**The Client**

Rebecca Chen, fellow student

**The Problem**

In their senior year of high school, many students are overwhelmed by the number of college and scholarship applications which they have to manage, and the number of deadlines which they must not miss for these.

**Current Solution**

I propose to create a program where students can keep all of this information in one place, in a handy format, so that at any time, they know what they need to do next, and what is missing from each of their applications.

**Sample Data**

A quarter of high school students in the United States apply to seven colleges or more. In my circle of acquaintances, the number is closer to ten or even fifteen. Rebecca only applied to five, but she complemented that number with honors programs and scholarships.

**Analysis of the Problem**

Students in the US are applying to more and more colleges, and they often run into difficulty because they have to send all the relevant parts of the application: they must send SAT, ACT, AP, and SAT Subject test scores to those colleges who will not let students self-report them. They must send transcripts and ask their counselor for a secondary school report, and two teachers for a recommendation letter. They must fill out the extensive biographical forms for each college, keeping track of which colleges use the Common App and which have their own website. They must write any number of essays, and short answer questions. Students who are exceptionally well organised will be able to do all of this, but those of us who have more trouble might end up missing a deadline or having to pay for rush delivery for scores.

**The Proposed Solution**

It would be very beneficial for students to have a program that could keep all of this information in one place, in a structure specifically created to keep track of college and scholarship applications, and with visual aids, so that they can have a sense of organization. The program would have a list of scholarships and colleges that each student creates, where they input in provided fields all the relevant information for each.

**Criteria for Success**

Features that are essential to any program of this type:

* Reminders for deadlines
* Fields for information about each college/scholarship, specifically tailored to needs of each
* Simple design without distractions (which would defeat the purpose of the application)
* Checklists for required elements of the application (essays, test scores etc.)

Basic features that are requested specifically by the client:

* Separate lists for scholarships and colleges
* Special section within a college’s section for honors program options
* Different options for sorting of college and scholarship applications (by date, length)

Optional features that might enhance the program beyond the client's requirements:

* Colour-coding for clarity and visual understanding
* Essay countdown on front page (how many essays student still needs to complete)
* Art supplement fields and reminders