



The Novel: Comprehensive College Planning & Application Support

9th-11th Grade Start

This is a sample syllabus. Advising cadences, time allocation, and emphasis will be adjusted according to the student's individual goals and needs, which may evolve over time. My role will be to guide the student in building a great-fit college list while keeping things on track: documenting milestones, supporting interests, presenting opportunities, and advising throughout the process. Meetings are one-on-one unless otherwise noted.

9th-10th Grade

Comprehensive Intake Advising

- Transcript, test score, and activities assessment
- Exploration of interests & curiosities
- Initial college conversation

Family Questionnaire Assessment (student + family)

- Personal history assessment
- College planning and application roadmapping
- Referral to financial planner (as needed)
- Referral to academic support (as needed)
- Standardized test planning (as needed)

Assessment of Leadership and Special Interests

- Identification of unique areas of strength
- Self-study, special interests
- Club, school & community involvement
- Potential for outreach and impact

Summer Enrichment Planning

- Employment/pre-college applications
- Volunteer work and/or self-study

Coursework and/or certificates

What is a Great-Fit College List?

- Assigned website exploration & virtual college visits
- Exploration of programs and majors
- Standardized testing plan

Preparing for College Visits

- Additional college research
- Initial admissions correspondence
- College interview prep

Family Meetings as Needed (student + parent)

- Preliminary college list & strategy conversation
- College visit roadmap for OOS colleges
- Standardized testing follow-up

11th grade

Increased Academic Rigor

- Curriculum enrichment; plan for standardized tests
- Project and goal check-ins and check-ups
- College readiness/tutoring referrals as needed

Leadership with Legacy

- Strengthening student's most meaningful roles, self-study, special interests
- Documentation of quantifiable outreach and impact
- Legacy project roadmapping and planning

College Planner Pro Onboarding Session

- Platform tutorial
- Load draft college list & set up task lists
- Run admissions probability

Pre College Application Prep

- Social media clean-up/ LinkedIn Set-up (at 16)
- Build Preliminary Activities List
- Strategize meaningful letters of recommendation

Refinement of College List

- Exploration of Mission Statements and IPs

Merit aid, additional aid models
Honors colleges, co-op, and capstones

Introduction to the Common Application
Development of Activities List
Personalized writing prompts and “sprints”
Close readings of successful essays

Summer Enrichment Planning
Internship/employment/pre-college applications
Volunteer work and/or self-study
Additional coursework/research experience
Resume creation and review

Family Meeting (student + parent)
Finalize college list
Review application and aid strategies
Roadmap final standardized testing
Roadmap application milestones and deadlines

12th Grade (June-October 15)

Common Application Support Meetings
Revision & finalization of activities (holding final stats until submission)
Personal essay brainstorming and drafting
Review of revision(s) with written feedback
Community Disruption Section (when relevant)
Additional Information section
Key supplemental essays
Brainstorming, review of drafts and revisions
Review of Institutional Priorities/Mission Statements
Targeted research support
Understanding SCOIR
Nudge/follow-up on FAFSA and CSS forms

Introduction to the University of California Application
Activities list review
Brainstorming and drafting of Personal Insight Prompts
Review of revision(s) with written feedback

Assistance with “stealth” essays

Honors college/scholarship application and essay support

Remaining package hours may focus on:

Additional scholarship applications

Invited Honors College application support

Additional program and major advising

Additional college visit support

Additional Demonstrated Interest and Admissions correspondence support

Mock interviews/interview preparation

Waitlist strategies/ review of LOCI

Offer Negotiation Support

Assistance with final decisions

The Novel package is capped at 35 hours of the advisor's time. This cap is to encourage student accountability while minimizing the cost of this package. It also discourages last-minute additions of colleges and/or types of applications that result in time-crunches and stress. At the beginning of senior summer, at our family meeting, college lists are finalized, and the number and type of applications are set.

All Novel students receive, during the fall of their senior year, free passes to Manette's weekly Virtual Office Hours, currently available on Mondays.

Additional hours are available for purchase, by mutual agreement, in 5 hour blocks.