

STANFORD - CASE STUDY



NAME

A.F.

COUNTRY

USA

GPA

4.5

INTENDED MAJOR

BioMedComp

TYPE

REA

GOING TO

Stanford University

OTHER APPLICATIONS

University of Texas, Purdue, University of Illinois, University of Michigan, UC Berkeley, Northwestern, Harvard, UChicago, Columbia, UPenn, Yale, CMU, MIT, Yale, Cornell, Princeton, Columbia

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE LOAD

Semester 1

- AP Chemistry - (AP)
- Honors Multivariable Calculus - (HON)
- AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism - (AP)
- Honors European History - (HON)
- Honors Advanced Biology: Genetics and Evolution - (HON)
- Spanish: Intermediate Mid B - (C PREP)
- English 12: American Gods - (C PREP)
- ISP: Linear Algebra (Applied) - (C PREP)

Semester 2

- AP Chemistry - (AP)
- Honors Multivariable Calculus - (HON)
- AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism - (AP)
- Honors European History - (HON)
- Honors Advanced Biology: Genetics and Evolution - (HON)
- Spanish: Intermediate Mid B - (C PREP)
- Digital Visual Arts - (REG)
- English 12: Flash Fiction and Poetry (Blended Learning) - (C PREP)

GRADES

Grade 9	
Subject	Grade
MATH	A
BIOL	A
COMPSCI	A+
HIST	A

Grade 10	
Subject	Grade
PRE-CALC	A
PHYS	A
COMPSCI	A
HIST	A

Grade 11	
Subject	Grade
CALC	A
PHYS	A
CHEM	A
COMPSCI	A

ENG
EnA
OTH/ELE
A+

HIST
A
ENG
A

HIST
A
ENG
A

CLIENT CASE STUDY



ACADEMIC HONORS AND TESTING

Honors

- Cum Laude - School - 11, 12
- Erasmus Society - School - 11, 12
- Third Place Individual Precalculus Contest Regionals - ICTM State/Regional - 11
- Best Personal Essay Award - School - 11
- Senior Division, 2nd Place, Society of American Musicians Guitar Competition - State/Regional - 10

Testing

ACT

Composite - 35
English - 35
Math - 36
Reading - 36
Science - 33

SAT Subject Tests

Math Level 2 - 800

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Research 11,12

- Bioinformatics Research Intern, Hematology/Oncology Section, Department of Pediatrics, University of Chicago

Music: Instrumental 10,11,12

- Classical Guitarist, Northwestern University Summer Guitar Workshop

Journalism/Publication 10,11,12

- Arts Editor [12], Staff Member [10-12], The Forum (Latin's School Newspaper)

Science/Math 10,11,12

- Math Team Member, Latin School Math Team

Athletics: JV/Varsity 9,11,12

- Tennis, Varsity Member, University of Chicago Laboratory High School and Latin School Boys' Tennis Team

Other Club/Activity 10, 11, 12

- Team Member, Latin School Chess Team

Music: Instrumental 11,12

- Co-Head [12], Ensemble Member [11, 12], Latin School Ensemble Music Club

CLIENT CASE STUDY



AddedEducation

HOLISTIC APPROACH

How to get in

Stanford takes a holistic approach like all the top school meaning that they evaluate all different components of your application, and while numbers are important, they aren't everything.

Extracurricular activities are key and their many supplemental essays are great places to showcase leadership, creativity, and a knack for doing the extraordinary. Your personal story or narrative is something that they will take a look at very closely.

How do you stand out?

Showcase your excellence. Highlight all of your greatest academic, extracurricular, and personal accomplishments.

Focus on the Stanford supplemental essays. Stanford has set itself apart with a long supplemental application. Students who take time to fill this out carefully show that they care about Stanford in particular.

STEPS TAKEN

INTERNAL DISCUSSION

In our initial discussion we wanted to hear his story. We sat with the family and went through his entire life story to try and pinpoint parts of his life that we can use for his narrative. Now this is a pretty well off family as most of our clients are and so they hadn't gone through a lot of hardships. What we did find was that at a young age, his older sister died of cancer and he wrote an essay on that story and won best essay award at school. Another thing we discussed is what Majors he would interested in and it fell somewhere between computer science and biology, Finally we discussed his extracurricular activities which consisted of tennis, math, chess, and guitar.

IDENTIFY THE NARRATIVE

From the previous discussion about his story, his interested major, and his extracurricular activities, we brainstormed a narrative that will connect the various aspects of his profile within the same theme. What stood out the most was of course the passing of his sister to cancer and we decided that this will be the front and center of his narrative. The family was reluctant at first to use something so personal to them. But they came around after thinking of what better way to use such a tragedy and make something good come out of it. So in the movie industry they have this saying, Don't let the truth get in the way of a good story. Now what that means is that story is king. Details and timelines can be moved around. So with a bit of finessing we created the story that his sisters passing was the catalyst that drove him to work so hard at what he does. Everything that he did after the fact was in service to his end goal, trying to find a cure for the cancer that took his sister. From the internships at the research center looking at the exact form of cancer that inflicted her.. to his music and how his sister played a part in his interest in that... to the future school he wanted to go to further his studies on cancer research. A solid narrative.

CLIENT CASE STUDY



AddedEducation

UNIVERSITY CHOICES

His intended major was computational biology. Which involves using computer algorithms to detect cancer stuff basically... It's all very technical and I didn't understand any of it. So we took a look at some schools that had this or something like this as a major and we ended up with this college list.

So this was it. His targeted schools no safety schools, well I guess UCLA, Duke, and Purdue can be considered safety in this group.

Anyways so now we have the list of schools we started to plan out a strategy, mapping out the exact steps necessary.

IDENTIFY EA & ED CHOICES

This family initially did not want to apply to Stanford. They knew the percentage of students admitted and felt that it was way too difficult to get into and would rather ED to an easier school. However, Akshay being Akshay, threw down the gauntlet and asked them what their dream school was, which was Stanford, and got everyone on board. So we have our narrative, we have our goal. Next we had to plan out each step of the way.

INITIAL RESEARCH

We did some research on Stanford and we found that they are looking at not only who the applicant is, but who the applicant will be in the future. They also want people who want to go to Stanford and know all about the school. So the first activity we gave our client was to research on the "selected major's" scene in Stanford including the clubs and organizations to show that he knew all about Stanford and what they have to offer and to identify companies for future possibilities on commercializing research to show that our client is thinking of the future post graduation where his research would do the most good.

SECURED RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

We spoke to the family and we identified some high target individuals who would be willing to write a rec letter for my client. We pinpointed two individuals, one was the Chair of Pediatrics at the University of Chicago where my client was an intern and the other was the head of the internship. To make a long story short after some emails back and forth we got them both to agree that we would write the letters, send it to them, and they would sign it which is where we wanted to be. Now you need to have had a close relationship with your recommended if you want to do this but if you can, do it.

ESSAYS AND SUPPLEMENTALS

For his main CommonApp personal statement. He discussed how as a young child he was first jealous of his older sister always getting attention because of her illness. We followed his story through her death and into adulthood where he was finally able to make peace with the fact that out of such tragedy could make him into a better stronger person.

CLIENT CASE STUDY



WEBSITE

So we have the narrative, all the bits and bobs between, the incredible essays and now needed to package them all together with the website.

So what I was going for was the site is a letter to Isabella his sister and through the site is his journey starting with his early memories of her through her death and subsequent activities from music to his internship and how it was all a result of the tragedy but in the end thanking her.

COMMON APP

- Double check all information has been populated correctly
- Check all essays for grammar or spelling mistakes
- Check to see if all transcripts and recommendation letters have been submitted
- Give the family the ok to submit

MOCK INTERVIEW

Prepare for admissions interview

- Research interviewer and prepare some personal questions for you to ask them about their time in Stanford
- Give client AddedEducation's document of probable Stanford interview questions for the client to fill out the answers to
- Practice giving mock interviews switching between counselor and counselor manager until the actual interview will take place

FINAL TAKEAWAYS

- You need high baseline academics, with SAT scores above 600 (ideally 750 in each section)
- You need to have a diverse set of extracurricular at which you're good (but not necessarily a pro)
- You need to have something you are passionate about and have it show through in your application. Keep in mind that Stanford has a slight STEM (engineering) emphasis. So if your focus is outside STEM, you should be the best you can be in that area and, if possible, try to tie that work into some potential interdisciplinary work with STEM.
- Your application should have a cohesive narrative or underlying theme to make sure it stands out