



# The Laurel Scholars Program

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Each year, Ivy Scholars helps a group of high school students 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 void in the college admissions process. Many students and families are overwhelmed by the college application system even if they have stellar grades in high school. Ivy Scholars seeks to help students navigate this challenge, and attend the college of their dreams. Our social good initiative was created to also change the trajectory for high achieving students who demonstrate financial need.

**Our Mission:** *To unlock the potential and transform the trajectory of marginalized high school students who demonstrate curiosity, sincere passion, commitment and drive through individualized college application coaching and mentorship.*

## The Challenge

1. The college application process has become increasingly opaque and competitive. Admission to the nation's top colleges does not come with a clear roadmap.
2. Not all students have the same access to resources, networks and opportunities to secure college acceptances despite their capabilities.

## Our Service

1. High-performing students from low income families need expert coaching to level the playing field. The Laurel Scholars Program seeks to bridge any gaps in a student's support system that may directly impact their candidacy for top programs.
2. Our scholarship 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.*



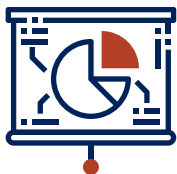
**One-on-One Mentorship:** Our students work one-on-one with our mentors, to give them personalized guidance, and individualized strategy.



**Writing and Editing:** We teach students to be better writers and editors, and how to shape their words on the page to create an authentic personal statement that will secure college acceptances.



**Future Planning:** Where you attend college impacts your career and life moving forward. We work with our students to determine their wants and needs for their life path. We also help students with the often difficult transition from high school to their chosen college.



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





## Success

100% of our scholars receive acceptance to a reach or target school. Many receive full ride scholarships. Our scholars have attended Columbia, University of Pennsylvania, Rice, UT Austin's McCombs School of Business Canfield Honors Program, Bates, and USC, with over 50% of acceptances meeting 90% of financial need.

## Results

*Our LS Alumni have attended*



# Our Leadership Team



**Sasha Chada**  
Founder & CEO



**Jennifer Garrison**  
Director of Laurel Scholars



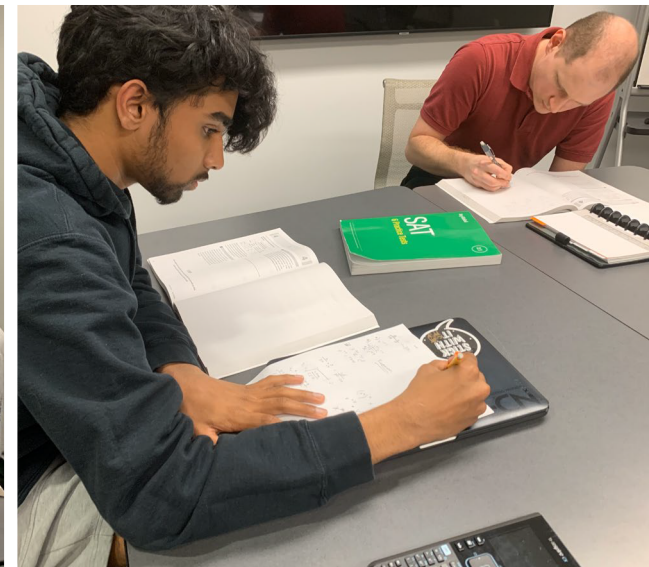
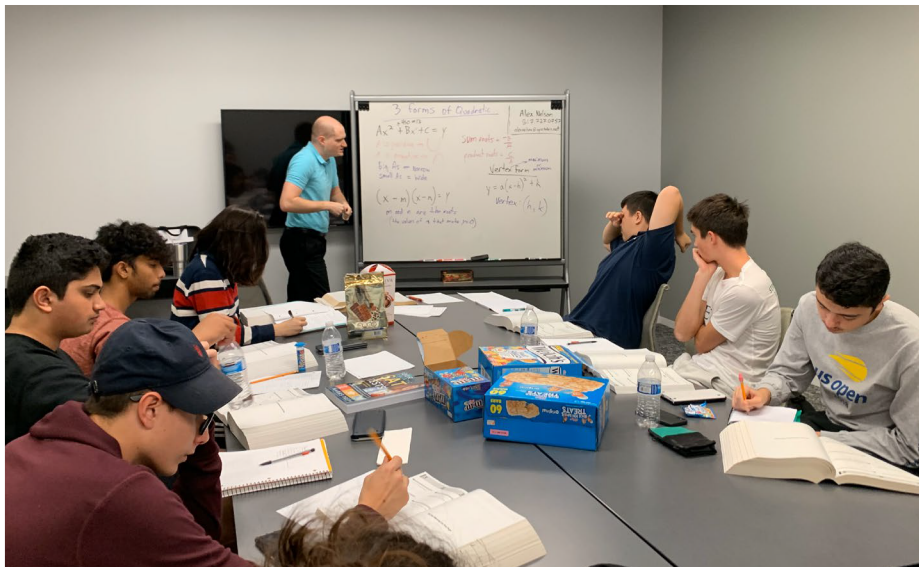
**Antonio Cruz**  
Content Lead



**Mikaela Bankston**  
Development Lead



# Program Timeline





# College Application Curriculum Overview

*We divide our college apps 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 navigate 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 the student's first choice college'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.

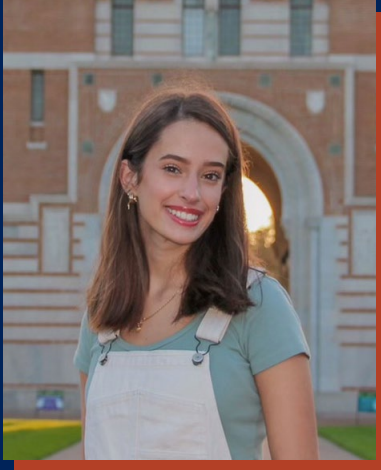
## **Phase 5: Final Touches**

Finally, we take care of any remaining details. Here we discuss interviews, applying for financial aid, and the transition to college. We guide students through how to choose between several schools. Our obligation to students does not end when the applications are submitted, we also help with post-acceptance planning and transition support.

# Student Success

*Here's how our past students benefitted from our program.*

## Anna



Emigrating from Brazil and only recently a citizen, Anna was enthralled by American politics and wanted to affect change in her new home. With a future goal of becoming a Senator, she had already involved herself heavily in politics in high school, serving as the Houston Regional Director for High School Democrats.

Anna knew she needed a great education to support her dreams and turned to Ivy Scholars to help her obtain 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. We helped Anna build a list of schools which would serve her well, all of which were dedicated to meeting her financial need.

Though Anna came in with a high GPA, we advised her in SAT strategies and helped her manage test anxiety. When she retook the tests, her scores improved tremendously.

Anna had a great story, she just needed guidance in how 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. With our help, she took her essays to the next level, and was able to submit them with confidence.

Anna was accepted into Rice, USC, NYU, and UT Austin's prestigious Canfield Business Honors program. She chose Rice, 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 Success

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

## Zara



The first in her family to attend college in the United States, Zara had excellent grades and test scores but needed help understanding 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.

We began by helping her organize her applications using our deadline management program. This tracked all of her applications, their due dates, and the materials she was working on. Zara wanted to apply to many colleges, so keeping everything organized was of paramount importance.

Next, we turned to her essays. Zara knew what programs she wanted to pursue, and we helped her craft the perfect essays to appeal to them. With her hard work and a bit of help, 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.