



Why Choose IvyClimbing?

For Package Students: Rising Seniors and Seniors

Information packages are sent to families around mid-October each year. If you are interested in our package, please give us a call in the fall.

Extremely Small Student-to-Advisor Ratio: ~7:1. With large student-to-counselor ratios sweeping across California schools, the greatest value we provide may be our one-on-one, in-person, close advisor-to-student mentorship in a caring environment.

Referral-Based Business: All of our students find us through word of mouth, not through paid advertisement.

Focus: We give 100% of our attention to our college admissions advising service. Unlike some other services, we do not sell seminars to the public, teach SAT prep classes, or offer other services on the side. We concentrate solely on your journey to college.

Commitment: Our advisors work with students from the very beginning to the very end of the college application process. From brainstorming the first essays all the way through until they move into their dorms, we are committed to our students' learning, goals, and success. We provide support until they meet their college roommates.

Availability: Unlimited. Our students are unique individuals, so while we do outline a plan for the year, there's no set number of meetings that students will attend with their advisors. Some students work well independently; others work better collaboratively. Some students will come to our office once a week or more; some students will be emailing back and forth with their advisors while traveling out of the area. Your student and her/his advisor will meet on a mutually convenient schedule that suits your student's learning style, and there's no limit to the number of meetings s/he will have. When your student is away, your advisor is available by phone and email. To put it simply, we are here for your student.

Summer Programs: Our work begins in late fall or midwinter, when we select the competitive summer programs to which students will apply, based on what will strengthen their overall college applications. After choosing programs, we brainstorm essays, then revise and edit them together; we help students develop creative, narrative-style essays that will stand out from the pack. We help students create and revise writing portfolios, arts portfolios, and/or research abstracts as necessary. Then we help students track all the application details, including recommendation letters. With this summer programs application process, we train your student for the rigorous college application process.

Classes: In support of our one-on-one work with students, we offer classes on writing creative admission essays, preparing for strong letters of recommendation, choosing a major, and other pertinent topics. Our advisors each teach classes in their areas of expertise—such as “Writing for Publications” and “Writing the Dreaded ‘Why Essay’”—making the most of our diverse backgrounds. Our seminars and workshop-style classes—some for students, some for students



and parents—give students and families the kickstart they need to make the most of working with IvyClimbing.

Strategy: College admissions officers really do consider each student’s application in its entirety. They review applications holistically, taking the whole person into consideration. We do the same. We design a personalized strategy for each student that takes into account the student’s academic strengths, extracurricular activities, special talents, and character. We also help students tailor their applications to each school, revise essays, and declare the most pertinent areas of academic interest. There is no formula, and we do not create cookie-cutter applications. Your student’s applications will be just like your student: unique.

Rigorous Writing: At a recent student-parent panel, the father of a Harvard student said that one of the biggest benefits of working with IvyClimbing was the improvement in his son's writing. In addition to working with students on their college admissions essays, we help students draft a variety of other materials: essays for summer programs, questionnaires for those who will write their recommendation letters, resumes, even articles for publication. Our students not only get admitted to college; they arrive there ready to thrive.

Professional Communication: The college admissions process requires corresponding with current teachers, prospective research mentors, summer programs coordinators, journal editors, and more. We look over our students’ shoulders as they complete various forms of professional correspondence, advising them as they launch themselves into new worlds of intellectual discovery. Our students start college with strong communication skills that will help them access research, internships, and the plethora of resources that colleges and universities offer.

Follow-Up and Follow-Through: We want students to learn to take charge of their own process and keep track of their own deadlines. However, when students need help keeping track of things, we provide guidance. Sometimes overwhelmed students try to “hide” from their advisors, but they can’t! We are nice, but relentless. By the time they arrive at college, students need to be masters of their own destinies: we help students develop the organizational skills to succeed in college and life.

Hospitality: Come visit us at our friendly Sunnyvale office—we’ll be glad to see you! The coffee is always flowing, and we serve more snacks than anyone should eat. We invite our students to treat our office as their office for the year—or maybe as their second home. Whether or not they have an appointment, students are welcome to stop by to say hello, plug in, and get some work done.