

## Custom Packages & Hourly Options

### Overview

For students and families who want focused support on specific aspects of the admissions process, Odyssey Admissions is able to offer both Custom Packages and an hourly rate to meet your specific needs. Below are a few examples.

### Sample Packages

**Insight & Embark** - Beginning with a 2-hour overview consultation that helps get a big-picture perspective on the application, the evaluated process, and how to form a strategic approach that is unique to the individual. We will cover confusing terminology, recent admissions trends, and an admissions strategy that best fits the students goals. We will develop a custom timeline that includes standardized testing dates, letters of recommendation, meetings with the school counselor, campus visits, application completion, submission dates, and various post-application topics. This is an excellent option to pair for ad hoc hourly conversations.

**Financial Aid** - A 1-hour consultation to explain what financial aid is and how to get it will be followed by a deep-dive into the resources necessary to find it and apply for it. We will discuss the different types of aid and how each will affect admissions results. Financial aid is available from a wide variety of sources, so it's important to start with student interests and involvement. Parents are a key part of this process, so all meetings will require that parents participate.

**Athlete Recruitment** - For aspiring collegiate athletes, this is a must. The recruitment process is confusing, even for veteran counselors. Nevertheless, there are tangible steps that you must take early on to ensure you are maximizing your opportunities. We will talk about the role of the student, the role of the parent, and how to be seen by college recruiters. Following the NCAA recruitment rules, we will draw up a timeline that includes applying for a certificate account on the NCAA website, the possibility of signing a National Letter of Intent, and the how/when it's acceptable to speak directly with the university coaching staff.

**Essay Workshop** - Working one-on-one with a counselor who has been trained by three different admissions offices and has a masters degree in literature, you can rest assured you will walk away with an essay that you will be proud of. We begin with a "discovery session" to draw out possible aspects of the student that may positively contribute to the overall narrative that runs throughout the application. After brainstorming the direction some of these topics may take, we dive right into the writing process. Always a recursive process, we will go through several versions by writing, receiving feedback, revising, rewriting, and so on until the final draft feels right.

**International Explorer** - Did you know that American students can attend universities in Germany without paying tuition? Did you know that some of the world's best art and design schools are in Australia? Did you know that Switzerland is home to several of the premier hospitality schools? This package is available to anyone considering a degree overseas. Through a preliminary questionnaire, we will collect information on student interests and preferences to find a country system that fits you and your budget. Bonus: you'll be working with the guy who wrote the book on international admissions!

*If none of these packages feel like the right fit, you are encouraged to contact us directly to discuss how our services can help you get you where you want to go. Below is a list of our services to help you find the right fit for you. We can discuss a possible custom package or the possibility of working on an hourly basis.*

## Available Services

**Overview Consultation** - This meeting includes the student and family and is essential in understanding the process in its entirety. We go through all aspects of the application process from the student perspective as well as the review process from the admissions perspective. We will demystify terminology, discuss how to formulate an overall strategy, consider recent admissions trends, and address frequently asked questions.

**Timeline & Deadlines** - A thorough understanding of tasks on the horizon is key to successfully accomplishing work today. We will take a look at all the tasks ahead of us from start to finish and space it all out so that the work is manageable. By incorporating your school calendar into this, we avoid academic pinch-points and eliminate unnecessary conflict. The goal is to maximize opportunity, not stress.

**Skills/Interests Inventory** - When students understand their own individual interests, skills, and abilities, they are more likely to make decisions that positively impact their future. After identifying this information via the Strong Interest Inventory© by Myers-Briggs, we consider how to best utilize the findings in both the high school and college context.

**Course Selection** - Your choice of classes will play a major part in how an admissions office will evaluate you. These choices are also important in ensuring your academic record reflects both a challenging curriculum and successful grades. We will look at what your school has to offer and consider the best fit for the individual student.

**Standardized Testing** - Even though there is a prevalent trend away from required standardized testing, 86% of all degree-granting universities in the US continue to require either an SAT or ACT. This percentage grows when applying for financial aid. We work together to craft a strategy and timeline that offers the most advantage and avoids the last-minute crush that students easily fall into during their senior year.

**Extracurricular & Supercurricular Activities** - Collaborating in one-on-one meetings, we will take data collected in your interest/skill inventory surveys to consider all that your high school has to offer as well as opportunities within the greater community as well as further afield. The goal is to help you find your passion and get you involved.

**Summer Opportunities** - Summers are meant to be opportunities for growth and exploration and fun. We will brainstorm and research ideas that help you accomplish all this while also making you a more interesting candidate from the admissions perspective.

**Transcript Review** - The purpose of this is to ensure the school is representing you accurately. Mistakes happen more often than any school would like to admit, and our review of this pivotal document is meant to guarantee errors are avoided.

**Student Resume** - A student resume is almost never required for American universities. However, it can be a great way to control the narrative you are sharing in your application and demonstrate your dedication to certain areas of interest. We work together to create a resume to be proud of. This document can also be used for applications to summer opportunities.

**College Search & Research** - Utilizing a wide variety of resources (online and off) and the shared experience of a counselor who has visited hundreds of college campuses, we begin with the student's individual fingerprint of search criteria and develop a list of schools that fit you.

**Campus Visits** - Visiting a college campus offers a chance to fill in the blanks left over from even the most thorough research and sheds valuable light on the "X-Factor" that only reveals itself when you step foot on that campus quad. We talk about the dos and don'ts of a campus visit, and we try to connect you with the admissions officer who will be reading your application. The global pandemic has complicated traditional campus visit protocol, but we stay up-to-date as this changes.

**Best-Fit College List** - Deciding on a final application list isn't a simple decision. We strike a balance between reaching for dream schools, finding appropriate target schools, and ensuring that we have safety schools that still excite us. This combination allows us to shoot for those "what if" schools while also protecting us from missing out because of a particularly competitive admissions season.

**ED/EA/RD Gameplan** - The statistics around Early Decision and Early Action are encouraging but constantly changing, especially with the unpredictability of a global pandemic. Great advantages can be gained by making these decisions before even applying.

**Demonstrated Interest** - One of those fringe elements in a student's application, demonstrated interest can be a great way of making your application stand out. We talk about what it looks like and how to show it to your top choice colleges.

**Application Support & Supplemental Materials** - Odyssey Admissions does not fill in the application for you, but we are available for advice every step of the way. There are a hundred different ways to do it wrong, so we make sure your questions are answered and offer tips throughout.

**Essay Workshop** - Starting from scratch, we use a structured approach to brainstorming possible ideas that fall in line with the overall application narrative you are hoping to convey. Expanding upon these ideas, an essay takes shape. With a master's degree in English literature and nine years of classroom teaching experience, you are in good hands as we go through the recursive process of draft, workshop, revise, edit. In the end, you will be submitting an essay that you can be proud of.

**Communication w/ Admissions Office** - This is where networking pays dividends. Odyssey Admissions attends several conferences each year and visits 20-30 campuses each year. The relationships forged within the profession give us a powerful voice to advocate for you.

**Financial Aid & Scholarships** - Financial aid and scholarships are as individualized as the student. We will consider all aspects of the student and utilize specialized search engines to identify a variety of sources of financial support. We also discuss how applying for financial aid will affect your chances of getting accepted to your best-fit colleges.

**Interview Prep** - While admissions interviews are not overwhelmingly common, when available, they can provide an important push for applications that are "on the fence." We talk about what to expect, how to prepare, how to present yourself, and how to control the narrative.

**Decision Strategy** - Once all those offers come pouring in, you have to make a life-changing decision...but you aren't alone! We weigh the pros and cons of each offer in order to make sure you are happy and can move forward without regret. For students applying to multiple countries, this may necessitate a complicated, strategic decision.

**Counselor Access** - Consistent access to your counselor means you get answers to your questions and personalized advice whenever you need it. No lengthy appointment waits...just call.

### **Investment**

**Time (estimated):** Varies according to your individual needs

**Price (custom packages):** Contact us to discuss a package and price to fit your needs.