



A2 ACHIEVE GAP ASSESSMENT MADELEINE WHARTON

WHERE I THINK YOU STAND RIGHT NOW

Madeleine, when I look at your application as a whole, I don't see a student who needs to go find more things to do. You have already done a lot, and more importantly, several of the things you've done have real depth.

Academically, you have a **4.0 unweighted GPA, a current class rank of #7, a 32 ACT superscore/31 composite, Honors, AP and dual-enrollment coursework**, and you intentionally chose a more demanding senior schedule rather than taking the easier path. You also have significant leadership, state-level athletic achievement, paid clinical experience, community involvement and an artistic side that includes awards and your own commissioned artwork.

That means your biggest gap is **not accomplishment**. Your biggest gap is making sure we use everything you have strategically. You are capable of applying to highly selective schools. You also have a legitimate reason to contact college track coaches. Those two things create an opportunity that we should not waste by running a normal college search.

WHAT IS ALREADY WORKING IN YOUR FAVOR

Your academic record

A 4.0 unweighted GPA and #7 class rank give us a strong academic foundation. More important to me is that you've continued choosing rigor.

You told me that when you had the choice senior year between taking only what you needed and leaving school early or continuing with harder classes that could earn college credit, you chose the harder schedule.

That is exactly the kind of decision I want reflected in your counselor recommendation and, where appropriate, your application. You didn't protect your GPA by avoiding rigor.

Pole vault is a real distinction factor

This is much more than "varsity track." You are a **two-time state champion with a verified 11'0" PR**. Your questionnaire also shows approximately six hours per week with varsity track plus substantial off-season club pole-vault training.

You've also told me something important about your relationship with the sport: you understand that you can work for months without a PR and still have to continue showing up. That makes pole vault valuable in two different ways.

1. It may create an athletic recruiting opportunity.
2. But even where you may not be recruitable at the current height, being a two-time state champion is still a significant admissions distinction.

Those values are not the same thing, and we need to use both.

Your leadership has progression

You didn't suddenly collect leadership titles senior year. You served as class president from freshman through junior year and moved into overall SGA president senior year. You are also NHS president, varsity cheer captain, an FCA leadership team member, a Mayor's Youth Council participant, a Chamber Youth Leadership participant, and more. That progression matters. You aren't just involved. People repeatedly trust you with responsibility.

Your medical experience is unusually relevant

Your work at Dermatology of North Alabama may become one of the strongest pieces of your application. You aren't saying, "I think I want to become a doctor." You've already been working in a dermatology environment since May 2025. You report interacting with patients, documenting histories, assisting with examinations and procedures, preparing surgical trays, sterilizing instruments, assisting with biopsies and surgeries, handling specimens, helping with wound care, communicating post-operative instructions and making patient calls. That gives your interest in medicine credibility.

And your Discovery Assessment takes it even farther: you envision yourself practicing dermatology, potentially including cosmetic services, and serving people in your own community. That's a much more developed career direction than "pre-med because I like science."

Your art matters more than I think you realize

You have a creative dimension that makes your profile substantially more interesting. You have won or placed in multiple art competitions, including the Fourth Congressional District Art Competition, Art on the Lake and the Alabama State Superintendent Art Show. You've taught yourself to draw and paint, run a commissioned art business, use Canva and say you lose track of time when making art. You even said you would create art and design homes whether you were paid or not. I don't want us to bury this because you're applying pre-med. It differentiates you.

THE MOST IMPORTANT GAPS

Gap #1: We need a formal athletic recruiting strategy now.

This is my highest-priority recommendation.

At your level, we should not wait for coaches to magically find you. We need a separate **pole-vault recruiting resume/profile** with:

- 11'0" verified PR
- 2025 AHSAA Class 5A State Champion
- 2026 AHSAA Class 5A State Champion
- 2024 AHSAA Class 5A third place
- recent progression
- meet-result links

- vault video
- height/weight if appropriate for recruiting materials
- club vault program and coach
- high-school coach
- upcoming meet schedule
- 4.0 GPA
- #7 class rank
- 32 ACT superscore
- graduation year 2027
- intended Biology/pre-med direction

The academic numbers belong in the recruiting email because you are exactly the kind of recruit whose academics can make a coach's job easier. You should also register correctly with the NCAA Eligibility Center. NCAA guidance says prospective Division I and II athletes need an **Academic and Athletics Certification Account**, and D-I eligibility includes 16 approved core courses plus the 10/7 course-timing rule. This needs to happen now, not after applications go in.

Gap #2: 32 ACT is very good, but it plays differently across your list.

At Alabama, Auburn, Samford, UAB, UAH, South Alabama, Ole Miss and Montevallo, your current testing can be an asset. At Harvard, Yale and Princeton, we need a different conversation. For example, Harvard's latest Common Data Set reports an ACT middle range of **34–36**, and Harvard now requires standardized testing. Yale also currently requires the ACT or SAT and accepts an official ACT superscore; its 2025–26 CDS reports **33/34/35** at the 25th/median/75th percentiles.

So I would consider **one more serious ACT attempt** if you believe 34+ is realistically attainable without taking time away from applications, school or pole vault. But I would not turn senior year into an ACT obsession.

Gap #3: I need several academic details.

Before I finalize your application strategy, I still want:

- weighted GPA
- graduating class size
- name of the college providing your dual-enrollment courses
- exact senior schedule
- AP exam scores, if any
- complete transcript
- school profile/course availability

This particularly matters at schools like UGA, where the university recalculates academics in its own way.

Gap #4: We need more numbers around your leadership and activities.

Your SGA descriptions currently say you coordinate events and communicate with school officials.

I want to know:

- How many events?
- How many students?
- Did you manage a budget?

- How many officers?
- What did you change?
- How many people attended the cheer clinic?
- How many commissions have you completed through Madeleine Made?
- How often do you work at Dermatology of North Alabama?
- How many patients might you interact with during a typical shift?

The experience is already there. We need to document its scale.

Gap #5: We need to verify some medical-assistant wording.

You reported "performing local anesthesia" among your clinical duties. Before I put that phrase on a resume going to colleges, I want to know exactly what you do and under whose supervision. I am **not** questioning the experience. I simply want the wording to be technically accurate because clinical responsibilities are an area where precision matters.

Gap #6: We don't have enough financial information yet.

I can identify colleges where you appear competitive for merit scholarships, but I am not going to call any school a **financial safety** until we know what your family considers affordable and have run net-price calculations. That's different from an admissions safety.

Gap #7: Biology and Interior Design need a scheduling reality check.

I like that you've identified Biology as a potential major and Interior Design as a possible minor. It fits what you've told me about yourself.

But pre-med coursework + labs + college track + an Interior Design minor with studio requirements could become a very heavy schedule.

That does **not** mean abandoning design. It means we need to compare Interior Design, Studio Art, Visual Art and Design minors at individual colleges and figure out which gives you the creative outlet you actually want.

YOUR APPLICATION STORY

I do not want your application reduced to:

"I'm a hardworking, well-rounded student who wants to become a doctor."

There are thousands of applications with some version of that sentence. Your real story is more interesting. You repeatedly choose things requiring **precision, discipline and personal ownership**. Pole vault requires minute technical adjustments and the willingness to fail repeatedly. Clinical medicine requires observation, care, composure and precision. Art requires observation and creativity. Leadership requires planning, judgment and knowing how to read people. Even in your Discovery Assessment, you talked about noticing people's tone and body language.

There is an authentic connection here between **athlete + clinician + artist + organizer**. That is where I want to spend time.

ACTION PLAN

Do Now

Correct the pole-vault record everywhere. Build your athletic recruiting resume. Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Gather your official transcript/school profile. Contact college coaches. Decide whether you are making another ACT run. Get your weighted GPA, class size, senior schedule and dual-enrollment institution.

Do Next

Build the final application list around both academics and athletics. Start recommendation packets. Quantify your leadership, work, art business and service. Begin Common App essay exploration. Build a scholarship/deadline calendar.

Enhance If Time Allows

I would consider one targeted medical exploration experience—not because you need another activity, but because you need information. Talk to two or three physicians about specialty choice, residency, practice ownership, work schedule and family life.

Monitor

Your senior-year grades, pole-vault PR, coach responses, scholarship requirements, 2027 merit grids and application deadlines.