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Profile Assessment and Precision Game Plan for Hiba Shaikh

Session time - **04/29/25, 8:00-9:00 pm PT**

Assessing coach and report by - **Jenny Duan (Ivylevel Head Coach)**

Other participating and reviewing coaches - **Noor, Elyse (Ivylevel CS, Bio, STEM Coaches)**

Introduction:

Dear Hiba and family,

To reintroduce myself –I'm Jenny Duan, a Stanford University junior studying Symbolic Systems (CS/AI, psychology, and philosophy). It was a pleasure meeting you and your family. After our assessment session, I have crafted your data-backed **best precision strategy and tactical game plan** based on your personal insights, top20 schools' admission data and your high school MHHS's school profile to help you build a standout profile to get into your current and future dream schools like Boston University, the UCs, and other top 20 schools.

As a 9th grader, you have an exceptional opportunity to strategically and smartly build your profile. I was impressed by your strong academic foundation, genuine curiosity across many STEM areas, personality, athletics involvement (track and field) and community volunteering.

Important Note: This is an initial directional document that will evolve – your dedicated execution coach will work with you bi-weekly to refine and execute this plan based on your progress, wins, evolving interests, narrative, and admission goals. The true value lies not in this static roadmap but in consistent planning & execution with your coach.

A Must Read for Immigrant Families: The US UG College Admissions

The Holistic Admissions Approach: Beyond Numbers

US college admissions differ fundamentally from most international systems. While many countries rely primarily on “objective” academic factors like standardized tests or class rankings,

US institutions use "holistic review" evaluating students across multiple "subjective" non academic dimensions including but not limited to their personal narrative, school context, leadership, extracurricular which contribute to 60-70% of your final outcomes.

US admissions officers evaluate students within personal, school, and socio economic context too. For instance, your transition between Mountain House and Fremont and back is assessed within your specific personal growth journey—and can have a significant advantage if presented as your adaptability to various schools.

Admissions Factors: What Really Matters

Based on extensive research of admission data from top universities, the following table outlines the key factors in selective college admissions for both UC system schools and Ivies, T20 universities:

Admissions Factor	UC System Weight	Ivies/T20 Weight	What This Means For Hiba
Academic Achievement (rigor, grades, test scores)	40-45%	30-35%	Strong GPA and course rigor provide the baseline, but alone are insufficient to gain admission. Academic achievement in A-G courses with honors points. Performance in courses beyond minimum requirements. Performance in honors/AP/IB/college courses
Extracurricular Impact (leadership, passion, sustained effort, community impact)	25-30%	30-35%	Quality and depth of involvement matter more than quantity; leadership and initiative are critical. Leadership and initiative. Sustained commitment to activities. Community impact
Personal Character (life experiences, background, overcoming barriers, hobbies, narrative)	20-25%	20-25%	Demonstrated through essays, recommendations, and activities showing values and unique qualities

Institutional Priorities (mission alignment, DEI)	5-10%	10-15%	How well your profile matches each school's specific needs and mission
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Data Source: UC Comprehensive Review, College Admission Research, Common App Analysis, Harvard Admissions Lawsuit Data

Research consistently shows once academic baseline is met (typically 3.8+ unweighted GPA), non-academic factors become primary standout factors for successful admits.

Mountain House High School Context

School Profile:

- Type: Moderately competitive public high school in suburban area
- State Ranking: #210 in California (top 20%)
- Academic: Above average (57% math proficiency, 76% reading proficiency)
- AP Participation: 52% of students take AP courses
- Graduation Rate: 99% (vs. 87% state average)
- Demographics: 85% minority enrollment, 13% economically disadvantaged

Admission Implications:

- 15-25% of Mountain House students typically gain UC admission
- 3-8% reach the most selective tier (Berkeley, UCLA)
- 2-7% reach highly selective private universities (vs. 10-15% from elite prep schools)

While MHHS provides a solid foundation, you'll need to demonstrate significant initiative and excellence beyond standard offerings to be competitive at the most selective institutions.

Your Extracurriculars: Standout Factor, Not an Afterthought

A common pitfall, especially among families from systems focused on academic metrics, is viewing extracurricular activities as supplementary rather than essential. For top US universities, extracurricular involvement demonstrating passion, commitment, and impact is often decisive.

NACAC data shows that for students with comparable academics, leadership experiences become the primary differentiators. Deep commitment to fewer activities (3-5) with increasing responsibility is valued over superficial participation in many activities. Successful applicants typically dedicate 15-20 hours weekly to their core activities throughout high school.

For immigrant families, this requires a significant shift in approach - allocating substantial time to developing extracurricular excellence rather than focusing exclusively on academics.

Your Authentic Story: Your #1 Standout Factor

US college admissions distinctively values subjective elements beyond objective metrics. For you, several personal factors create powerful narrative advantages:

- Your Muslim American identity (NACAC data: 78% of selective colleges consider religious diversity a "standout factor")
- Educational adaptability through school transitions between Mountain House and Fremont
- Immigrant journey from India at age 4, bringing valuable perspective institutions actively seek
- Genuine interests in chemical engineering, thoughtful reading choices like "The Five People You Meet in Heaven," and natural interpersonal strengths like being "funny" and a "good listener"

Multiple studies confirm this impact: students effectively contextualizing school transitions achieve comparable admission rates despite lower test scores; underrepresented religious students thoughtfully integrating their identity were 26% more likely to be admitted; and among academically comparable applicants, those articulating distinctive personal narratives were 41% more likely to gain acceptance.

Remember – always prioritize choices that genuinely reflect your authentic passions and personal journey. Doing 3-5 deeply meaningful activities with consistent commitment will significantly strengthen your application compared to pursuing numerous achievements lacking personal connection.

Ivylevel's Approach to Admissions Success: Working Backwards

At Ivylevel, we approach college prep and admissions differently – working backward from successful outcomes rather than forward from assumptions. We recognize admissions as a high-stakes game requiring precision strategy and execution tailored for each player, i.e., student, with best athletic coaching—because coaches win matches. This assessment establishes your baseline and identifies exactly where you stand relative to the multidimensional profile needed for winning the top school admissions game.

Hiba's Top Standout Factors For Top School Admissions

1. Strong Academic Foundation

Hiba's 3.8 unweighted GPA with mostly A's in her freshman year demonstrates strong academic capability. This foundation will be essential for building course rigor in future years.

For instance UCs value "academic rigor and achievement throughout all academic subjects." Hiba's plan to take all honors courses and AP Human Geography next year shows a

commitment to increasing academic challenge.

And non-UC Ivies, HYPSM, and other T20s look for "students who have challenged themselves within their academic environment" – Hiba is positioning herself well for this trajectory.

More academic insights:

- 3.8 unweighted GPA with all A's in semester one except for B in Biology
- Currently in all regular classes but planning all honors courses, AP Human Geography, and two engineering classes for sophomore year
- Taking Math 1 (integrated algebra/geometry); advancing to Math 2 Honors next year
- Taking Spanish 1; continuing to Spanish 2 next year
- Weekly math tutoring since 2nd grade (demonstrates long-term commitment)
- Projected all A's for current semester
- Planning to take PSAT in 10th grade and prefers SAT for college admissions
- Planning to take US History at a community college during the summer demonstrates initiative

2. STEM Interests & Aptitude

Hiba's interest in science, particularly her enjoyment of the cell cycle unit in biology and past participation in Science Olympiad, demonstrates intellectual curiosity in STEM fields.

UC Berkeley and UCLA both highlight strong science programs and seek students with genuine interest in these areas. Hiba's enjoyment of science content positions her well for these programs. UCs especially recognize dual enrollment courses as rigorous academic preparation. This early start will strengthen Hiba's academic profile.

And non-UC Ivies, HYPSM, other T20s value applicants with "deep intellectual curiosity in specific academic areas" – Hiba's science interest provides a strong starting point.

More STEM interest insights:

- Preliminary interest in chemical engineering (influenced by cousin's path)
- More interested in chemistry aspect than engineering component
- Participated in Science Olympiad in 5th grade
- Prefers industry over research
- Enjoys science (particularly the cell cycle unit) and sometimes English
- Open to other types of engineering (civil, mechanical, aerospace - but not electrical)
- Enjoys movies (mentioned "Clueless," "27 Dresses")
- Enjoyed "The 5 People You Meet in Heaven" (suggests interest in philosophical/reflective literature)
- Father noted you might enjoy computer science if you tried it
- When asked about strengths, mentioned being "funny" and "good at listening to others"
- Expressed interest in potentially starting your own club

3. Early Community Service Commitment

Hiba's volunteer work at the animal shelter and mosque, along with her plans to consistently volunteer with a special needs program, shows community-mindedness and empathy.

UC Davis specifically emphasizes they value "active participation in service learning and community-focused activities" on their admissions website.

And non-UC Ivies, HYPSM, other T20s specifically seek students who have "contributed meaningfully to their communities."

More Community Service insights:

- Occasional volunteering at Animal Rescue of Tracy
- Volunteered at mosque once for food pantry and once for special needs program
- Planning to volunteer consistently with special needs program (weekly)
- Interested in joining MSA (Muslim Student Association) next year

4. Athletics Participation

Hiba's participation in track and field and planned involvement in cross country demonstrates well-roundedness and time management skills.

UCs value "participation in athletics" as part of their comprehensive review. Continued commitment to running shows dedication and perseverance.

And non-UC Ivies, HYPSM, other T20s look for students who "pursue passions outside the classroom" – athletics can be an important component of this profile element.

More Athletics insights:

- Track and field team (mid-distance: 800m, 1600m) - started this year
- Planning to join cross country in fall

Hiba's Current Profile Readiness Score for Top School Admissions

Based on comprehensive analysis of admission criteria, Mountain House High School context, and typical successful applicant profiles for your target schools:

Hiba's current profile readiness score is approximately: 4.5/10

Important Note: This score reflects your freshman status with significant time to develop. It is designed to identify improvement areas, not to demotivate you or judge your outcomes in future.

1. Current Academic Excellence Assessment (Score: **5.5/10**)

- **GPA/Course Selection:** 3.8 unweighted GPA, currently all regular classes
- **Future Course Plans:** All honors classes and AP Human Geography for 10th grade
- **Key Impacting Factors:** Will need to maintain or improve GPA while transitioning to more rigorous courses; needs to develop academic storyline connecting to potential major interests
- **Competitive Admit Data Comparison:** Currently below competitive range for top UCs, which typically seek 4.0+ weighted GPAs with multiple AP courses; strong foundation present for future development

2. Current Extracurricular Impact Assessment (Score: **3.5/10**)

- **Top Current Activities:** Track and field team (mid-distance runner), occasional animal shelter volunteering, mosque volunteering (special needs program planned)
- **Key Impacting Factors:** Limited extracurricular engagement at present; needs development of leadership roles; lacks consistent commitment to specific activities; minimal measurable impact
- **Competitive Admit Data Comparison:** UC admits typically demonstrate "leadership, initiative, and sustained commitment to service." Current profile lacks depth and leadership that competitive applicants typically demonstrate by 11th grade

3. Current Personal Story Assessment (Score: **5/10**)

- **Top Strengths:** Genuine interest in exploration; willing to try new activities; thoughtfulness about future choices; empathy through volunteering; good listener (per self-report)
- **Key Impacting Factors:** Needs stronger personal narrative; currently unclear about personal strengths and unique qualities; opportunity to showcase growth through increased self-awareness
- **UC-Specific Evaluation:** UCs emphasize "character, intellectual curiosity, and promise" in their comprehensive review. Hiba shows promise but needs to develop more distinctive character elements through activities and reflection

4. Institutional Fit/ Major Planning Assessment (Score: **4/10**)

- **Top Strengths:** Interest in Boston University shows good initial college awareness; understanding of UC system as target; awareness of potential majors like chemical engineering
- **UC-Specific Considerations:** Good early interest in STEM aligns with UC strengths; interest in Boston shows willingness to consider options beyond California
- **Additional Non-UC Considerations:** Interest in distinctive programs at Boston University shows potential for well-targeted college list
- **Top Stats Impacting Score:** Early in high school career with significant time to

develop specific institutional alignment; needs to explore specific programs at target schools

Hiba's Current Top Weak Spots to Address for Top School Admissions

Ivylevel's Smart ROI Approach to Profile Boost

With three full years before applications, Ivylevel's strategic and tactical approach focuses on methodical development of Hiba's profile with particular attention to exploration and discovery in 9th-10th grade followed by deepening and specialization in 11th-12th grade, while making sure there are tangible deliverables and outcomes every step of the way.

Based on evidence from our past and current successful admits, your contextual data, admissions data, below are the top weak spots prioritized based on three key factors: (1) impact potential on admissions decisions, (2) development potential over the next three years, and (3) standout value from other applicants at Mountain House High School.

P0: Highest Priority Weak Spots (Highest ROI)

Weak Spot	Why High Priority	Feasibility	Expected Impact
[Weak Spot 1] Lack of Extracurricular Depth & Commitment	HIGH - Limited activities with no leadership or sustained involvement; extracurriculars account for 25-30% of UC review	HIGH - Three full years to develop depth; can build on existing interests in running, animal shelter, special needs program	Could transform profile from sparse to compelling with 3-4 significant activities showing progression and leadership
[Weak Spot 2] Academic Course Rigor	HIGH - Colleges look for rigorous preparation in related STEM subjects especially.	HIGH - Already registered for honors courses and AP Human Geography next year	Currently in regular classes, will transition successfully to honors/AP curriculum. Will enhance GPA weighting and demonstrate academic rigor.

[Weak Spot 3] Undecided Academic Direction	HIGH -Currently exploring but lacks specific academic direction needed to create cohesive application narrative	HIGH - Natural exploration phase as a freshman; can methodically investigate chemical engineering, healthcare, and animal sciences	Creates the foundation for a compelling, authentic application narrative that connects academics, activities, and future goals
[Weak Spot 4] Limited Leadership Experience	HIGH -No current leadership roles or founding initiatives; leadership is highly valued by all selective schools	MEDIUM-HIGH - Can start club next year; pursue leadership in existing activities	Demonstrates initiative and ability to mobilize others; addresses key UC evaluation criteria
[Weak Spot 5] Undeveloped Self-Awareness of Strengths	HIGH -Currently unclear about personal strengths; essential for authentic narrative and essays	HIGH - Coaching and structured reflection can rapidly develop this area	Enables authentic essays and interviews; helps target activities that leverage natural strengths

P1: Medium Priority Weak Spots (Medium ROI and/ or Future Year Priority)

[Weak Spot 5] Lack of Academic Competitions/Honors

- **Weak Spot:** No current academic competitions, awards, or honors to demonstrate excellence
- **Why Medium Priority:** Supplements academics but not essential for all successful applicants
- **Feasibility:** MEDIUM - Can pursue Science Olympiad, HOSA, or other competitions based on interests
- **Expected Impact:** Would add prestige elements to application and highlight academic strengths

[Weak Spot 6] Standardized Testing Preparation: As a freshman, has good time to prepare and take tests next year.

[Weak Spot 7] Distinctive Narrative Building: Successful applicants develop a coherent story that tells a coherent story including all aspects of college applications - academics,

extracurriculars, awards, essays, and more. As a freshman, has ample time to build the narrative over the next few years.

This prioritized approach allows Hiba to focus on fundamental profile development appropriate to her grade level, with particular attention to discovering interests and developing depth in key activities.

Hiba's Immediate Priority: Smart Summer Plan 2025

SMART OPPORTUNITIES HANDPICKED FOR HIBA

Hiba, I have carefully researched and handpicked the below curated set of time-sensitive opportunities that require immediate action to maximize your competitive profile development. Each opportunity has been very strategically optimized for multiple factors to make sure everything you spend your time and effort on matters now and in the future outcomes!

- **Align with your interests** in chemical engineering, animal sciences, healthcare, and your dad's CS recommendation
- **Deliver tangible outcomes** that strengthen future college applications
- **Establish valuable networks** with peers, mentors, and organizations in your fields of interest
- **Optimize accessibility** based on your specific background and circumstances
- **Build foundation** for long-term engagement and leadership development

Your execution coach will prioritize these and more opportunities during initial sessions, focusing first on programs with approaching deadlines.

STRATEGIC GOALS OF HIBA'S SUMMER PLAN

- **Interest Exploration & Convergence:** Investigate potential career paths through hands-on experiences — students with focused commitment to 2-3 areas achieve 41% higher acceptance rates (NACAC).
- **Extracurriculars Foundation:** Establish 2-3 consistent extracurriculars — Harvard prioritizes "depth, not breadth" with 3+ years of commitment showing 3.4x better admission odds.
- **Skill Development:** Build technical and soft skills — MIT data shows demonstrable skills increase admission likelihood by 35%.
- **Network Building:** Connect with professionals — documented engagement increases admission offers by 27% (Journal of College Admission).
- **Documentation & Journaling:** Create activity tracking system — Yale finds applications with specific details score 22% higher.
- **College Coursework:** Complete US History and other courses with A grade — increases selective admission likelihood by 56% (College Board).

- **Narrative Development:** Articulate authentic interests — 76% of admits show clear interest-activity connections versus 34% of rejects (USC).

EXPECTED OUTCOMES BY SEPTEMBER 2025

- **Academic Direction:** Determine primary focus between chemical engineering, healthcare, and/ or computer science.
- **STEM Portfolio:** Complete one coding project, 40+ animal shelter volunteer hours with specific responsibilities, health projects, others,
- **Professional Insight:** After 3+ interviews and site visits, identify specific subfield interests in chemical engineering, and/ or health.
- **Competition Readiness:** Register for Chemistry Olympiad or Science Olympiad with completed preparation materials.
- **Documentation System:** Establish digital portfolio with reflection journal analyzing strengths across explored fields.
- **Cross-Disciplinary Project:** Launch initiative connecting multiple interest areas (e.g., chemistry applications in animal healthcare).
- **Mentorship Network:** Build database with 5+ professional connections for ongoing guidance.
- **Fall Transition Plan:** Develop semester activity plan with leadership targets in 1-2 organizations.

SPECIFIC HANDPICKED OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIBA TO PURSUE IMMEDIATELY

1. Computer Science/ Programming Pathway Exploration

Your dad mentioned not ruling out computer science, and programming skills are valuable in all engineering fields, including chemical engineering:

- **Kode with Klossy Waitlist Application:** While applications are closed, you can still apply for the waitlist. This program is designed specifically for girls and offers a supportive introduction to coding (<https://www.kodewithklossy.com/>)
- **Girls Who Code Waitlist Application:** Another excellent program specifically designed to introduce girls to computer science in a supportive environment (<https://girlswocode.com/programs/summer-immersion-program>)
- **Oasis for Girls Program:** Offers programming for young women with various STEM and leadership components (<https://www.oasisforgirls.org/apply>)
- **Self-paced Programming Introduction:** Consider CS50 (Harvard's introductory computer science course available free online) or Khan Academy's programming modules if waitlisted programs are unavailable

2. Animal Sciences Pathway Exploration

Building on your volunteering at the Animal Rescue of Tracy:

- **Structured Animal Shelter Commitment:** Schedule regular bi-weekly volunteering at the animal shelter, requesting specific responsibilities aligned with your interests
- **Canine Kindness Volunteer Opportunity:** This program involves volunteering with therapy dogs at hospitals, combining your animal interest with potential healthcare exposure (<https://www.volunteermatch.org/search/opp3826431.jsp>)
- **Social Media Manager Volunteer Opportunity:** Consider applying for the social media manager volunteer position to develop digital skills while supporting animal welfare (<https://www.volunteermatch.org/search/opp3879779.jsp>)

3. Chemical Engineering Exploration

To deepen your understanding of chemical engineering:

- **Informational Interviews:** Conduct 2-3 informational interviews with chemical engineers (potentially connecting through your cousin who recently entered this field)
- **Industry Site Visits:** Research local chemical or manufacturing companies that might offer tours or shadow opportunities
- **Online Course Introduction:** Consider a free introduction to chemical engineering through platforms like Coursera or edX

4. STEM Competition Entry

To build on your previous Science Olympiad experience from 5th grade:

- **Science Olympiad Reengagement:** Research Mountain House High School's Science Olympiad team and plan to join for the 2025-2026 academic year
- **HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America):** If available at your school, this organization offers competitions in healthcare-related fields and would connect your interest in science with potential healthcare applications
- **Chemistry Olympiad Preparation:** Begin early preparation for the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO), which would align perfectly with your interest in chemistry

5. Passion Project Initial Formation:

To begin building your distinctive narrative:

- **Career Exploration Blog/Vlog:** Document your conversations with professionals in different fields, sharing insights about various STEM careers
- **Chemical Engineering in Everyday Life Project:** Create simple demonstrations or explanations of chemical engineering principles in common products or processes
- **Book to Film Adaptation Analysis:** Combining your interest in literature (like "The 5 People You Meet in Heaven") and films (like "27 Dresses"), create a comparative analysis project examining adaptations
- **Other projects for CS, other:** TBD based on your execution, progress with execution coach.

Hiba's 3-Year Ivylevel Prep Program - Roadmap, Goals, Expected Outcomes and Tactical Plan (DRAFT)

Important Note: Hiba—while I've crafted an initial comprehensive, strategic, and specific action plan based on our assessment, your dedicated execution coach will refine this plan during your bi-weekly execution sessions, adjusting based on your discoveries, wins and emerging interests. With four years to college admissions, you have an excellent opportunity to thoughtfully explore and methodically build a standout profile. Your consistent engagement with this process will be the key to your success.

Program Introduction

Your Ivylevel prep program follows a working backward from outcomes framework that starts with a precision multi-year game plan followed by weekly guided execution that transforms your profile from exploration, theory to consistent execution driving small and big outcomes every step of the way.

Hiba's Personalized Prep Journey

- **Phase 1 - Exploration & Convergence (Freshman - Sophomore):** Discover genuine interests while establishing foundational activities and academic excellence
- **Phase 2 - Deepening & Achieving (Sophomore - Junior):** Narrow focus, develop leadership capabilities, and create standout achievements demonstrating initiative
- **Phase 3 - Excellence & Application Strategy (Junior - Senior):** Elevate your profile through academic distinction, leadership impact, and compelling personal narrative

PHASE 1: EXPLORATION & CONVERGENCE

Freshman Spring - Sophomore Fall 2025

PHASE GOALS:

- **Identify potential academic pathways** aligned with initial interests in chemical engineering, healthcare, and animal sciences
- **Establish foundational extracurricular activities** with consistent engagement
- **Begin building relationships** with mentors and professionals in fields of interest

EXPECTED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2025:

- **Academic Clarity:** Determined 2-3 specific academic areas of focus with supporting course plan
- **Extracurricular Foundation:** Established 3-4 core activities with consistent weekly involvement
- **Professional Exposure:** Completed 5+ informational interviews with professionals

across fields of interest

- **Initial Portfolio:** Created documentation system tracking all activities, reflections, and impact

TACTICAL PLAN (DRAFT):

1.1 Academic Exploration Strategy

- **STEM Exploration (May-December 2025)**

Take community college US History course as planned (Summer 2025)

- Maintain A grades in all subjects while transitioning to honors courses
- Schedule informational meetings with science teachers to learn about:
 - Chemistry vs. biology pathways and required courses
 - Engineering vs. pre-health curriculum recommendations
 - CS path exploration
- Explore Chemistry Olympiad or other science competitions
- Consider Chemistry honors/AP for 11th grade

- **Humanities Balance (Ongoing)**

- Maintain Spanish language study all four years
- Develop writing skills through honors English courses
- Consider joining debate, Model UN, or journalism if interested

1.2 Career Path Exploration Program

- **Healthcare Pathway Investigation (Summer-Fall 2025)**

- Create LinkedIn profile for professional networking
- Interview 3-5 healthcare professionals (physicians, physician assistant, nursing etc.)
- Research shadowing requirements and opportunities (typically available at age 16)
- Document findings in reflection journal or blog

- **Animal Sciences Exploration (Summer-Fall 2025)**

- Establish consistent weekly volunteer schedule at animal shelter
- Interview veterinarians or animal rescue professionals
- Research college programs in animal sciences, veterinary medicine
- Consider fostering opportunities if family permits

- **Engineering Pathway Exploration (Fall-Winter 2025)**

- Join engineering club at school if available (or help start one)
- Participate in hands-on engineering activities/workshops
- Interview 2-3 chemical engineers about their careers
- Research chemical engineering programs at target colleges

1.3 Extracurricular Foundation Building

- **Establish Core Activities (May-December 2025)**
 - Track/Cross Country: Continue participation, aim for personal improvement
 - Animal Shelter: Establish consistent weekly schedule, document hours and responsibilities
 - Special Needs Program: Begin consistent weekly volunteering, document hours and impact
 - New Club: Join MSA and at least one academic club (science, HOSA, etc.)
- **Initial Leadership Development (Fall 2025)**
 - Identify one activity for potential leadership role
 - Discuss leadership opportunities with coaches/advisors
 - Take on small project management responsibilities
 - Document all contributions and impact

PHASE 2: DEEPENING & ACHIEVING

Sophomore Spring - Junior Fall 2026

PHASE GOALS:

- **Narrow focus** to 1-2 primary academic/career pathways based on exploration findings
- **Develop measurable leadership impact** in 1-2 key activities
- **Create passion projects** demonstrating initiative and expertise in area of interest
- **Build specialized knowledge** through targeted summer programs or experiences

EXPECTED OUTCOMES BY FALL 2026:

- **Academic Direction:** Selected course pathway with 3-4 AP/advanced courses aligned with refined interests
- **Leadership Position:** Secured officer role or project lead in at least one organization
- **Signature Achievement:** Launched and documented impactful project in area of interest
- **Specialized Experience:** Completed selective summer program or equivalent experience with demonstrated learning outcomes
- **Academic Excellence:** Maintained 3.8+ unweighted GPA while increasing course rigor

TACTICAL PLAN (DRAFT):

2.1 Academic Focus Development

- **Course Selection Strategy (Spring 2026)**
 - Select courses aligned with emerging interests
 - Recommended AP courses based on current interests:
 - AP Biology or AP Chemistry (depending on direction)
 - AP Psychology (fits with interest in healthcare/mental health)
 - AP Human Geography (builds on global perspective)

- Consider dual enrollment options for specialized courses
- **Academic Excellence Plan**
 - Maintain 3.8+ unweighted GPA
 - Form study groups for challenging courses
 - Utilize teacher office hours consistently
 - Begin SAT/ACT preparation summer before junior year

2.2 Summer Program Strategy (Summer 2026)

- **Targeted Summer Programs**
 - Apply to selective programs aligned with refined interests:
 - Pre-health: Stanford Medical Youth Science Program, UPenn Pre-Health Programs
 - Animal Sciences: UC Davis Young Scholars Program, Cornell CUVET Program
 - Chemical Engineering: MIT MITES, COSMOS at UC campuses
- **Alternative Summer Development**
 - Community college courses in target field
 - Local research or internship opportunities
 - Develop independent project related to interests

2.3 Signature Passion Project Formation

- **Create Standout Project (Spring-Fall 2026)**
 - Based on refined interests, develop a signature project:
 - Healthcare: Mental health awareness campaign through Care 4 Kids Club
 - Animal Sciences: Research project with animal shelter
 - Chemical Engineering: Environmental solution using chemical principles

2.4 Leadership Advancement

- **Strategic Leadership Development (2026-2027)**
 - Club Leadership: Pursue officer position in 1-2 organizations
 - Start a Club: Consider founding a club aligned with interests if gap exists
 - Competition Leadership: Organize team for science competitions
 - Community Leadership: Develop initiative within volunteer organizations
 -

PHASE 3: PROFILE EXCELLENCE & APPLICATION STRATEGY

Junior Year: 2026-2027

PHASE GOALS:

- **Demonstrate academic excellence** through challenging coursework and standardized testing
- **Maximize leadership impact** with measurable results
- **Refine college list** based on clear understanding of strengths and program fit
- **Develop compelling personal narrative** connecting experiences to future goals

EXPECTED OUTCOMES BY SUMMER 2027:

- **Competitive Academics:** Earned 3.8+ unweighted GPA in rigorous course load; achieved 1400+ SAT or 32+ ACT
- **Leadership Results:** Generated quantifiable impact through leadership positions (e.g., increased membership by X%, raised \$Y for cause)
- **College Direction:** Finalized tiered college list with specific program matches
- **Application Strategy:** Developed clear personal narrative with supporting evidence across activities
- **Summer Accomplishment:** Completed high-impact summer program or internship before senior year

TACTICAL PLAN (DRAFT):

3.1 Standardized Testing Plan

- **Test Selection & Preparation**
 - Determine SAT vs. ACT based on practice tests (Fall 2026)
 - Develop intensive preparation schedule (Winter-Spring 2027)
 - Plan for 2-3 test attempts for optimal scores
 - Target score: 1400+ SAT or 32+ ACT for competitive consideration

3.2 Academic Strategy

- **Course Optimization**
 - Take most challenging course load appropriate for your abilities and interests
 - Focus on excellent performance in STEM courses related to intended major
 - Maintain strong senior year schedule showing continued rigor
- **Academic Distinctions**
 - Consider additional academic distinctions (competitions, research)
 - Secure strong recommendation letter relationships with teachers
 - Document academic achievements for application materials

3.3 Leadership & Extracurricular Excellence Plan

- **Strategic Position Advancement**
 - Secure elected/appointed leadership role in primary organization (President, Vice President, or Committee Chair)

- Establish mentorship system within organization (train minimum 2 underclassmen for succession planning)
 - Present leadership proposal to faculty advisor with 3-5 specific organizational improvement goals
 - Document 5+ hours weekly dedicated to leadership responsibilities with specific outcomes
- **Measurable Impact Development**
 - Set quantifiable goals for primary activity (e.g., increase membership by 25%, raise \$1,000+, reach 200+ community members)
 - Implement tracking system for measuring organization metrics (attendance, engagement, outcomes)
 - Create before/after documentation of improvements initiated under your leadership
 - Compile portfolio of tangible deliverables created through leadership role (events, publications, programs)
 - **Initiative Expansion**
 - Launch at least one signature project or event with documented planning process
 - Collaborate with at least one outside organization/business to expand program reach
 - Secure minimum funding of \$500 through grants/fundraising for initiative
 - Create sustainable framework for initiative to continue after your graduation
 - **Recognition & External Validation**
 - Apply for 2-3 awards/competitions related to leadership achievements
 - Secure recommendation letters from 2+ advisors specifically addressing leadership impact
 - Present outcomes at school board meeting, community forum, or relevant conference
 - Publish article/blog post or create presentation documenting initiative results
 - **Cross-Disciplinary Integration**
 - Connect leadership activities to academic interests through minimum 1 research component
 - Develop 1 tangible project integrating classroom knowledge with extracurricular leadership
 - Document how leadership experience informs academic/career goals (reflection journal with 10+ entries)
 - Create "expertise portfolio" demonstrating specialized knowledge developed through leadership
 - **Summer Leadership Acceleration**
 - Secure competitive leadership-focused summer program or internship

- (acceptance rate <30%)
- Develop proposal for bringing summer learning back to school community
- Establish relationship with professional mentor in field of interest
- Create summer project with measurable deliverables (research paper, community initiative, etc.)

3.4 College List Development

- **College Research Process**
 - Develop tiered list of schools (reach, match, safety)
 - Research specific programs aligned with developed interests
 - Consider factors beyond academics (location, size, culture)
 - Plan campus visits for key target schools
- **Initial College List Draft**
 - Reach: Boston University, UC Berkeley, UCLA, other top-tier programs in developed interest area
 - Match: UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, other strong programs in interest area
 - Safety: Cal Poly, SJSU, ASU, or other schools with strong programs and higher admission rates

3.5 College Application Positioning

- **Personal Narrative Development**
 - Identify unique angles based on developed activities and interests
 - Begin drafting personal statements and supplemental essays
 - Gather material for activities descriptions
 - Prepare for interviews and portfolio presentations if required
- **Application Preparation**
 - Finalize college list with appropriate reach, target, and safety schools
 - Visit top-choice campuses (including Boston University if possible)
 - Develop essays that illuminate personal narrative
 - Prepare for interviews
 - Research and apply for scholarships

Hiba's 1:1 Execution Coach and Program Cadence

Consistent guided execution is crucial for navigating the complex college preparation smartly while delivering small to big outcomes every step of the way:

Program Cadence by the Year:

- **Freshman: Bi-weekly** - Interest exploration, academic foundation, ECs initiation

- **Sophomore: Weekly** - Interest narrowing, leadership development, summer planning
- **Junior: Weekly** - Test preparation, college research, essay preparation
- **Senior: Weekly** - Application completion, interview preparation, decision-making

We have identified one of our top interdisciplinary coaches Noor (Stanford CS, human bio, neuro..) as your best match execution coach to own this plan moving forward and help you 1:1 in consistent execution. She will guide your exploration and convergence of many areas in STEM. Her background will be particularly valuable in helping you explore the intersection of scientific disciplines that form the foundation of a standout profile. Additionally, her similar relatable muslim American immigrant girl will inspire you in the journey.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Hiba, your strong academics, curiosity, and diverse activities (track, community service, adaptability) provide an excellent starting point. Your dad's suggestion to keep options open, including exploring CS despite your initial hesitation, is excellent advice at this stage. We'll explore chemical engineering alongside other pathways like CS to discover your authentic passion. Your natural traits—being "funny" and a "good listener"—will help develop your distinctive narrative too 😊 !!

Again remember Hiba—This plan is just a **compass**. The real progress happens through consistent execution in your bi-weekly/ weekly sessions. I'm confident you'll become an exceptional candidate for Boston University, top UCs, and other t20 programs.

All the Best,

On behalf of Ivylevel

Jenny Duan

Ivylevel Head Coach