CRIMSON

From Tucson to Princeton:

Kristin's Journey with Crimson





For many students, higher education is the golden ticket to achieving their greatest dreams. Whether they have a dream university, dream career, dream location, or all of the above, millions of students apply to US universities every year. Top universities like the Ivy League accept fewer than 7% of applicants.

While many students go through it alone, they don't have to — and students that work with Crimson Education have up to a 6x better chance of gaining admission to top universities! This was no different for Kristin. By working with Crimson to craft compelling essays, and produce a strong overarching narrative for her acceptance-worthy application, Kristin received a full four-year scholarship through Questbridge (worth over $200,000) to Princeton University to join the Class of 2026.

Kristin's Story

Being from Tucson, Arizona, Kristin always had her eyes set on going out of state for university. Kristin attended University High School - an academically rigorous high school known for its challenging classes and competitive environment. Standing out amongst a body of strong students is no easy feat, but Kristin was able to do so with flying colors.

With a perfect score on the ACT, a 1560 on the SAT, and 13 APs before senior year, Kristin made it clear she was a star student. But in order to stand out to university admissions officers, she knew she had to do more.

From early on, Kristin was an active member of her community. Throughout high school, Kristin served as the Founder and President of her school's Dream Catchers Club which grants hospice patients their last wishes. She was also incredibly active in her community's Asian-American community. Kristin used her voice to advocate for social justice and condemn hate against the AAPI (Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders) community which significantly increased during COVID-19.

"With the wave of Asian hate, I was really inspired to actually take control and do something about the problem instead of being passive about it. I built on my knowledge and learned how our history isn't as muted as I thought it was. There's a lot of activism going on, so I want to be part of that," says Kristin.

Apart from her extracurricular activities, Kristin spent a lot of her free time reading young adult (YA) novels, baking, working as a lifeguard and swim instructor, tutoring in math and science, and running.

Through her experiences in a variety of different activities, Kristin was able to narrow down two areas of interest: Psychology and Asian-American studies.

Crimson Access Opportunity

Kristin found Crimson one day while scrolling through Instagram. Upon discovering Crimson, she also learned about the Crimson Access Opportunity scholarship program.

“Before finding Crimson, I was really overwhelmed. I was listing out all the essays I had to write and thought ‘this is too much.’ I had no inspiration or motivation to get started,” Kristin shares. “Through Crimson I was really able to see which steps I should take that were manageable, and my team provided me with a lot of strength and courage to keep going.”

In 2020, Crimson Education created the Crimson Access Opportunity (CAO) program in order to provide ambitious, economically disadvantaged students with free access to Crimson’s admissions experts. CAO supports students who have consistently excelled in their academics and extracurriculars. The program supports BIPOC students, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and students with disabilities, among other underserved student communities.

After being selected for CAO, Kristin was matched with a team of experts to help her with the application process.





Kristin's Team

Kristin worked one-on-one with a few different members of the Crimson team to finish high school on a strong foot and prepare for a competitive application cycle. By being paired with a team of experts, Crimson students have the opportunity to receive multiple sources of support and feedback.

First, Kristin was paired with her Strategist, Bryn. Crimson's Strategists are responsible for providing overarching admissions and academic strategies to students by creating individualized plans and executing them in collaboration with the Crimson Team in order to reach a student's goals. This was a feature of Kristin's program that made a huge difference.

"Bryn really helped me streamline my applications, and he gave me confidence on how to start it. He also helped me find new schools I could apply to and know where I stood within the competition," Kristin reflects. "He was really helpful at helping me look over my Common Application essays and told me what to fix while offering me the motivation and positivity to continue on."

Next, Kristin was paired with her Student Success Manager, Shannon. Both the Strategist and SSM serve as the cornerstone of every successful student's Crimson program. SSMs are specialists in student success, with responsibilities revolving around helping the student meet deadlines, stay organized, and manage their stress and workload.

Finally, Kristin was paired with her Application Mentor, Rhiannon. "Rhiannon was great at providing me feedback. By working with her, I learned how I could take feedback more gracefully and actually understand what the feedback is on instead of just ignoring any negative comments. Rhiannon helped me with multiple drafts, even though it was a little bit tiring – like five or six drafts – I really felt like the drafts really helped me grow. And I could definitely see that when I went back to draft one and read and then draft seven, I could see a clear difference."

Kristin also worked with a Crimson Financial Aid Advisor who helped her maneuver the FAFSA and CSS profiles. Working with Crimson gave Kristin access to over 3,000 education experts (Strategists, Student Success Managers, tutors, and mentors) eager to help students like her succeed.

"Shannon really helped me bring positivity into the application process, especially when I was feeling really stressed. I loved how she kept checking in with me and making sure that I felt well-rested. Or if I felt nervous she would provide me with encouragement. And I think that helped a lot."



Kristin's Essays

Kristin worked with her team to develop and craft a strong personal narrative to impress admissions officers at her target schools. Knowing she would apply to Yale, Stanford, Princeton, Harvard, Wellesley, Pomona, Scripps, UNC, Duke, Vanderbilt, Emory, Barnard, and Brown, it was obvious she'd need to write about something stellar.

Kristin first worked with Rhiannon to help her brainstorm and develop some initial topic proposals.

"I had a very hard time brainstorming essay topics because it was just so general! Going through my possible options was very hard, and I felt myself doubting myself a lot during that time. But thankfully, there was a whole structure to [the process] where Crimson has you write down your six or five ideas, and then you go through them with your tutor and that helped a lot,"
Kristin reflects.

By working with a writing expert to identify strong narratives and how to steer clear of cliché topics, Crimson students are known for their compelling stories.

Once Kristin developed a draft she was proud of, her Strategist, Bryn, and Student Success Manager, Shannon, weighed in their opinions too. By identifying grammar flaws, spelling errors, punctuation mistakes, and more, Kristin and her team were able to build out a flawless essay.

Finally, Kristin was able to submit her essay to Crimson's Essay Review Team (the ERT). The ERT offers a blind review of the essay to offer unbiased feedback.

"I definitely liked [the ERT] and I used it a lot. It was nice to have a second pair of eyes that haven't been looking at it from its beginning to its end. I think having that unbiased opinion was very important to me because I wanted to know how it looked to a fresh pair of eyes," shares Kristin.

The Moment Kristin Got In

"I remember when I got the email that the decision was posted during my fifth-period class. I was just shaking throughout the whole class because I didn't want to open it in the middle of class. What if I got rejected and I started breaking down?" Kristin laughs.

"Then when I went to sixth-period and there was like a passing period. So I just thought, 'I'm just going to open it. It doesn't really matter at this point because if I don't get in, I know I have a backup plan... so I just opened it.

"I saw confetti and I thought 'there's no way!' That's when I scrolled down the page and saw that I matched to Princeton [through Questbridge].

"My friend was walking towards me and she saw how excited I was. So we started screaming together in the hallway!"

Kristin said her favorite moment of the whole process was when she reached out to her team with the good news.

"When I texted you all that I got into Princeton, I just felt an overwhelming amount of love. I loved the support that I got from my team... that was a very positive moment for me.



"Through my time with Crimson, I learned how to show myself in a positive light. I'm always very used to second-guessing myself and doubting myself. By working with three separate people at Crimson, I had three very strong support systems.

"It was a very good experience and I hope everyone gets to experience that," Kristin shares.

What's next for Kristin?

There's no doubt that Kristin's future is incredibly bright. Kristin looks forward to attending Princeton, where they focus heavily on the undergraduate population. With attention from both her university and teaching assistance, Kristin believes she'll get the support and instruction needed to excel in Psychology and Asian-American Studies.

Kristin is also looking forward to the college town environment. "I wanted to live in a real college town because I wanted to learn how to be independent, and I don't think I could get that from being at an in-state university. I think my parents would come and visit me all the time. I look forward to growing on my own. Even if it's going to be hard, I want to take that chance anyway," Kristin reflects.

Kristin also plans on joining Princeton's jiu-jitsu club!

Kristin's Advice

"Don't be too humble when it comes to your accomplishments. Own up to them because most likely they're pretty amazing and they really do change your application. If you think an activity or idea isn't enough or doesn't seem good enough compared to other people, just know that your accomplishments make up who you are!"





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Make your dream possible with

Crimson Education



Who We Are

Crimson Education is an education consulting company that helps students around the world get into their best-fit universities by creating personalized teams comprised of the top tutors, mentors, and admissions experts.

Our one-on-one sessions ensure that Crimson students get the support they need to stand out in today's highly competitive college admissions race.

Our Services

Crimson's bespoke services help you to achieve your educational aims.

- Admissions Consulting
- Career and Mentoring
- Standardized Test Tutoring
- Extracurricular and Leadership
- Merit & Need Based Scholarships
- Sports Recruitment

Our Results

414
Offers to the Ivy league

143
Offers to Oxford and Cambridge

2,700+
Offers to US Top 50 universities

1000+
Offers to the UK Top 10 universities

Why Crimson?



Our Network

2400+

2,400 expert tutors, mentors, and strategists located around the world

The Crimson Team includes alumni from top 25 US & UK universities in over 20 offices around the world

Our elite board of advisors and sponsors include prestigious influencers at the top of their chosen industry

Our Methodology

One-On-One Mentoring

We provide our students with personalized one-on-one programs, with the best tutors and mentors from around the world. Our advice is tailored for each individual student!

Roadmaps

Each student will receive a fully-personalized program with a roadmap that outlines every detail of the college admission process.

Resources

We believe in giving students and parents around the world access to vital information. We have the largest YouTube channel of any educational company that depicts college life and answers all of your big questions!

Our Technology

Crimson App

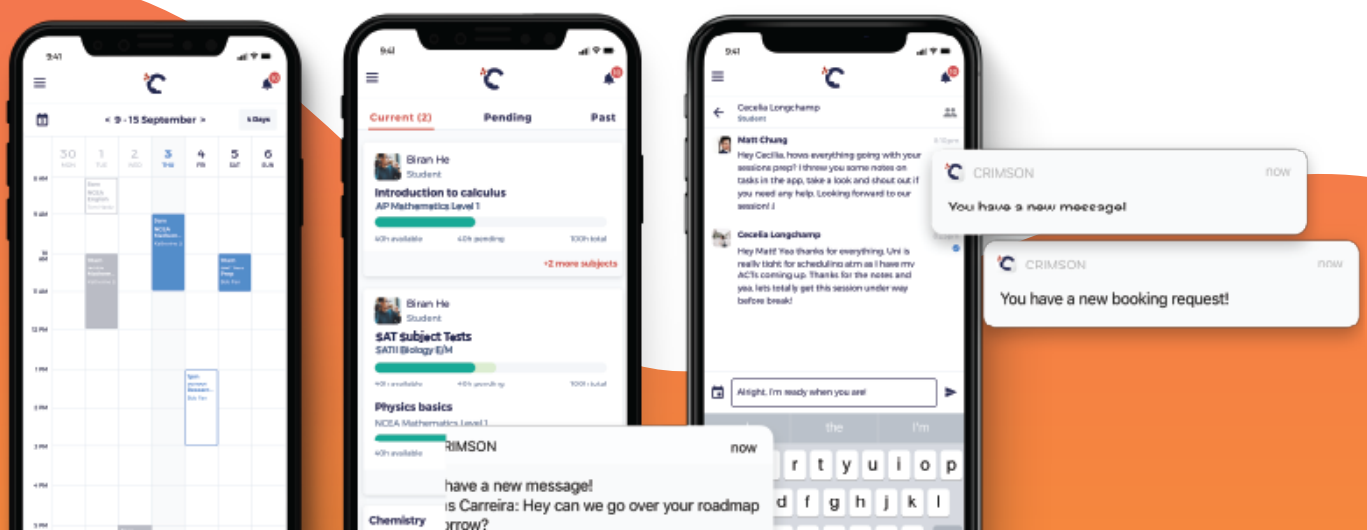
Each Crimson student is onboarded to our mobile & web app, where students can book sessions and view their tailored timetable of customized tasks.

Video Based

Crimson students are able to connect anywhere in the world with their team through our video-based mentoring.

Personality Test

We utilize psychometrics to pair each student with a team that is optimized to his/her interests and learning style! Our test was developed from one of the most well-known data scientists in the world, Galen Buckwalter.



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Want to start building your own path?

Talk To Us

crimsoneducation.org
usa@crimsoneducation.org
Crimsoneducation.org
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