



# *REAL SAFETIES, MATCHES, AND REACHES*

FROM THE CLASS OF 2023

## **A Message from CAH Staff**

Hello there,

As another college admissions cycle ends, a new real safeties, matches and reaches document from the class of 2023 was created. From noticing the overwhelmingly positive response within the r/ApplyingToCollege and CAH communities, we decided to create another iteration of the Real Safeties, Matches, and Reaches document from the Class of 2023.

The purposes of this document remains the same: to provide future applicants with a resource to help them better determine what a true safety, match, and reach is, passing on wisdom from one graduating class to another. By creating this resource, we hope it helps you be better informed and more in-tune into the process plus dispel any admissions myths you may hold.

We understand this process is incredibly stressful, and full of tears, both with joy and distress. Despite the emotional rollercoaster which is the application process, we know you will all do amazing. Work hard, persevere, research, write, edit, edit, edit, and the rest will follow.

Feel free to join the College Admissions Hub Discord ([invite link here](#))! Some of the free services we provide include essay reviews & feedback, a Q&A channel about the application process with well-informed undergrads sharing their wisdom, the homework assistance channel, and help for transfer plus international applicants. We have an ever-growing population of high school and college students ready to welcome you with love and open arms.

May the odds be ever in your favor,

The CAH Discord Staff Team

# What's New?

- 25 domestic and international with more detailed descriptions of applicant's ECs, honors, essays, and recommendations.
- [One advice compilation document](#)
- An additional info section to explain atypical circumstances or key application elements which otherwise would not have been mentioned
- Advice from each applicant included in their profile

# How to Use This Resource

This document is made for all those who are applying to colleges in the upcoming cycle, as well as those who are supporting applicants (counselors, parents, siblings) and wish to be more informed about the process.

Though the mission of this year's RSMR is the same as [2021](#) and [2022](#), the two resources differ structurally. We've decided to divide the contents of RSMR into two separate files: one with domestic and international profiles (this file), and the last, a [compilation of admissions advice](#). This does not mean that international or domestic applicants should only look at their "designated" files. There are important lessons to be learnt from every profile for all applicants, regardless of where they are applying from.

We recommend readers **FIRST** read through the advice document before proceeding to the profiles themselves. It's quite easy to get lost in the results and not take in some of the amazing and insightful advice offered by recent applicants. When viewing the profiles, make sure to not focus too much on one single applicant, especially outliers. Look for trends as they will be a better predictor of your success.

# Acknowledgements

We would like to give our thanks to the many users who submitted their profiles plus contributed advice to the Admission Reflections document too. Without these people sharing their profiles and advice, those documents would not have been possible.

There are a few individuals whose contributions to this document have been integral to its creation. Thanks to Juju (ninjubub) and Jennifer (JenerallyJenius) who organized the collection of profiles and advice, being the creators behind this project. They are the reason why this document exists in its beautiful form.

Lastly, we'd like to acknowledge [RSMR 2021](#) and [RSMR 2022](#), with all that they've done to help countless applicants.

# Notes, Disclaimers, and Warnings

- Once again, entries were collected from a very skewed, competitive and unrepresentative pool. This is but a snapshot of one's application, so take the success of each profile with a grain of salt.
- Like an admissions officer, look at both the individual entries as well as the pool of entries holistically. Don't focus too much on one part of an applicant's entry or the entry of one individual
- Ratings of ECs, honours, essays, and recommendations are all self-assessed. Please take these ratings and any descriptions of these elements with a grain of salt.
- Some profiles are very long and cross-over several pages. Make sure to scroll down!

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All international applicants have a star (\*) beside their profile*

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# Amy

attending Stanford University

## advice

- ❖ “Don’t take it too personally if you don’t get in somewhere, another path is out there, waiting for you...”
- ❖ “I would start essays at the end of the summer. I found that the summer before my senior year changed me quite a bit. It’s also nice to have time to brainstorm and read other successful essays, just to spark some ideas.”
- ❖ “This is probably oversaid, but stay positive! See the good side of everything, because every cloud has a silver lining.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> Chinese-American Female	<i>high school type:</i> Public	<i>state/country:</i> IL, USA
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> N/A	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 3.84/4.0	<i>class rank:</i> 29/321
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 33 ACT: 35 english, 33 math, 31 science, 34 reading, 11/12 essay	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> Did not take any SAT II APs: 4 AP Lit, 4 APUSH, 3 AP Bio	<i>financial need (optional):</i> 89k EFC

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> Psychology + also applied to some conservatories for music performance	<i>extracurriculars:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Honor Band of America</li><li>• State level clarinetist for 3 years</li><li>• Principal Clarinetist of youth orchestra for 6 years (by audition)</li><li>• Principal Clarinetist of HS band for 4 years</li><li>• Soloist in Marching band for 3 years</li><li>• Pit orchestra</li><li>• Won 5 local concerto competitions</li><li>• Many local music competitions</li><li>• Taught clarinet lessons</li><li>• Participated in competitive music summer programs (had to be accepted beforehand)</li><li>• Mandarin summer program</li><li>• Weekly babysitting at church</li><li>• INTERACT club volunteering all throughout HS; accumulated ~500 hrs of volunteering</li><li>• VP of girls who code</li><li>• Online small business involving arts and crafts</li><li>• Volunteered / observership at local hospital</li><li>• Worked for 3 years at chinese restaurant</li></ul>	<i>essays:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personal statement was okay</li><li>• Stanford supplements were well-developed, spent a lot of time on them</li></ul> rating: 6
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	rating: 9	
<i>additional info (optional):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I submitted an additional Music supplement with most of my applications</li> <li>A parent passed away in my sophomore year, so I explained why it had a significant impact on my life during that time and beyond</li> </ul>	<i>honors:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Honor band of America (1 of 20ish chosen out of thousands)</li> <li>State level music; achieved about #4 in the state</li> <li>AP Scholar</li> <li>NHS</li> <li>Illinois State Scholar</li> </ul> rating: 6	<i>recommendations:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My clarinet teacher i started taking lessons w/ in Junior year - he teaches at a local university and went to Juilliard, we are really close (9)</li> <li>My APUSH teacher - We joked a lil in class + stuff and I paid attention (7)</li> <li>My AP Lit teacher - I did ok on the AP exam, paid attention in his class + contributed to discussions (7)</li> </ul> rating: avg~ 7.67

### results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> Western Illinois University, IU Bloomington, UIUC (EA, in-state) - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>matches:</i> Barnard College, UNC Chapel-Hill (EA), CMU, UMich - <b>UNSURE</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Johns Hopkins, Northwestern, USC, Stanford (REA), Harvard, Yale - <b>UNLIKELY</b>
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i> Western Illinois University (full ride), IU Bloomington, UIUC (\$2k a year) - <b>ACCEPTED</b>	<i>matches:</i> UMich (LSA + SMTD) - <b>ACCEPTED</b> Barnard - <b>WAITLISTED</b> CMU, UNC- Chapel Hill - <b>REJECTED</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Stanford (REA), JHU music school (15k merit a year) - <b>ACCEPTED</b> JHU (for psychology), Northwestern USC, Harvard, Yale - <b>REJECTED</b>

# Anonymous #1

attending the University of Pennsylvania

## advice

- ❖ “The process is inherently unfair and flawed. Each institution has its own needs and will work to fulfill them every application cycle. Schools are looking for well-rounded classes full of people who will uniquely contribute to the school’s community. Learn to present yourself as a promising asset to the Adcom.”
- ❖ “Also use your additional info section! If there is any ambiguity in your application, get rid of it in your additional info section.”
- ❖ “Think before you pay outrageous prices for private counseling. All my friends are upper-class and were able to get some expensive counselors who helped them out with their essays. I didn’t and solely went off the advice of r/a2c and my own research -- and it worked out just as well, if not better.”
- ❖ “Start with a document full of different perspectives, experiences, things you’ve accomplished, and otherwise interesting attributes about yourself that the admissions committee may like. Use it for brainstorming and laying out your application’s narrative from a bird’s-eye view.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> White Male	<i>high school type:</i> Single-gender Parochial School	<i>state/country:</i> Southern CA, US
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> 4.70/5	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 3.87/4	<i>class rank:</i> School does not rank (but top 5%)
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 1520	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> 800 Math II, 730 US History	<i>financial need (optional):</i> Lots (<\$10k efc)

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> east asian studies + political science/econ/global studies, specifically said I was looking to go into academia. (rn undecided but thinking about physics + eas)	<i>extracurriculars:</i> went to China twice (all expenses paid), Chinese club pres., Elementary school tutoring club founder, CSF VP, Student gov’t officer, pro video game player rating: 7.5	<i>essays:</i> common essay was on an international problem I saw and how I wanted to fix it; others were on the tutoring club, a hardship I went through, and a type of food I like. rating: 7.5
<i>additional info (optional):</i> was homeless for a short amount of time and taught myself Calc I to skip from Precalc to BC.	<i>honors:</i> leadership award (school) foreign language award (school) merit scholarship (school) rating: 3	<i>recommendations:</i> one from Mandarin teacher of three years and one from a math teacher of two. rating: 7

## results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> ASU, University of Arizona - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>matches:</i> UMich (EA), UCSD, UCSB, Cal Poly SLO - <b>UNSURE</b> UCLA, UC Berkeley, UNC-CH (EA), USC (grandparent legacy) - <b>UNLIKELY</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Rice, Vanderbilt - <b>UNLIKELY</b> Duke, Harvard, Stanford (REA), UChicago, UPenn, Yale - <b>HIGHLY UNLIKELY</b>

after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)

*safeties:*

ASU, University of Arizona -  
**ACCEPTED**

*matches:*

UMich, UCSD, UCSB, Cal Poly SLO,  
UCLA, UC Berkeley, UNC-CH, USC  
- **ACCEPTED**

*reaches:*

Rice, UPenn - **ACCEPTED**  
UChicago, Vanderbilt, Yale -  
**WAITLISTED**  
Duke, Harvard, Stanford -  
**REJECTED**

# Anonymous #2

attending University of Washington

## advice

- ❖ “It's honestly a crapshoot and sometimes it's just geography.”
- ❖ “Be okay with your safeties, sometimes there isn't a college that has everything that you want.”
- ❖ “PLEASE research what you want in a college before you decide it's your dream school, I got into mine but had to drop it because it didn't have the research areas that I wanted”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> Asian female	<i>high school type:</i> large public school (2000+)	<i>state/country:</i> Washington, USA
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> School doesn't weight	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 3.977/4.0	<i>class rank:</i> School doesn't rank
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 35	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> Math 2: 800, Physics: 760	<i>financial need (optional):</i> High income bracket

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> computer science/mechanical engineering  I picked compsci at my matches and safety and mechE at my reaches that let me declare after getting in. In hindsight, more of my ECs were in compsci so I should've stuck with that.	<i>extracurriculars:</i> I had a bunch, mainly being super active in robotics since middle school both through the school team and an outreach club . Also dabbled in rocketry, SciOly, and DECA. I had two internships, one hardware and one software that I think helped boost me up. rating: 8/10	<i>essays:</i> I really sucked at writing my essays so some were like 2/10 and others were 10/10. My regular decision ones were honestly MUCH better because practice over time. rating: 7/10
<i>additional info (optional):</i> Full IB Diploma, HLs in English, Math, Compsci, and Physics  I applied to each school for a specific program so there's not really rhyme or reason for my matches. My reaches were shotgunned, but I didn't succeed.	<i>honors:</i> National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Honor, NCWIT National Honorable Mention, tbh there's not a lot of honors available where I live rating: 5/10	<i>recommendations:</i> English teacher (10th and 12th), Math teacher (10th and 11th), Youth group advisor, Employer from first internship I picked people that watched me grow over time so that they could write about my improvements rating: not sure

## results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> University of Washington - <b>LIKELY</b> USC - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>matches:</i> Georgia Tech, Harvey Mudd, University of Michigan, UCSD, UIUC - <b>LIKELY</b> UT Austin - <b>UNSURE</b> Carnegie Mellon - <b>UNLIKELY</b>	<i>reaches:</i> UC Berkeley - <b>UNSURE</b> Caltech, Cornell, UCLA, MIT, Stanford - <b>UNLIKELY</b>

after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i> University of Washington, USC (w/ Dean's Scholarship) - <b>ACCEPTED</b>	<i>matches:</i> Georgia Tech, Harvey Mudd (w/ 10k merit), University of Michigan, UCSD, UT Austin, UIUC - <b>ACCEPTED</b> Carnegie Mellon - <b>WAITLISTED</b> > <b>ACCEPTED</b>	<i>reaches:</i> UC Berkeley, Cornell, Stanford - <b>REJECTED</b> Caltech, MIT - <b>DEFERRED</b> > <b>REJECTED</b> UCLA - <b>WAITLISTED</b>

# Anonymous #3

attending George Mason University

## advice

- ❖ “While you're waiting, you look back and think about what you could have done better, so give your best effort in advance and don't let that happen to you.”
- ❖ “Also do not care so much about rankings and prestige. Every college will have the resources to assist you for grad school and finding a career. It's better to be a big fish in a small pond, then a big fish in a bigger pond.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> White Male	<i>high school type:</i> Competitive suburban public school	<i>state/country:</i> VA
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> 4.45/4	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 3.8/4	<i>class rank:</i> 118/588
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 680 M, 680 R&W	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> none	<i>financial need (optional):</i> Yes

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> Government/Economics	<i>extracurriculars:</i> Policy Debate (2nd at the state championships), Marching Band, and President of a history tutoring club rating: 9	<i>essays:</i> Not my finest work at all... I wrote my personal statement on overcoming a speech impediment then going on to become a successful debater. My supplements were on how music introduced me to new ideas. rating: 6
<i>additional info (optional):</i> First Generation Rather terrible freshman year, but I picked it up sophomore year and eventually went on to take 10 AP's with A's in all.	<i>honors:</i> National Honors Society, Speech and Debate, AP Scholar w/ Distinction rating: 6	<i>recommendations:</i> From my AP World then AP Euro teacher who is not just a teacher, but a friend and mentor. rating: 10

## results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>Safeties:</i> George Mason University, Christopher Newport University, Radford University - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>Matches:</i> UVA - <b>UNSURE</b> Wake Forest, William & Mary - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>Reaches:</i> N/A
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>Safeties:</i> GMU Honors, CNU Honors, RU	<i>Matches:</i> UVA, Wake Forest, W&M -	<i>Reaches:</i> N/A

Honors - ACCEPTED

WAITLISTED



# Anonymous #4

attending University of Pennsylvania

## advice

- ❖ I go to a feeder. I am representative of the fact that this process is not a meritocracy. My classmates are even more representative of that. I probably would not have gotten into the schools I did from a different school. Hell, for waitlists, our counselors call schools (which they have connections with) and advocate for us. Many of my classmates are going places because their parents are connected or they have massive legacy or they are billionaires. Or all three. I have become so jaded to this all. You should be, too.
- ❖ Play their game. Tell colleges you know exactly what you want to do (based on the things you currently do). Sell yourself, even if you have no clue what you want to be. They want a well-rounded class, not well-rounded individuals. You will not fit into their master plan if you just do a bunch of stuff without a larger narrative to it, in some form. Go to a better high school, if you can. *Write good essays.* Write, rewrite, scrap and write anew. Choose a unique topic, but not too quirky—that can backfire.
- ❖ This is something that I've found happened to me and a bunch of my friends—once the college process was done, senior spring felt like a malaise. Because the external motivating purpose that was college was gone, we were forced to confront our inner lack of drive. I think it's incredibly important, once you get out of the process, that you recognize the existence of those external purposes that society gives you. Don't just get sucked into the next one (finance); please, please, think long and hard about what you actually want, what that internal purpose will be.

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> Mixed Asian / White	<i>high school type:</i> Private, boarding school, prestigious feeder (30% to Ivy / equivalent /yr)	<i>state/country:</i> MA
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> School does not calculate weighted, high course rigor.	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> Unweighted is on strange school specific scale. Not provided for anonymity. High upward trend, close to perfect from sophomore year onwards.	<i>class rank:</i> Top 10% (cum laude)
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 1560 (800M/760R+W)	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> 800 Math II, 750 Chem	<i>financial need (optional):</i> N/A

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> Political Science / IR / Econ, depending on school. rating: 4/10, slightly impacted. Should've tried for more niche, especially tying into my internship.	<i>extracurriculars:</i> Debate club senior board, MUN senior board, multiracial affinity group head, essentially HS version of an RA for 2 years, summer internship at Harvard research center, music column in weekly school paper, JV sports, some other small things. I think maybe I should've tried to focus hard on a few things instead of spreading. rating: 8/10	<i>essays:</i> Wrote EA CA on how I challenged the status quo through extended quirky metaphor, changed for regulars to be about debate teaching me to take risks. Supplements were honestly fairly solid, CA feels too boring now looking back on it. Don't think I was good enough at debate to write an essay like that. Written well in terms of prose. rating: 5/10
<i>additional info (optional):</i> Legacy at Princeton through dad, double legacy at Northwestern (grad	<i>honors:</i> School history award, national merit, ap scholar w/ distinction. Best	<i>recommendations:</i> one from history teacher, he really loved me. Other was from physics

school)	delegate at large collegiate MUN conferences (HMUN, NAIMUN, etc.). Some smaller debate awards, no tournament wins / bids to world qualifiers. rating: 4/10	teacher, who only had me one term but who coached me. That was probably bad. Additional rec from boss from summer internship. rating: 8/10 1st rec, 5/10 2nd, 6-7/10 3rd
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**results**

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> UVA, Georgetown SFS - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>matches:</i> Rice, WashU - <b>LIKELY</b> Amherst, CMC - <b>UNSURE</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Vanderbilt, Northwestern, Brown, Penn - <b>UNSURE</b> Princeton (SCEA deferred), Yale, Stanford - <b>UNLIKELY</b>
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i> UVA, Georgetown SFS - <b>ACCEPTED</b>	<i>matches:</i> Rice, WashU, Amherst, CMC - <b>WAITLISTED</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Penn (accepted off RD waitlist), Vanderbilt, Northwestern MMSS - <b>ACCEPTED</b> Brown, Penn - <b>WAITLISTED</b> Princeton, Yale, Stanford - <b>REJECTED</b>

# Cami

attending MIT

## advice

- ❖ “No use applying to all Ivies cause I doubt all Ivies are a good fit for you. If you're applying for the clout, you're doing it wrong.”
- ❖ “Be genuine and honest in everything you write and do. Also, don't worry about prestige. Fit is what matters most.”
- ❖ “Worrying about other people's applications and comparing yourself to them makes it a more difficult process overall.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> Filipino female	<i>high school type:</i> Competitive private	<i>state/country:</i> California
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> 4.88/5.0	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 4.0/4.0	<i>class rank:</i> No rank
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 1550/36	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> 750 Chemistry, 760 Math 2	<i>financial need (optional):</i>

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> applied to each school as either Bioengineering/Biomedical Engineering	<i>extracurriculars:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Founded my own nonprofit organization where I traveled to the Philippines and donated books to three elementary schools there</li><li>• Started my school's Equality in STEM (EISTEM) club</li><li>• Started mentorship program called STEMtors where seniors mentor middle school students in science fair</li><li>• Interned at Boeing</li><li>• San Diego Zoo Global's Conservation Corps</li><li>• Academic Decathlon</li><li>• Write and produce my own songs</li></ul> rating: 8	<i>essays:</i> Focused on <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Love for music and creation</li><li>• Interest in biomedical engineering</li><li>• Filipino identity</li><li>• Boeing Internship</li><li>• Creation of Equality in STEM club</li></ul> rating: 8
<i>additional info (optional):</i>	<i>honors:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Certificate of Recognition from the Department of Education of the Philippines</li><li>• Champion of the Fall Out Boy Fund Award</li><li>• Science Department Student of the Year</li><li>• Adv. Sci. and Eng. Program (ASEP) Student of the Year</li><li>• Award of Excellence in Sci., Tech., and Measurement</li></ul>	<i>recommendations:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AP Lang/Honors English I teacher - advocated for my creative side, heard a lot of the music I wrote, saw a lot of my analytical pieces - 7/10</li><li>• AP Biology/EISTEM adviser/ASEP teacher - wrote about the creation of EISTEM and STEMtors and my pursuit of various projects - 10/10</li><li>• Boeing head and adviser -</li></ul>

	rating: 8	validated my work done at Boeing, advocated for my leadership skills - 9/10 rating: 9
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**results**

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> Santa Clara University, UC Davis, San Diego State University - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>matches:</i> University of Southern California, UC San Diego - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>reaches:</i> MIT (EA), Johns Hopkins University, Duke, Stanford, Columbia - <b>UNLIKELY</b> UC Berkeley, University of Michigan - <b>UNSURE</b>
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i> UC Davis - <b>ACCEPTED</b> San Diego State University, Santa Clara University - <b>WITHDREW</b>	<i>matches:</i> University of Southern California, UC San Diego - <b>ACCEPTED</b>	<i>reaches:</i> MIT (EA) - <b>ACCEPTED</b> UC Berkeley - <b>WAITLISTED</b> Duke - <b>REJECTED</b> Johns Hopkins University, Stanford, Columbia, University of Michigan - <b>WITHDREW</b>

# CoPilot

attending University of Michigan

## advice

- ❖ “Don't think too highly of yourself... but at the same time don't be too humble.”
- ❖ “Don't let a decision define you. I was rejected from all my top reaches for engineering as a mediocre Asian male going into engineering except for one: The University of Michigan. So, have hope and know it all works out for the best in the end.”
- ❖ “Apply EARLY. I was accepted to nearly every early action college while rejected/waitlisted from all of my RD schools.”
- ❖ “Apply to FINANCIAL safeties.”
- ❖ “Don't just apply to colleges to show off to your friends/family. Apply if you can truly see yourself there and would enjoy living there for the next few years.”
- ❖ “When visiting a college, try and forget about rankings and view it objectively. Your happiness and well-being is much more important than how esteemed the university is.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> Asian (Indian) / male	<i>high school type:</i> Public	<i>state/country:</i> NJ / USA
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> 4.90 Weighted / idk...	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> NA (but I mostly had B+/A- in AP classes)	<i>class rank:</i> 16/452
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 1510 (790M, 720 E), didn't send 35 ACT	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> Math II : 790, Chem: 770, Physics: 720, didn't send	<i>financial need (optional):</i> Yes

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> Mechanical/Aerospace Engineering	<i>extracurriculars:</i> No school sports or anything, but I helped start my own music club. Participated in a few hackathons, workshops, and summer programs I found interesting. Volunteered at local organizations. Just spent my time doing things I enjoyed. I did NOT try and juggle multiple things that look good on paper. rating: 6	<i>essays:</i> Spent a lot of time on them. I did not really have a life-changing event or any hooks, but I did start writing drafts early and was satisfied with what I had. rating: 7
<i>additional info (optional):</i>	<i>honors:</i> National Honors Society, Commended National Merit, AP Scholar with Distinction, Won awards at two hackathons. rating: 4	<i>recommendations:</i> Asked my Physics teacher which I had my Junior and Senior year of High school and my Pre-calculus teacher which I had my sophomore year. I was never the kid that kissed up to them for a better recommendation. I just did my work in that class, asked good questions, and performed well. rating: 5

results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> Rutgers University, Virginia Tech, Purdue University - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>matches:</i> Northeastern, UMD College Park- <b>LIKELY</b> Georgia Tech- <b>UNSURE</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Cornell (ED), Rice - <b>UNSURE</b> Princeton, UPenn, Duke, CMU, Johns Hopkins, University of Michigan - <b>UNLIKELY</b>
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i> Rutgers (Honors College 10k/year), Virginia Tech (Honors College), Purdue University - <b>ACCEPTED</b>	<i>matches:</i> UMD College Park (Scholars Program)- <b>ACCEPTED</b> Northeastern - <b>WAITLISTED</b> (lol) Georgia Tech - <b>REJECTED</b>	<i>reaches:</i> UMich (60k in grants+awards / year OOS) - <b>ACCEPTED</b> Rice - <b>WAITLISTED</b> Cornell, Princeton, UPenn, Duke, CMU, Johns Hopkins - <b>REJECTED</b>

# Doggo

attending Harvard University

## advice

- ❖ “Even though shotgunning worked for me, I don't know if it was worth it. I applied to 27 colleges, was accepted at most of them, but only considered two that accepted me. If I did it again, I would've only applied to around 7 colleges.”
- ❖ “Be wholesome. Find someone to study with, someone to remind you of upcoming deadlines, someone to review your essays, etc.”
- ❖ “Write like you're running out of time.”
- ❖ “Time management is actually the most important part of your application.”
- ❖ “First semester senior year is so much worse than second semester junior year.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> Asian/Male	<i>high school type:</i> Private (Catholic)	<i>state/country:</i> New York
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> 4.38/~4.44 (highest possible)	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 4.00/4.00	<i>class rank:</i> N/A
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 1600/36 all-11 Essay	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> 790 Math 2, 800 Bio M 5s on 6 APs	<i>financial need (optional):</i> middle-class, but low EFC

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> CS  <i>Applied:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Undeclared engineering to Harvard</li><li>• CS to non-CS schools</li><li>• Undecided to CS schools</li></ul> <i>Interests:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stats</li><li>• Writing</li><li>• Economics</li><li>• Philosophy</li></ul>	<i>extracurriculars:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student Government President (raised \$30k)</li><li>• Basically every club in the school, including speech &amp; debate</li><li>• half the sports at school</li><li>• piano and tenor sax</li><li>• Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Squadron Commander (few roles and a few national competitions)</li><li>• Columbia University Science Honors Program</li><li>• online Multi Calc at Stanford</li></ul> <i>rating:</i> 9	<i>essays:</i> Personal statement was straightforward.  For my supplements, I mixed heartfelt childhood memories with reference barfing and fun phrases. <i>rating:</i> 7
<i>additional info (optional):</i> As a middle-class Asian Male in CS, my application was “impacted”, but I think being an immigrant with lots of leadership experience helped my application.	<i>honors:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eagle Scout</li><li>• National Merit Semifinalist</li><li>• AP Scholar with Distinction</li><li>• President's Volunteer Service Award Gold Twice (with Special Commitment to Education in 2016)</li><li>• National winner for an Aerospace award</li></ul>	<i>recommendations:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Math (8)-although I didn't even pay attention in her class, she's just good at recommendations</li><li>• Humanities (7)-restarted History Bowl team</li><li>• Principal (8)- description of me</li><li>• Colonel in the United States Air Force (9)- description of my activities</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CT History Bowl Champs</li> </ul> rating: 8	rating: 8
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**results**

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> Fordham, Boston College (EA), LIU Post, RPI, Case Western, Colorado School of Mines, UMN-Twin Cities - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>matches:</i> USC, UCLA, UCSD, Notre Dame Georgia Tech (EA) - <b>LIKELY</b> Vanderbilt, Duke - <b>UNSURE</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Cornell, UC Berkeley, UPenn, JHU, Rice, UChicago, CMU, Columbia, Northwestern, Harvard, Stanford (REA), Princeton, MIT, Caltech - <b>UNLIKELY</b>
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc)		
<i>safeties:</i> Fordham, LIU Post, RPI, Case Western, Boston College, Colorado School of Mines, UMN-Twin Cities - <b>ACCEPTED</b>	<i>matches:</i> Notre Dame (notified early), USC, UCB (Regents), Duke, JHU (Hodson-30k) - <b>ACCEPTED</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Cornell, Harvard, Caltech, Vanderbilt, Duke, Rice (15k/yr), UPenn - <b>ACCEPTED</b> U Chicago, CMU, Columbia, Northwestern - <b>WAITLISTED</b> Stanford, MIT, Princeton - <b>REJECTED</b>

# Eric

attending Amherst College

## advice

- ❖ “Get standardized testing done ASAP, especially subjects.”
- ❖ “As long as you're qualified enough, it's all a crapshoot.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> Hispanic Male	<i>high school type:</i> Large Uncompetitive Public	<i>state/country:</i> TX
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> 4.34/4	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 3.69/4	<i>class rank:</i> 8/608
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> SAT: 1520, ACT: 35	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> Math 2: 800, U.S. History: 750, Literature: 700, Physics: 670	<i>financial need (optional):</i> FAFSA EFC 58k

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> CS/History double(applied CS)	<i>extracurriculars:</i> 4 years varsity concert band, 1 year varsity full orchestra (different instrument), 2 years varsity CS team, school ambassador, 1 year non-varsity basketball rating: 8/10	<i>essays:</i> Mostly rushed most of them - Common App/ApplyTX was decent, supps were decent with exception of that one horrible Rice essay rating: 6/10
<i>additional info (optional):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Music Portfolio- rating: 8/10</li><li>• Only student in school with SAT/ACT above 1430</li><li>• Only student in school applying to any T50 not named UT Austin or Rice</li><li>• 25 total APs through Senior year (mostly self-studied)</li><li>• School has extreme grade deflation- adjusting for it puts UW GPA at 3.84</li></ul>	<i>honors:</i> UIL State Gold Medal, UIL State Solo and Ensemble 3 years, Region band, National Merit Finalist (2nd in school history), various local music and academic awards rating: 7/10	<i>recommendations:</i> CS teacher of 3 years, band director of 3 years, Human Geo teacher, counselor, good friend rating: 9/10

## results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> Texas A&M (Engineering/CS EA), UT Dallas - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>matches:</i> RPI - <b>LIKELY</b> UT Austin - <b>UNSURE</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Amherst College, Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, MIT, Rice, Stanford - <b>UNLIKELY</b>
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i>	<i>matches:</i>	<i>reaches:</i>

Texas A&M (1/3 Tuition/yr), UT  
Dallas (Full Ride) - **ACCEPTED**

RPI (30k Scholarship), UT Austin  
(\$1k a year) - **ACCEPTED**

Amherst (Early Write, \$10k/year  
finaid) - **ACCEPTED**  
Rice - **WAITLISTED** (declined spot  
on waitlist)  
Brown, Columbia, Cornell,  
Dartmouth, Harvard, MIT, Stanford  
- **REJECTED**

# Eun

attending California Institute of Technology

## advice

- ❖ “Don't ask too many people for advice on your essays because then, you will lose your own voice and style. Ask maybe a maximum of 2 or 3 people like a counsellor, english teacher, or an older friend who you know very well.”
- ❖ “EARLY YOUR SAFETY OR A SCHOOL YOU THINK YOU'LL HAVE A REALLY REALLY HIGH CHANCE OF GETTING IN EARLY.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> Korean/Female	<i>high school type:</i> Private	<i>state/country:</i> BC/Canada
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> N/A (about 96/100 at the time of applying)	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> N/A	<i>class rank:</i> N/A
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 36	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> Math II: 800 Physics: 800 Chem: 790	<i>financial need (optional):</i> Family can contribute up to 10k

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> Bioengineering	<i>extracurriculars:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Solo musician (national-level award winning)</li><li>• Youth orchestra, national band, BU music camp</li><li>• Captain of school science/math club and participated in all offered competitions</li><li>• Volunteer peer tutor for elementary students (coordinator for 1 year, peer tutor for 3 years)</li><li>• SHAD Valley</li><li>• Multiple internships/work experience at programming and engineering companies</li></ul> rating: 6.5	<i>essays:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They were pretty meh. Nothing super outstanding. My common app was on my journey playing the flute.</li></ul> rating: 5
<i>additional info (optional):</i> International applicant	<i>honors:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A lot of smaller music awards and three national-level awards in music</li><li>• A few top in school awards for math competitions and minor honour rolls for some competitions</li><li>• 2nd in some regional chemistry contest</li><li>• Ap physics 2 proficiency award</li></ul>	<i>recommendations:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AP Physics teacher (taught me for 3 years), probably anywhere around a 9 (sent to all American schools)</li><li>• Pre-calculus teacher and math club sponsor, around a 5 (sent to all American schools except Caltech and MIT)</li><li>• English teacher (taught me for 3 years), probably around a 9 also</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some regional math award rating: literally a 3</li> </ul>	(sent to Caltech and MIT) rating: 7-9 depending on the school
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*results*

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>Safeties:</i> N/A	<i>matches:</i> UBC, UofT - <b>LIKELY</b> Waterloo - <b>UNSURE/LIKELY</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Stanford, MIT, Caltech, Princeton, Columbia, Duke, UPenn, Brown, Harvard, Yale - <b>UNLIKELY</b>
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i> N/A	<i>matches:</i> UBC, U of T - <b>ACCEPTED</b> Waterloo - <b>UNKNOWN</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Caltech - <b>ACCEPTED</b> Stanford, MIT, Princeton, Columbia, Duke, UPenn, Brown, Harvard, Yale - <b>REJECTED</b>

# FailingPhysics

attending Johns Hopkins University

## advice

- ❖ “Whatever you do, please don't compare yourself to everyone around you. It does nothing for you, it's toxic af, and your mental health suffers for no reason. It's nothing but bad. Don't do it.”
- ❖ “It's a hard process - it's literally people judging you on your fit for some of the best schools in the world. Don't fixate on a school. Chances are, you won't get in. Don't waste your time idolizing anything”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> Indian Male	<i>high school type:</i> Public Magnet	<i>state/country:</i> Central NJ, USA
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> 4.69/5	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 4.025/4	<i>class rank:</i> Top 5% I think? Somewhere in top 5
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 36/36/35/36	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> 800 on Math II, Bio-M, 790 Chem	<i>financial need (optional):</i> Didn't get any

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> Biophysics	<i>extracurriculars:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TA for Rutgers biochemistry class</li><li>• Volunteer Leader, food bank</li><li>• Founder/president of nonprofit that raised \$6,000 for women's education in India</li><li>• 2 summers of research</li></ul> Rating: 7/10 for most elite schools?	<i>essays:</i> pretty good I would say  Rating: 8/10
<i>additional info (optional):</i>	<i>honors:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• top 60/10,000+ on USA Biology Olympiad</li><li>• International Biology Scholar (top 50/14,000+ worldwide), University of Toronto National Biology Olympiad</li><li>• HOSA International, state level stuff</li></ul> Rating: 6-7/10 for most elite schools	<i>recommendations:</i> my supplemental rec for JHU was trash lol but my teachers were decently good  Rating: 6/10 overall maybe

## results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> Rutgers, NJIT - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>matches:</i> Boston University - <b>UNSURE</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Johns Hopkins University (ED BME) - <b>UNSURE</b> Vanderbilt University - <b>UNLIKELY</b>
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		

*safeties:*  
Rutgers (full tuition scholarship),  
NJIT (full tuition scholarship) -  
**ACCEPTED**

*matches:*  
Boston University - **ACCEPTED**

*reaches:*  
Johns Hopkins University,  
Vanderbilt University - **ACCEPTED**

# Fallacyman

attending Stanford University

## advice

- ❖ “Spend a lot of time on essays and revise them several times. I even submitted slightly different Common App essays for different schools. Essays are really important since they're pretty much the only thing you can do now in your junior summer.”
- ❖ “After being deferred from Stanford, I revised many of my applications and also my common application essay, which I felt was a big boost for my other applications.”
- ❖ “Spend time thinking of what parts of your supplements that you can copy and paste for different schools lol. I really only wrote like 3 or 4 full applications if I'm being precise.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> Asian Male	<i>high school type:</i> private	<i>state/country:</i> Taiwan
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> IB Mocks 44/45 (not sent though)	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> IB Predicted 42/45	<i>class rank:</i> Not ranked
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> SAT 1590 (800 M, 790 R/W, 19 Essay) ACT 36 (36 E, 36 M, 35 R, 36 S, 11 Essay)	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> SAT Math 2: 800 SAT Physics: 800 SAT World History: 800 SAT US History: 800	<i>financial need (optional):</i> None

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> Linguistics. Computer Science, Philosophy	<i>Extracurriculars:</i> My main extracurricular was doing research and publishing a paper on NLP, as well as teaching the elderly how to use smartphones. I referenced these two the most in my supplements. I also coach the Olympiad team. Beyond that, it's mainly school based like heading Coding Clubs etc. rating: 8/10	<i>Essays:</i> Wrote about linguistics for my CA and how it impacted different aspects of my life. I also wrote about teaching, my family background, community service and cooking.  I asked a lot of people to read over them and revised my essays many times. rating: 7/10
<i>additional info (optional):</i> International applicant	<i>Honors:</i> International Olympiad Gold Medal, USAMO Qualifier, USACO Platinum Round, IHBB (International History Bee and Bowl) Regional Gold Medal rating: 9/10 Probably the strongest part of my application	<i>Recommendations:</i> CS Teacher 7/10 Math Teacher 9/10 Economics Teacher 5/10 Olympiad Coach 7/10 Research Advisor 8/10

## results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)

<i>safeties:</i> UIUC (EA), UCLA (CS+Linguistics), HKUST, Tsinghua - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>Matches:</i> UC Berkeley (L&S CS), UPenn - <b>LIKELY</b> Harvey Mudd, CMU (SCS) - <b>UNSURE</b>	<i>Reaches:</i> Columbia, MIT, Stanford (REA), Princeton, Yale - <b>UNSURE</b> Caltech, Harvard - <b>UNLIKELY</b>
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i> UIUC - <b>ACCEPTED</b> UCLA - <b>WAITLISTED</b> HKUST - (Missing Documents) Tsinghua - (Didn't submit)	<i>Matches:</i> UC Berkeley, Harvey Mudd, UPenn, CMU - <b>ACCEPTED</b>	<i>Reaches:</i> Columbia, Princeton - <b>ACCEPTED</b> Stanford - <b>DEFERRED</b> > <b>ACCEPTED</b> MIT, Yale - <b>WAITLISTED</b> Caltech, Harvard - <b>REJECTED</b>

# Fulgrim

attending Emory University

## advice

- ❖ “Honestly, prepare yourself for worst case scenarios. I strongly recommend fully preparing to end up at a safety and don't expect anything from reaches.”
- ❖ “Everyone takes acceptances/rejections very differently; I had friends who cried at both, while I didn't really feel anything. Be considerate to those around you regardless of their decisions, and keep in mind that rejection is not an indicator of your ability as a student.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> Asian Male	<i>high school type:</i> Private	<i>state/country:</i> China
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> Not sure; school is weird.	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 3.85	<i>class rank:</i> Unofficially, near/above top 33%.
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 1550	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> Math 2: 760, Bio M: 720 (rip), US History: 710 (also rip)	<i>financial need (optional):</i> None.

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> Chemistry/Biochemistry	<i>extracurriculars:</i> Nothing really special. I started a tech/charity club at my school, did some research, participated in a few competitions (battlecode/intel ISEF), school magazine editor. rating: 7	<i>essays:</i> People who edited for me liked the end product. Family thought essays were great, but it didn't work out in the end so maybe not? rating: 7
<i>additional info (optional):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I probably would have shotgunned/at least applied to a few more colleges if my school didn't restrict me to 10 apps.</li><li>• I am an international applicant but have US citizenship</li></ul>	<i>honors:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intel ISEF Chengdu Regional Award of Excellence (sounds better than it really is)</li><li>• Battlecode 2018 Best Chinese Team (unofficial award)</li><li>• Battlecode 2019 Finalist</li></ul> rating: 6	<i>recommendations:</i> Slept in my econ teachers class, but he liked me. This rec was probably okay, but not amazing. Chem teacher liked me but wasn't there for my senior year. rating: 6

## results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> UT Dallas, UC Santa Cruz - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>matches:</i> Case Western, Emory - <b>UNSURE</b> UC Davis, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, UC Irvine - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Rice, UCLA, UCB - <b>UNSURE</b> Stanford (dream school!!), JHU, MIT, Princeton - <b>UNLIKELY</b>
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i> UT Dallas, UCSC - <b>ACCEPTED</b>	<i>matches:</i> Case Western, UCSD - <b>WAITLISTED</b>	<i>reaches:</i> UCLA - <b>WAITLISTED</b>

	Emory, UCD, UCSB, UCI - <b>ACCEPTED</b>	Stanford, JHU, MIT, Princeton, Rice, UCB - <b>REJECTED</b>
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# Grump

attending Georgia Institute of Technology

## advice

- ❖ “Don't hate your safety, but have some ambition.”
- ❖ “Don't put things off.”
- ❖ “Don't keep things from your parents and friends.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> White Male	<i>high school type:</i> Public	<i>state/country:</i> Georgia, USA
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> 4.0, 98.388	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> N/A	<i>class rank:</i> 8/360
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 1420 SAT, 36 ACT (35/36/36/35)	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> Math II: 770 Chem: 730 Bio-E: 720 USH: 800	<i>financial need (optional):</i>

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> Biochemistry	<i>extracurriculars:</i> Writing Collaborator, Quiz Bowl Captain and Debate Team VP rating: 6/10	<i>essays:</i> I just wrote out what subjects I liked but fluffed it up rating: 6/10
<i>additional info (optional):</i>	<i>honors:</i> class rank is 8/360, all A's for every HS year rating: 6/10	<i>recommendations:</i> AP US Gov, AP Chem, AP Lang (teachers) rating: 9/10

## results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> Illinois Tech UGA	<i>matches:</i> Georgia Tech Emory	<i>reaches:</i> Stanford UChicago Columbia
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i> Illinois Tech (30k scholarship I think), UGA (Honors Program) - <b>ACCEPTED</b>	<i>matches:</i> Georgia Tech (Honors Program), Emory Oxford College- <b>ACCEPTED</b> Emory U - <b>REJECTED</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Stanford, Columbia: <b>REJECTED</b> UChicago: <b>WAITLISTED &gt; REJECTED</b>

# Gyurei

attending Case Western Reserve University

## advice

- ❖ “Find time to relax and take the stress off your mind. This is a very tough process.”
- ❖ “Organize time for your supplements. Figure out how much time you would need to write and edit your supps. Yes, I know some people start theirs on the day it is due and still get good results. Please don't do that; better safe than sorry.”
- ❖ “I wish I wasn't a lazy ass and apply to more reaches and matches.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> Asian/Vietnamese	<i>high school type:</i> Public	<i>state/country:</i> Oregon
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> 4.123	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 3.98	<i>class rank:</i> 25/369
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 1420 (720 M 700 RW)	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> Biology M - 730	<i>financial need (optional):</i> low-income so I need a lot of \$\$\$

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> Business Administration with a concentration in Healthcare	<i>extracurriculars:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marketing Director for a nonprofit organization that promotes awareness for volunteering</li><li>• Research Assistant</li><li>• We the People Competition</li><li>• Community Outreach to educated youth on helmet safety.</li><li>• Vice President of Asian American Association for two years.</li><li>• Volunteer a lot; over 1,000 hours</li></ul> rating: 5	<i>essays:</i> Common App: 3 (well written but very cliché) Supplements: 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I wrote about anime for one of the Emory's supp; best essay I've written tbh</li></ul>
<i>additional info (optional):</i> First generation student	<i>honors:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We the People Regional Competition - 3rd Place [state]</li><li>• Dartmouth Book Award</li><li>• Outstanding Member in Key Club [school]</li><li>• Outstanding AP Chemistry Student</li></ul> rating: 2	<i>recommendations:</i> <b>AP English teacher:</b> 7 (she knew that I tried super hard in her class despite the fact that English is my second language) <b>AP Chemistry teacher:</b> 3 (she's a pretty bad writer so the rec was probably generic. I tried really hard in the class though but I don't know if she remembered that enough to put those in the recommendation) <b>Counselor:</b> 6 (we have a good relationship and she knows me well)

## results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)

<i>safeties:</i> UOregon, Pacific Lutheran, Concordia University - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>matches:</i> Fordham- <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>reaches:</i> WUSTL ED1, Northeastern - <b>UNLIKELY</b> Emory ED2 (Oxford campus RD), Grinnell, Colby, Case Western - <b>UNSURE</b>
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i> University of Oregon, Pacific Lutheran University, Concordia University - <b>ACCEPTED</b>	<i>matches:</i> Fordham- <b>ACCEPTED</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Case Western - <b>ACCEPTED</b> Northeastern, Grinnell, Colby - <b>WAITLISTED</b> WUSTL ED1, Emory ED2 (Oxford campus RD) - <b>REJECTED</b>

# Joseph

attending Northeastern University

## advice

- ❖ “Have fun, don't get super caught up in applications that you block everything else out.”
- ❖ “I cared a lot about the process but I didn't make it my first priority to get into an elite t20 or what not. I put myself before anything else and chose to have more fun junior and senior year than slaving away grinding tests.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> White male	<i>high school type:</i> Private small special ed school.	<i>state/country:</i> MD, USA
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> N/A.	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> N/A, A- average grades	<i>class rank:</i> N/A
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> C 31: E 25, M 33, R 31, S 35	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> Math 2 800, Bio M 700	<i>financial need (optional):</i> Did not apply for finaid

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> Computer science and Computer engineering combined major	<i>extracurriculars:</i> Major ones were, Head coxswain of crew team (old school), Prefect (old school), Robotics, Summer session at Tufts. rating: 5/10, nothing that stood out but still something	<i>essays:</i> I wrote about going to scrap yards and tinkering with said scrap. Probs the best thing I have ever written. rating: 8/10
<i>additional info (optional):</i> I went to a boarding school 9-11th grade and my time there got worse every year. I took part in a failed IB program and got stuck in it. My mental health was at an all-time low in 11th grade which harmed my grades and test scores. I ultimately transferred since I was nearly kicked out of my issues.	<i>honors:</i> High school computer science award. 3rd in states for rowing freshman year. rating: 2/10 Legit nothing special	<i>recommendations:</i> I had three. Math teacher from my old school. Computer science teacher at my new school. Tufts CS professor. rating: Math teacher, 10 CS teacher, 7 Tufts, 5

## results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> Drexel (EA) - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>Matches:</i> Northeastern (ED 2), Case Western (EA), Purdue (EA), Virginia Tech (EA) - <b>UNSURE</b> UMD - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Rice (ED) - <b>UNLIKELY</b> Georgia Tech (EA), Tufts (RD) - <b>UNSURE</b>
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i> Drexel (\$16k scholarship) -	<i>Matches:</i>	<i>reaches:</i>

ACCEPTED

Case Western - DEFERRED >  
WITHDREW  
Northeastern, UMD, VT -  
ACCEPTED  
Purdue - REJECTED ENGINEERING,  
ACCEPTED ALT MAJOR W/ \$5K.

Rice, GT - REJECTED  
Tufts - WITHDREW

# Kam

attending Lehigh University

## advice

- ❖ “I thought it was very tedious and difficult, but I am very happy with the outcome. The tediousness and difficulty all depends on how many colleges you're applying to, however.”
- ❖ “I wish I worked longer on my Common App Essay. I was generally pretty happy with how it turned out, but I still felt like it could be improved. If I had worked on it longer and perfected it, that might have changed how my results were.”
- ❖ “Although I didn't get into any of my reaches, I am very happy with where I ended up. I am going to my top choice school and they gave me a boatload of money. Follow the schools that you harmonize with. It's very easy to tell which school I really tried to get into.”
- ❖ “Find a school you fall in love with and put as much effort as you can into that one before applying anywhere else.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> White (Middle Eastern)	<i>high school type:</i> Public	<i>state/country:</i> Ohio
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> 4.05	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 3.5	<i>class rank:</i> No Rank
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 33 ACT	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> 720 Math II	<i>financial need (optional):</i> EFC: 7000

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> Finance	<i>extracurriculars:</i> Managing parents finances, Swim Team all 4 years (Team Captain), Cryptocurrency Investor, Published an article for cryptocurrency, marketing advisor of a cryptocurrency, cancer research rating: 8/10	<i>essays:</i> Wrote about my parents' financial struggles and how it affected me and how I got into cryptocurrency to try to help them rating: 7/10
<i>additional info (optional):</i>	<i>honors:</i> Most Improved Swimmer, Perfect Attendance in Swim, Seal of Biliteracy in French, Multiple 1st place wins in religious competitions rating: 6/10	<i>recommendations:</i> My French teacher who I had since 7th grade and my math teacher from junior year and senior year rating: 7/10

## results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> University of Toledo, Miami University of Ohio, Ohio State University - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>matches:</i> Lehigh University - <b>UNSURE</b> Case Western University - <b>UNLIKELY</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Wake Forest - <b>UNSURE</b> Harvard, Brown, Penn, Yale, Dartmouth, Emory & Oxford, Duke, Northeastern, Stanford, Columbia, Northwestern, USC, Boston College

		- UNLIKELY
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i> University of Toledo (8k per year & Honors), Miami University of Ohio (Honors and Scholar 14k/yr), Ohio State University (Honors and 6k/yr) - <b>ACCEPTED</b>	<i>matches:</i> Lehigh University (65k/yr) - <b>ACCEPTED</b> Case Western - <b>WAITLISTED</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Wake Forest - <b>WAITLISTED</b> Harvard, Brown, Penn, Yale, Columbia, Dartmouth, Emory & Oxford, Stanford, Duke, Northeastern, Northwestern, USC, Boston College - <b>REJECTED</b>

# Killamocingbird

attending UIUC

## advice

- ❖ “The college application process has its obvious ups and downs but I think it made me reflect on myself as a person as well.”
- ❖ “As cliché as it is, be yourself. I learned that what matters at the end isn’t how colleges see you, but how you see yourself.”
- ❖ Don’t go in with the mentality that you deserve anything, including any acceptances. Be humble and accept every acceptance with joy, and every rejection with respect.

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> Asian Male	<i>high school type:</i> Magnet	<i>state/country:</i> Florida
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> 5.2/6.0	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 3.9/4.0	<i>class rank:</i> 41
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 1550 / 36	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> Math II:800 Physics: 800	<i>financial need (optional):</i> 45k w/ single income of family of 5

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> Computer Science	<i>extracurriculars:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research assistant at Florida Atlantic University</li><li>• Software Engineer Intern at South Florida Engineering &amp; Consulting LLC.</li><li>• President of Coding Club 2 years</li><li>• Volunteer Instructor for Mathnasium</li><li>• Treasurer in Explorer Post 57 rating: 6</li></ul>	<i>essays:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Common App: “I am a spatula” talked about a challenge I solved on a CTF hacking tournament and how I was able to systematically reverse engineer a game. Related back to how I love to reverse engineering just like in science and hope to reverse engineer the mysteries of the universe.</li><li>• Everything else related back to my dream of using my research to solve global enviro issues</li><li>• One essay talked about how I randomly jumped onto a pole in the middle of a dock</li></ul> rating: 7
<i>additional info (optional):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Self-published poetry book</li><li>• Enjoy oil painting in my free time</li><li>• Wrote about love for classical music on those super short response questions by Columbia</li></ul>	<i>honors:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First author on three research papers. Largest one was accepted for publication in Journal of Geophysical Research (Top Journal in Field aside from Nature &amp; Science). Two others were IEEE Conference papers. All were focused on Machine Learning.</li><li>• Second author on IEEE Conference paper investigating</li></ul>	<i>recommendations:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Excellent one from Dean of Computer Science at FAU where I did my research, he wrote “I have guided over 30 PhDs to completion and written over 100 papers in my field, (redacted)’s work and capability is arguably one of the best I’ve worked with”</li><li>• Computer Science program coordinator from my school (Unknown quality)</li></ul>

	GoM LCS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USACO Platinum</li> <li>• USAMO Qualifier</li> <li>• 2018 HP Codewars 1st place</li> <li>• State Rep. Harvard MIT Math Tourn (HMMT)</li> </ul> rating: 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English Teacher (Unknown quality)</li> </ul> rating: 6?
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**results**

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> UCF, RIT, RPI, Duke Kunshan, Case Western	<i>matches:</i> UIUC, Georgia Tech, WashU, Cornell, UCI, UCSD	<i>reaches:</i> MIT, Columbia, Duke, Harvard, Harvey Mudd College, Olin College, Caltech, Yale, Princeton, CMU, UC Berkeley, UCLA
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i> UCF, RIT, RPI - <b>REJECTED</b> Duke Kunshan - <b>ACCEPTED</b> Case Western - <b>WAITLISTED</b>	<i>matches:</i> UIUC, UCSD - <b>ACCEPTED</b> Georgia Tech, WashU, Cornell, UCI - <b>REJECTED</b>	<i>reaches:</i> UCLA - <b>WAITLISTED</b> > <b>ACCEPTED</b> MIT, Columbia, Duke, Harvard, Harvey Mudd College, Olin College, Caltech, Yale, Princeton, CMU, UC Berkeley - <b>REJECTED</b>

# Kyungsoo

attending Brown University

## advice

- ❖ “Don’t procrastinate.”
- ❖ “If you’re broke, apply to fly-ins.”
- ❖ “Essays are probably the most important part of your application.”
- ❖ “It's okay to shotgun as long as you research each school for fit.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> Black Female	<i>high school type:</i> public	<i>state/country:</i> AL
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> 4.4	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 3.8	<i>class rank:</i> school does not rank
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 770/770	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> 800 math II 730 bio M	<i>financial need (optional):</i> EFC \$0

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> comp sci + linguistics	<i>extracurriculars:</i> state science bowl, state science olympiad, volunteer tutoring, studying languages (japanese), comp sci research project about detecting hate speech on twitter, volunteering to help disadvantaged middle school kids get into comp sci (got into the news for this) rating: 6/10	<i>essays:</i> about either being black, being broke, or linguistics rating: 7/10
<i>additional info (optional):</i> if you have any specific questions I'm u/sookyeong on reddit also before you roast me in the reddit comments when this goes up, look at the acceptance rates for fly-in students. they're like 80-90%	<i>honors:</i> NMF, regional NCWIT AiC x2 rating: 5/10	<i>recommendations:</i> english and comp sci teachers rating: didn't read

## results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> williams college (got into the fly-in), university of alabama, university of alabama in huntsville - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>matches:</i> amherst college (got into the fly-in but didn't go) - <b>UNSURE</b>	<i>reaches:</i> pomona college (rejected from fly-in), brown university - <b>UNLIKELY</b> dartmouth college - <b>LIKELY</b>
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i> williams college, university of alabama,	<i>matches:</i> amherst college - <b>ACCEPTED</b>	<i>reaches:</i> pomona college - <b>WAITLISTED</b>

university of alabama in huntsville –  
ACCEPTED

brown university, dartmouth college  
- ACCEPTED

# Marine Peanut

attending Georgia Institute of Technology

## advice

- ❖ “Apply EA everywhere you can. It's so nice to be in somewhere by January and not have to fret as much about RD decisions (plus EA acceptance rate is usually higher).”
- ❖ “Finish standardized testing by the end of junior year. Managing SAT/ACT/subject test prep while doing college apps is too much stress.”
- ❖ If you live in a state with one or more fantastic state schools (CA, FL, GA, MI, NC, TX, VA, etc.), *seriously consider it* if you aren't already. I originally thought I wanted to go far out of state to a big school in a big city, not realizing that GATech offered exactly that along with that *thicc* in-state tuition.

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> White Male	<i>high school type:</i> Small noncompetitive private	<i>state/country:</i> GA, USA
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> School doesn't weight GPA	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 4.0/4.0	<i>class rank:</i> 1/77
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 1540 SAT, 35 ACT	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> 800 Math II, 790 Chem	<i>financial need (optional):</i> Full pay

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> Civil engineering  I applied EA everywhere except Rice, Duke and Northwestern (thought I'd mention this here)	<i>extracurriculars:</i> Leader of mock trial team, one act and spring plays, and FTC robotics; one act and FTC advanced to the state level my senior year for the first time in years; also attended two engineering summer camps at NC State and UMich rating: 7/10	<i>essays:</i> Common App was about rebuilding the mock trial team; I thought it was good but not great My supplements for my EA schools were good; my RD ones were not so good (didn't care as much) rating: 7/10 for EA, 5/10 for RD
<i>additional info (optional):</i> Hooks: Legacy to UVA (mom), GATech (granddad), & Rice (aunt & uncle); the UMich camp also helped a lot (95% of people who did it got accepted), and in-state vals/sals are auto-admitted to GATech :)	<i>honors:</i> Nominated for UVA's Jefferson Scholarship and state Governor's Honors Program; National Merit Commended, NHS rating: 7/10	<i>recommendations:</i> Asked my mock trial coach (English teacher who I've known since 9th grade) and my chem teacher (loves me, known her since 10th grade) rating: 8/10

## results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> Clemson, UMinn Twin Cities - <b>LIKELY</b> VATech - <b>UNSURE</b>	<i>matches:</i> GATech, UMich - <b>LIKELY</b> UVA - <b>UNSURE</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Rice - <b>UNSURE</b> Duke, Northwestern, MIT - <b>UNLIKELY</b>
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		

*safeties:*

UMN(\$15k/yr merit), Clemson  
(\$20k/yr merit), VATEch –  
ACCEPTED

*matches:*

GATech, UVA - ACCEPTED  
UMich - DEFERRED > ACCEPTED

*reaches:*

MIT - DEFERRED > REJECTED  
Northwestern, Rice - WAITLISTED  
Duke - REJECTED

# Mitsuha

attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## advice

- ❖ “It's unfair sometimes, but remember that your application isn't representative of who you are as a person or your true abilities. You will all do great things!”
- ❖ “Get started early on essays and applications! I waited until really late and the stress wasn't worth it.”
- ❖ “Don't be afraid to pick the school that best fits you! Ranking and prestige don't determine your success; pick whatever makes you happier!”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> Filipino	<i>high school type:</i> Standard public school	<i>state/country:</i> IL, USA
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> 4.6/4.0	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 3.6/4.0	<i>class rank:</i> School does not rank
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 34 ACT	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> 780 BioM	<i>financial need (optional):</i>

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> Biochemistry	<i>extracurriculars:</i> A lot of band extracurriculars, including All-State, National ensembles, and a bunch of leadership roles rating: 8/10	<i>essays:</i> Some of mine were well thought out. Others weren't. My personal essay was the most polished. I talked about my experiences in different “homes” (my home before I immigrated, first house, current house, and my future home in university) rating: 6/10
<i>additional info (optional):</i> I feel like my goals stood out because when I applied I wasn't planning to do anything in medicine, whereas many biochem majors are pre-medicine.	<i>honors:</i> All-State Bands, regional honor bands, Illinois State Scholar, AP stuff, some school awards, NHS, Rho Kappa (for social studies) rating: 7/10	<i>recommendations:</i> Bland and probably impersonal. Didn't have many people to ask. My only great one was from my band director/faculty advisor. rating: 4/10

## results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> UIUC, UW - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>matches:</i> NYU - <b>UNSURE</b>	<i>reaches:</i> USC, Johns Hopkins - <b>UNLIKELY</b>
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i> UIUC - <b>ACCEPTED</b> UW - <b>WAITLISTED</b>	<i>matches:</i> NYU - <b>WAITLISTED</b>	<i>reaches:</i> USC, Johns Hopkins - <b>REJECTED</b>

# qw8nt

attending University of Chicago

## advice

- ❖ “It’s difficult, I’m not going to lie. But it’s rewarding and you learn more about yourself in the process.”
- ❖ “So many people I know did not spend time researching their safeties and are now going to a school they don’t want to go to. Take the time to learn about where you want to go and make an informed decision.”
- ❖ “Fit is the number one factor when it comes to choosing a college. Don’t go prestige hunting.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> White	<i>high school type:</i> Large Public	<i>state/country:</i> North Carolina
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> 4.5/5	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 3.96/4.0	<i>class rank:</i> 25/800
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> SAT 1500 ACT 34	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> Italian Language- 760 US History- 730	<i>financial need (optional):</i> Nope :(

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> Undecided	<i>extracurriculars:</i> I did a lot of fine arts related extracurriculars, but I didn’t really have any standout extracurriculars like research or nonprofit CEO. rating: 3/5	<i>essays:</i> a lot of unconventional ones I genuinely think that my essays were the best part. I spent a long time on each of them and I made sure that it was the best it could be. rating: 5/5
<i>additional info (optional):</i> I’m technically a first generation student. I speak two other languages.	<i>honors:</i> NSHS? I won best supporting actor at my school rating: Honors, unless they’re REALLY impressive, don’t matter that much. You’re a high schooler. You’re not receiving the Nobel prize in physics.	<i>recommendations:</i> Two from my APUSH teacher and my AP Lang teacher I was always really active in those classes, and my APUSH teacher only writes about 10 letters a year. rating: 4.5/5.

## results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> North Carolina State University - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>matches:</i> UNC Chapel Hill - <b>LIKELY</b> Emory University - <b>UNSURE</b>	<i>reaches:</i> Duke, Dartmouth, Johns Hopkins, USC, Yale - <b>UNLIKELY</b> University of Chicago - <b>UNSURE</b>
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i> NCSU - <b>ACCEPTED</b>	<i>matches:</i> UNC Chapel Hill - <b>ACCEPTED</b> Emory - <b>REJECTED</b>	<i>reaches:</i> UChicago - <b>ACCEPTED</b> Duke, Dartmouth, JHU -

		WAITLISTED USC, Yale - REJECTED
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# Simon

attending Harvard University

## advice

- ❖ “I continued trying in school and my activities even after application season. I was able to send in some THICC application updates that I think really bolstered my application and that I was still pursuing the things that I loved.”
- ❖ “Don't sweat it if you don't get into the place you want to go, because most of the time, you did the best you could, and that's what matters. Regardless of if the school takes you or not doesn't invalidate how you spent the last 4 years.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> Half-white, Half-Asian Male	<i>high school type:</i> uncompetitive public	<i>state/country:</i> New Jersey
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> 4.81/4.00	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 4.00/4.00	<i>class rank:</i> 2/271
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> SAT 1530 (730 R&W, 800 Math, 24/24 Essay)	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> 800 BioE, 800 Math II	<i>financial need (optional):</i> lots of financial need lol, a VERY weird financial situation, but at the end of the day I'm disadvantaged.

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> History and Philosophy of Science / Science and Technology Studies / Biology	<i>extracurriculars:</i> TONS of science writing stuff, a few research things, some interesting clubs. Founded one campaign working locally to install a type of scientific lab no other school in the country has before, with success (this ties into my major, but I don't want to be specific). rating: Most of it: 6/10. The very special sciency one: 9/10	<i>essays:</i> All on VERY niche, personal topics to me that were generally irreverent and light-hearted. My admissions officers that I had the chance to speak to said they were “lovely” and really fun to read. My essay topics ranged from mechanical keyboards to elephant testicles to Discord to clinical depression in fish and everything else in-between. rating: 8/10
<i>additional info (optional):</i> I talked extensively about my personal/financial struggles at home that led me into my fields of study and how I really had to take initiative for myself to do well and pursue things I loved when I didn't have support behind me.  I am first-gen.  For context, I'm interested in science journalism, so many of my awards/writing activities are centered around that.	<i>honors:</i> Placed in or won 9 national or international writing competitions. Won a few national scholarships. Lots of other smaller stuff. Published in a host of newspapers/publications. I'm guessing this is why I got in. rating: 10/10.	<i>recommendations:</i> English teacher #1: 10/10, best recommendation I've read. Extremely heartfelt.  English teacher #2: 4/10, did not read. Not the best relationship.  Environmental Science teacher: 6/10, somewhat personalized template.  Science Writing Mentor: 6.5/10, pretty short but a decent recommendation.

<p>I applied to so many schools because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I had fee waivers</li> <li>• Extreme paranoia of not getting in anywhere with good financial aid such that I could attend</li> <li>• Not having a lot of preferences</li> <li>• Applying to only one school early (MIT) and getting deferred and freaking out</li> </ul> <p>I submitted, started, and finished the majority of my applications in the last week and a half before decisions. A few of the schools I was admitted to I submitted a few days after the deadline. I wrote my fricking Harvard supplement on January 1 LOLLL. (PSA: Don't procrastinate, folks.)</p> <p>(Stanford finaid was an oof)</p>		
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### results

<p>before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)</p>		
<p><i>safeties:</i> RPI, Rutgers, Stevens, UC Davis - <b>LIKELY</b></p>	<p><i>matches:</i> UW Madison, Northeastern - <b>LIKELY</b> Michigan, UC San Diego - <b>UNSURE</b></p>	<p><i>reaches:</i> Brown, Caltech, Columbia, Princeton, MIT - <b>LIKELY</b> Carnegie Mellon, Johns Hopkins, Northwestern, UChicago - <b>UNSURE</b> Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Stanford, UC Berkeley, UCLA, UPenn, Vanderbilt, WashU, Yale, Yale-NUS - <b>UNLIKELY</b></p>
<p>after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)</p>		
<p><i>safeties:</i> RPI, Rutgers, Stevens, UC Davis - <b>ACCEPTED</b></p>	<p><i>matches:</i> UW Madison, UC San Diego, Northeastern - <b>ACCEPTED</b> Michigan - <b>WAITLISTED</b></p>	<p><i>reaches:</i> Brown, Caltech, Carnegie Mellon, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Northwestern, Stanford, UC Berkeley, UCLA, UPenn, Vanderbilt, WashU - <b>ACCEPTED</b> UChicago, Princeton, Yale - <b>WAITLISTED</b> MIT, Yale-NUS - <b>REJECTED</b></p>

# Soy

attending Arizona State University

## advice

- ❖ “Do what you actually want to study because in the end, so many people end up in careers that aren't related to the major.”
- ❖ “Make sure to keep track of all of your deadlines and materials that you need to submit in one place (Google Drive is godsend).”
- ❖ “Go into the application process with the mindset that if your dream school(s) reject(s) you, that isn't the end of the world and it isn't a reflection of your values or your achievements. You'll likely end up in a place that's a great fit for you.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> Asian Male	<i>high school type:</i> Charter	<i>state/country:</i> Arizona, USA
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> 4.44	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 3.78	<i>class rank:</i> N/A
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 1470	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> Bio M 710	<i>financial need (optional):</i> N/A

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> Undecided	<i>extracurriculars:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Theater</li><li>• International Thespian Society</li><li>• Volleyball (club, competitive)</li><li>• Tutoring/TA</li><li>• National Honor Society</li><li>• Tennis (recreational)</li><li>• Leadership/Volunteer Clubs @ School</li></ul>	<i>essays:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Followed the prompts</li><li>• Tied everything back to why I'd be a great fit for the school and vice versa (school size/environment, curriculum, personal goals).</li><li>• Mentioned specific resources, courses, and professors I would enjoy working with.</li></ul>
<i>additional info (optional):</i>	<i>honors:</i> Not any that matter	<i>recommendations:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 from my 11th grade calc teacher</li><li>• 1 from my AP Eng Lang teacher</li><li>• 1 from my college counselor</li></ul>

## results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> Arizona State U (Barrett), University of Arizona (Honors), Utah State U, Iowa State U (Honors) - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>matches:</i> Occidental College - <b>LIKELY</b> UC San Diego - <b>UNLIKELY</b>	<i>reaches:</i> U of Southern California, UCLA, UC Berkeley, NYU, Columbia, Duke Kunshan U - <b>UNLIKELY</b>
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i> Arizona State U (Barrett), University of	<i>matches:</i> UC San Diego, Occidental	<i>reaches:</i> DKU - <b>ACCEPTED</b>

Arizona (Honors), Utah State U, Iowa  
State U (Honors) - **ACCEPTED**

College - **ACCEPTED**

U of Southern California, UCLA, UC  
Berkeley, NYU, Columbia -  
**REJECTED**

# Succupai

attending Purdue University

## advice

- ❖ “Research every school THOROUGHLY. Even schools you took a glance at and don't like. Plan your ED accordingly; don't choose a school because it's easier to get into ED and has prestige (I would've ED'd Rice over Penn in a heartbeat).”
- ❖ “Essays matter more than you think. College admissions is not as much as a crapshoot as we think it is, it's just hard truth and a wake-up call from teenage years.”
- ❖ “People spend their entire high-school career doing stuff purely for college. Colleges see through this and realize the fake passion you chased your entire HS career. People get rejected and see all of HS as a waste. OF COURSE it's going to be a waste if you did stuff purely for college and didn't get in anywhere!! Do stuff you WANT to do and chase what your passion truly is, even if you get rejected everywhere, you'll look back fondly upon your high school career.”
- ❖ “Everyone says it but let me reiterate: College admissions does not reflect your self-worth. Nothing should, assigning anything material to how much you're worth is a stupid concept.”
- ❖ “ ‘Why this school’ essays are more about why YOU. Talk about your personal qualities and how that school will help you realize them.”

## demographics

<i>ethnicity/gender (optional):</i> White (Middle-Eastern) Male.	<i>high school type:</i> Public, 1k kids in graduating class	<i>state/country:</i> Pennsylvania
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## stats

<i>GPA (weighted/scale):</i> 5.91/6	<i>GPA (unweighted/scale):</i> 3.93/4	<i>class rank:</i> 77/1093
<i>SAT/ACT:</i> 1530 (800m/730ebrw). 6/5/6 essay.	<i>subject tests (optional):</i> Chem: 700 Math2: 750	<i>financial need (optional):</i> EFC 20k, applied for aid.

## academic information

<i>intended major:</i> Computer Engineering	<i>extracurriculars:</i> Co-created a college course under a NASA grant, Restaurant Employee (certified trainer), School Board Student Rep, Founding Member of Chem Club (Secretary), Student Gov Cabinet, PC Building Side Business, Peer Tutoring, Family caretaker. rating: 7/10	<i>essays:</i> Didn't vary my sentence structure much (huge). My why college essays were more about the college rather than me. rating: 6/10
<i>additional info (optional):</i> One unique honor, ECs were unique but nothing national level. 8 AP classes.	<i>honors:</i> Just honors roll and honors societies, got a NASA award for my course (only thing that stands out). rating: 5/10	<i>recommendations:</i> Chem teacher and French teacher. Chem teacher is the advisor for Chem club. rating: 8/10

## results

before applying: expectations (likely, unsure, unlikely)		
<i>safeties:</i> Penn State, UPitt - <b>LIKELY</b>	<i>matches:</i> UIUC, Case Western - <b>UNSURE</b>	<i>reaches:</i> GaTech - <b>UNSURE</b>

	Purdue - <b>LIKELY</b>	CMU, Cornell, Northwestern, Rice, Stanford, Penn (applied ED), Yale - <b>UNLIKELY</b>
after applying: results (accept, waitlist, reject, etc.)		
<i>safeties:</i> Penn State University Park, UPitt - <b>ACCEPTED</b>	<i>matches:</i> UIUC, Purdue (64k Scholarship) - <b>ACCEPTED</b> Case Western - <b>WITHDREW</b>	<i>reaches:</i> CMU, Rice - <b>WAITLISTED</b> Gatech, Northwestern, Stanford, Penn, Yale, Cornell - <b>REJECTED</b>