

# IVY SCHOLARS **STUDENT SUCCESSES**



College applications are incredibly stressful, and colleges ask more of students each year, pitting them in a fierce competition for a limited number of spots. We help guide our students in this process, and our results speak for themselves. The students we help are 5x more likely on average to get into a top school.

From MIT to Harvard, Rice to Yale, and even at UT Austin, we saw remarkable student success in the past year of admissions. We're inviting you to take a look at what we've achieved, and show you how we can help your student achieve their dreams.

### **APPLICATION SUCCESS: IVY SCHOLARS STYLE**

- A tennis player and pianist accepted into Vanderbilt ED to study biology.
- An entrepreneurial student accepted into Georgia Tech, the University of Michigan's CS program, and Berkeley's competitive MET program.
- A dancer admitted to Rice ED to study psychology.
- A champion debater from Bangladesh, admitted to Bates ED to study Political Science.
- A scout leader who did biology research and got accepted to Rice ED.
- A violinist admitted to Northeastern to major in Biology, in pursuit of pre-med.
- A coder and robotics enthusiast admitted to Rice ED to study Mechanical Engineering.
- A talented athlete recruited by Harvard to compete in track.
- The son of Indian immigrants admitted to CMU's competitive computer science program.

### HOW DO OUR ADMISSIONS RATES STACK UP?

*Very well. While admission to top colleges is always difficult, our students got in at much higher rates than average.* 

### THE IVY SCHOLARS ADVANTAGE BY SCHOOL

Just reading about individual students can give you a sense of what we can accomplish together, but we're also going to lay out the Ivy Scholars difference by school, just to give you a sense of scale for what we have achieved.



## **STUDENT BRIEFS**

Here are some brief reports of students who have seen admissions success over the past year, and how we helped them achieve it.

#### ARJUN

The child of Indian immigrants, Arjun's parents were very bright and talented people, but were completely unfamiliar with how admissions worked in the US, as it was so different from India's ranking based system. Arjun had his own concerns, as he had the impression, quite rightly, that it was more challenging to apply to certain college programs as a male of Indian descent.

Arjun was interested in pursuing computer science, and wanted the benefits a top program would provide. We helped him evaluate the potential options, and streamline his profile and application to call attention to his many strengths. We helped both Arjun and his parents understand how the application system worked, and the unique challenges that he would be facing.

With help from his mentor, Arjun crafted a remarkable suite of essays, and ended up admitted to a top ranked computer science program at Carnegie Mellon University. We are quite pleased with this result, as he was. We look forward to seeing what he will create in the future, with the bounty of knowledge he has reaped.

#### KHAN

As a company in Houston, we work with a lot of students who want to attend UT Austin. For those who qualify for its automatic admissions cutoff, it can be treated as a safety. For others, it's slightly more challenging. Khan was just outside the cutoff to be automatically accepted to UT Austin, but it was still his top school; he came to Ivy Scholars to help him achieve that goal.

This was made even more challenging because Khan was interested in engineering; specifically, he wanted to pursue aerospace engineering at UT Austin's top flight (pun intended) program. In order to set his application apart, he worked with an Ivy Scholars research mentor to complete and publish original research on how VR could possibly be used to help the mental health of astronauts on extended missions.

We then helped him organize his activities list and compose his essays to properly highlight his suite of related activities. From engineering projects to volunteering, we helped him display his passion and verve on the page, so that admissions officers could come to understand him, and see how any program would benefit from his inclusion.

Khan saw great success in his applications, even receiving a \$30,000 scholarship offer to attend Case Western. He decided to go with UT Austin however, and we wish him luck on his journey to the stars.

#### ELLEN

Some students have a top choice university, a school that speaks to them more than any other. For Ellen, that school was Northwestern. She was attracted to the school for its culture, its academic prowess, its traditions, and all else it could offer her; now she just needed to get in.

Ellen had a background of successes, but we helped her with a capstone project, supervising her computer science research and helping her publish her findings at an IEEE conference. Ellen was eager to do this research, but needed help knowing where and how to begin; our research mentor filled in these gaps, and helped her create a coherent research question, do the needed background reading, and troubleshoot difficult code.

When it came time to apply, we helped her streamline her profile to appeal to Northwestern, highlighting her long string of extracurricular accomplishments. In her essays, we helped Ellen show how she was a good cultural fit for Northwestern; exactly what they were looking for in an incoming student.

Her hard work paid off, and Ellen was accepted to Northwestern ED.

#### SAM

Some students have unique challenges when it comes to explaining their academic situations to colleges. Sam spent the first period of his life in the US, but during high school traveled and studied abroad regularly, as his father's job brought him around the world.

Falling into an odd middle ground between a domestic and international student made college applications a challenge for Sam, but Ivy Scholars was able to step in and assist. While Sam's situation created some unique challenges, it also provided him with unique opportunities to get involved with different communities and take on new projects.

As an aspiring pre med and eventual doctor, Sam explored the intersection of medicine and technology, while taking the time to give back to the multifaceted communities he found himself in. We helped him explore and explain this collection of accomplishments through his essays, demonstrating the common threads of passion and a desire to help those around him.

Sam had a number of successes in his applications, and decided to attend Emory University, where he will be studying biology as a pre med.

## LAUREL SCHOLARS BRIEFS

In addition to paying students, we also work with students through our pro bono Laurel Scholars programs, which seeks to ensure that deserving students have the access to college help they need, regardless of their financial resources.



A passionate dancer, Audrey came to us interested in pursuing medicine, specifically in applying to BS/MD programs. These are some of the most competitive educational programs in the country, but she was well up for the challenge. She had danced ballet pre-professionally, and won numerous awards for her art; she then turned that same effort to her studies.

She founded STEM Today, a project which began as an Instagram page devoted to breaking down complex research articles into forms easily digestible by high school students. While this began as a solo program, other students interested in the project soon began to reach out. She grew to lead a crew of more than 60 researchers, writers, and graphic designers, with six chapters across three countries.

In order to qualify for BS/MD programs, she needed research experience, so we helped her apply to a number of summer programs, and she was selected as a Welch Summer Scholar, an intensive internship which allowed her to gain practical experience working in a lab doing polymer research.

When it came time to apply to colleges, we helped her draft essays to tell her story, and show off her impressive number of accomplishments. She applied to a number of top programs, spreading her applications between BS/MD programs and schools with great biomedical engineering programs. She saw a great deal of success in her applications, getting accepted to Columbia, Vanderbilt, Johns Hopkins, and others.

She is preparing to attend Columbia to study biomedical engineering with a full scholarship. We are so glad we could help her, and look forward to seeing what she accomplishes in the future.

Urvi was a very talented student, who knew what her passions were, but were unsure how those would translate to a collegiate major. Urvi loved working with her hands, and participated in Odyssey of the Mind, and in theater constructing sets. We began by helping her explore where her passions could take her.

An architecture summer program let her explore that field in depth, and decide it was not quite what she was interested in. It did open a new door, and led to her pursuing engineering.

As she worked as the head of set design for her school's theater program, she came to love not just construction, but the design process, and seeing a project through from her thoughts to a finished whole.

We helped Urvi express her love for this in her essays, as she applied to a number of top engineering programs. Her goal was to find and pursue merit and need scholarships equally, and we helped her find the programs that best suited her needs. She received significant scholarship offers, and was admitted to Honors programs at Purdue, Clemson, and Ohio State, with another major scholarship offer from Smith College.

After some deliberation, Urvi decided to attend UT Austin, where she is double majoring in mechanical engineering and the Plan II honors program, which she received a scholarship for. We are so happy we could help her on her journey, and look forward to seeing great things from her in the future.

