since Zara had over 15 colleges on her list. Ivy Scholars and Zara worked together to write compelling narrative essays.

With her hard work, and a bit of help, Zara was able to get into a number of great schools. These include: UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, Howard University, Menlo College, and the Colorado School of Mines. She was also offered scholarships to Baylor College.

Zara is now studying pre-med at UCSD, well on her way to a medical career. Ivy Scholars is proud to have helped her achieve her collegiate dreams. Here's what Zara has to say about the experience:

Ivy Scholars was an incredible asset to me during my college application experience. With the COVID-19 pandemic and me being the first in my family to attend college in the United States, I was lost when I first started my college applications. I had so many questions, but no one to answer them. I was ecstatic when Ivy Scholars offered to be my guiding light pro bono, since I would not have been able to afford their services otherwise. Their detailed plan on Asana and deep, insightful comments on my personal essays helped me craft the best application I possibly could. Ivy Scholars was an immense help during a stressful time and for that, I'll always be grateful.