Zachary Friske, MBA, IEC

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Summary

I love to dig into college admissions problems and solve them leveraging a cutting-edge methodology sharpened through my experience within UCLA College Counseling and my work within a top 50 nationally ranked high school counseling office. I work with students and families to optimize both the college admissions process and academic survival skills in order to best position students for success within their future academic careers.

To accomplish this I focus on delivering key outcomes, building powerful coalitions between students, college admissions offices, and faculty at undergraduate and graduate programs through the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, and adapting my services to address the ever evolving process of college admissions.

Reach out to me today to talk academics, admissions, or scuba diving!

Experience



Undergraduate/Graduate Admissions Consultant | Advanced Academics Instructor

Cambridge Letters

Mar 2022 - Present (2 years 6 months)

I first learned of Post-Nominal Letters while in Cambridge as a graduate student at Harvard University. I was fascinated by the variety of letters appended to the end of one's name to celebrate academic achievement.

Cambridge Letters is dedicated to its mission - providing the most comprehensive and personalized college admissions counseling and academic readiness services available.



🙉 Associate Advanced Placement Teacher

Southlake Carroll ISD

Mar 2022 - Present (2 years 6 months)

Provide instructor coverage and guest lectures services for Advanced Placement (AP) courses in AP Science, AP Mathematics, AP English, and AP History at two public high schools within the Southlake Carroll Independent School District.



ucial College Counselor | UCLA College Counseling Practicum

UCLA

Mar 2021 - Mar 2022 (1 year 1 month)

Invested 150 hours of work within the Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions Counseling Office applying counseling theory and methodology to assist students and parents in the college admissions process, finding scholarships and financial aid, assisting with academic readiness workshops, and conducing mock interviews for undergraduate and medical school programs.

HISD AP Physics 1 & 2 Teacher

Houston ISD

Aug 2020 - Mar 2022 (1 year 8 months)

Texas certified AP Physics 1 & 2 instructor developing an award-winning college-level curriculum resulting in student AP exam scores consistently beating State and National averages.

- 118 Teacher Letters of Recommendation written assisting students to secure seats at Harvard University, MIT, Rice University, and UT School of Architecture among other institutes.
- Baylor College of Medicine Astrophysics in Medicine Teacher Externship
- NASA Aerospace Teacher Externship
- New Teacher of the Year Award, 2020
- Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation Educator of Distinction Award

Undergraduate Admissions Office | Application Evaluator

Southern Methodist University

Feb 2018 - Feb 2021 (3 years 1 month)

Detail-orientated undergraduate applicant reviewer with expertise in management of sensitive student application records and evaluation of scholarship applicants.

- Managed and coordinated confidential applicant information of high school students applying to the Hunt Leadership Scholars Program.
- Analyzed scholarship essays, academic record, extracurricular record, recorded video speeches, and scholarship applications; coordinated communication with Program Director and Admissions Office to ensure a quality candidate pool of appropriate scholars.

Graduate Admissions Office | Interview Coordinator

Texas A&M University School of Medicine

Aug 2016 - Dec 2018 (2 years 5 months)

Personable coordinator with extensive collaborative experience working with faculty and staff across undergraduate institutes to prepare undergraduate students for Texas A&M College of Medicine interviews.

- Substantially increased the available free housing accommodations for incoming interviewees as well as coordinated social events and provided mentorship for the incoming candidates.
- Fielded a wide variety of inquires about medical school admissions process and coached applicants in the appropriate responses to commonly encountered interview questions.



Biology Lab Instructor | Department of Biology | SMU

Southern Methodist University

Aug 2013 - May 2014 (10 months)

Developed and executed lesson plans for a three-hour weekly Introductory Biology Lab for Bachelor of Science Undergraduates.

- Developed detailed educational lessons focused on teaching key biological science principals.
- Executed educational lessons during a three-hour weekly lab, including prepping lab materials and assessing/testing undergraduate student comprehension of core biological science concepts.

Education



Master of Liberal Arts (ALM) Candidate

Jun 2020 - May 2025

Pending Thesis: Generative A.I. Bias within High School STEM Classrooms

Advisor: Dr. Carolyn Gardner-Thomas

With world-class faculty, groundbreaking research opportunities, an inclusive residential environment, and a dedication to affordability, Harvard University Graduate students have all the resources they need to fulfill their academic and personal potential. Harvard's unparalleled student experience educates the next generation of citizens and citizen leaders. In addition, Harvard has one of the most generous need-based financial aid programs in the world, ensuring that the cost will never stand in the way of a Harvard education.



College Counseling Certification | Distinction Award, College Student Counseling and Personnel Services

Mar 2021 - Mar 2022

The College Counseling Certificate is designed for secondary school counselors, teachers, career counselors, admissions personnel, and others who want to develop their professional competencies, or are interested in establishing an independent educational consulting practice. This program is also ideal for college admissions professionals who want to help high school students identify post-secondary options. This seven-course certificate provides the skills needed to guide high school students to college.



Texas A&M University

Master of Business Administration - MBA, Business Administration, Management and Operations

Jun 2014 - Dec 2015

The Full-Time MBA Program at Mays Business School within Texas A&M University provides students with extensive opportunities to apply what they learn in the classroom to real-world situations. The program is highly selective and admits approximately 40% of applicants each year. Students in the Full-Time MBA Program enjoy the benefits and support of several networks:

- The Aggie Network: One of the most active university alumni groups in the world, more than 64,000 are Mays Business School alumni.
- The Texas A&M MBA Network: Provides networking opportunities and continued support.



Southern Methodist University

Bachelor of Science - BS | Bachelor of Arts - BA, Biochemistry | Psychology Jun 2010 - May 2014

SMU is a private university of 11,000+ students with strong undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs in the humanities and sciences; business; the performing, visual, and communication arts; engineering; education and human development; law; and theology. Undergraduates can choose from approximately 100 majors and 85 minors.



肖 University College, Oxford

Gothic Literature & European History Consentration Aug 2012 - May 2013

One of 20 undergraduate scholars selected to participate in a highly competitive exchange program at University College in Oxford, United Kingdom.

University College, commonly known as Univ, is one of the constituent colleges of the University of Oxford in England. Established in 1249, it is one of the oldest colleges in Oxford. University College is renowned for its historic and picturesque architecture, featuring the iconic High Street entrance tower and the Chapel designed by Sir Gilbert Scott. The college has a rich academic tradition and has educated notable alumni, including prominent writers, politicians, and scientists. It offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs, providing a vibrant and intellectually stimulating environment for students.

University College, with its impressive history and commitment to academic excellence, remains a prominent institution within the University of Oxford.

Carroll Senior High School

Distinguished ACH

Aug 2006 - May 2010

Carroll Senior High School was founded in 1919 as Carroll School, better known at the time as Carroll Hill School, and served students in grades 1-9. In 1959, Carroll became an Independent School District. In 1965, Carroll ISD was fully accredited for primary and secondary education. The original Carroll High School opened in 1970. In 1992, a new campus was opened and served grades 9-12 until the year 2000, when 9th grade was moved to Carroll Junior High School (now Carroll High School) to accommodate growth. In 2002, the school became a true "split campus" when Carroll Junior High School became Carroll High School, serving freshmen and sophomores, and Carroll High School became Carroll Senior High School, serving juniors and seniors.

Licenses & Certifications

- Science Grades 7 12 | Texas Educator Certification Texas Education Agency Issued Jun 2021 - Expires Sep 2026
- English Grades 7 12 | Texas Educator Certification Texas Education Agency Issued Jul 2017 - Expires Sep 2026
- Mathematics Grades 7 12 | Texas Educator Certification Texas Education Agency Issued Apr 2023 - Expires Sep 2026
- Emergency Medical Technician Texas Department of State Health Services Issued Aug 2011 - Expires Aug 2015 721961
- College Board AP Precalculus Teaching Certification APSI Augsburg University
- Strong Interest Inventory Certification The Myers-Briggs Company

- College Board AP Physics Teaching Certification APSI Rice University
- MBTI Step I Certification The Myers-Briggs Company MBTI-2023-GS00061
- College Board AP Biology Teaching Certification Fall AP Seminar Rice University
- Harvard University | Information Privacy Security for Students and Instructors CITI Program
 Issued Nov 2023 Expires Nov 2026
 59769528
- Harvard University | Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research CITI Program
 59769527
- Harvard University | Social and Behavioral Research Investigators CITI Program Issued Nov 2023 Expires Nov 2026 59769526
- College Board AP Biology Teaching Certification APSI Rice University

Skills

Teaching • Research • Admissions Counseling • Admissions • Leadership • Productivity Improvement • Virtual Work

Honors & Awards

Teacher of Merit - Regeneron Science Talent Search Jan 2022

New Teacher of the Year Award - Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions

Mar 2021

HISD Educators of the Year | Campus Beginning Teacher of the Year - Houston Independent School District

Mar 2021