

College Handbook
for
High School Students

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Introduction

The handbook is intended to be one aid out of many available to assist you in getting started on your path in finding a college that will be a good match for you. With over 2,400 four-year schools to choose from, there are sure to be numerous places where you can spend four years that will be exciting and rewarding. My hope is that this book will not only save you time in locating information that you need, but that it will stimulate you to think in new directions that you may not have considered before. As the information in this field is ever changing, I apologize in advance if you find any information to be inaccurate or out-of- date. Good luck to you in this great adventure!

Where Do You Want To Go To College?

(GETTING TO KNOW YOURSELF!)

In order to choose a college, you need to ask yourself a number of questions. What are my interests and talents? What are my goals and dreams? What are my reasons for attending college? Think about your goals for your education and your life. The answers to some of these questions will help steer you towards the things that are important to you in looking at colleges. This information will also help you to decide which of the colleges you research will have the atmosphere, the programs, the facilities and special characteristics that will be best for you.

Take some time to write down your answers to these questions:

- What subjects in school are your favorites? What are the special talents that are used in these classes?
- What are three achievements that you are most proud? What special abilities led to these achievements?
- What are your interests and hobbies outside of school? What skills are used in them?
- Ask a teacher or a close friend to write down three things he/she thinks you do particularly well. It can be something like “a patient listener”; it does not have to be a sport or acting in a school play.

Although you will want to try new things and study different subjects in college, the above information is important to keep in mind when looking at colleges. You will probably want to continue to do the things you enjoy and excel in. In addition, It is very important that you understand where your academic standing places you in the applicant pool. Speak with you school counselor about this. Why waste your time and money applying to schools where your likelihood of being admitted is next to zero? Being honest with yourself will pay off because you will end up with choices and real options.

Where Do You Want To Go To College?

Equally important in this self-assessment process is to think about your personality and the kind of person that you would like to become. Some questions you should ask yourself are:

- What words would I use to describe myself and how would my closest friends describe me?
- How much decision making have I made in my life? How do I honestly feel when I come up with a decision that sets me apart from others? Think of some concrete examples of when this has happened and how you felt.
- Do I want to attend a college where the students are mostly like me? Or, am I stimulated by an environment where people look different and have different backgrounds and belief systems?
- Do I want to attend a college that is similar to my high school or not? Why?
- What are some of my dreams? What are some of the things I really want to experience in life?

Give some thought to how you respond to these questions. Your answers will help you understand your personality, values and priorities. These are key issues in your research to find an initial list of schools that you want to find out more about and perhaps visit. The goal of this self-assessment is that by examining your personality, character and values in addition to your level of academic achievement, you will get to know the real you. With this information, you will be able to find schools that will be a good match for you, rather than trying to figure out what the schools are looking for and molding yourself into what you think they want.

Some Issues To Think About In Looking At Colleges

- Size Does Matter—Large vs. small

Colleges can range in size from several hundred to 30,000 or more. A smaller school may offer you better access to equipment and facilities, as well as more contact with faculty and smaller classes. It may be easier to get into classes you

Where Do You Want To Go To College?

want and get involved in activities outside of class. Larger schools (often state schools) will usually offer many classes in a variety of fields. Class sizes will likely be larger.

Sororities and fraternities are often available at the larger colleges and universities. Also, a larger school will often have more variety of sports and sports facilities. Think about what size may be right for you.

- Cost

College costs have risen recently in both private and public universities. Find out what financial assistance is available before ruling out a particular school. Often schools with high tuition also offer significant financial aid. Do you think you will want to be attending graduate school? This is also a factor to consider when you are evaluating undergraduate cost. The state colleges and universities offer an excellent education at a low cost. Don't forget that costs include tuition, books, room and board, miscellaneous fees, transportation and personal expenses.

- Geography

Do you know that you want to stay fairly close to home, or do you have a strong need to be on your own? Is it important for you to be near a metropolitan center or would you like to have a city accessible, but not too close? Is warm weather very important to you. Do you need to be near the mountains or the ocean? Has a remote, bucolic setting always been your dream for your college experience? When you start visiting campuses, trust your gut response to the campus. You will learn about what you respond to and where you will be comfortable for the next several years of your education.

- Other factors:

- Religious affiliation
- Co-ed vs. single sex
- Commuter vs. Residential College
- Study Abroad Options
- Special sports or clubs you want to join

Where Do You Want To Go To College?

- Diversity of Students
- Percent of students who live in the dorms first year and successive years?
- The dominance of Greek life on campus.
- The role of sports and athletics as part of campus life.
- Social life on campus (or mostly off-campus) during the weekend

A Word To Tenth Graders

The following are a few of the items that you should think about and plan. Talk to your teachers and school counselor as you may want to take some SAT Subject Tests toward the end of the year (May or June) in addition to regular school exams. In the spring, think about the many options available to you during the summer than can involve jobs, internships, community service, traveling or study. Pursue an interest or special talent. Keep in mind many programs do offer financial aid.

Discuss with your parents, teachers and school counselor the classes you will be taking in your junior year. Try and take the most challenging classes that you can handle.

Calendar for Juniors – 2015 - 2016

September

- As your Junior year begins, you should take note that:
- Your Junior grades are very important for college applications.
- Your best college recommendations come from Junior year teachers.
- Extra-curricular activities, particularly community service and volunteer work, are an important component of your college application.
- Feel free to attend the college representative presentations during your free periods or at lunch. Before attending, be sure you have researched the college by reading the catalogue, reviewing the college's website, or reading about the school in a guidebook ahead of time. Write down several questions you want to ask the representative during the meeting, and be sure to write down the name and position of the representative in case you will be communicating with the admissions office later.
- It is recommended that you prepare for the PSAT. Sample math, verbal and writing questions can be found on the Collegeboard.org website. Junior Year PSAT scores may qualify a student for the National Merit Scholarship Competition and the National Achievement and the National Hispanic Scholars Program.
- The UC application opened August 1 and you can begin filling it out. You cannot press the SUBMIT Button until the month of November.

October

- Oct. 14 – PSAT/National Merit Qualifying Test. Indicate on the PSAT test answer form that you want to participate in Student Search if you want to receive free information from colleges.

- This is a good time to begin to research scholarships, grants, and work-study programs if you will need financial assistance. You can get information from www.fastweb.com.
- You can begin submitting CSU applications (www.csumentor.edu)

November

- Make sure you are on track with your extracurricular activities.
- Keep your focus on your academic work.
- Complete UC applications. Deadline is November 30.
- Finish CSU applicatios. Deadline is November 30.

December

- You will receive the results of your PSAT. Speak with your school counselor about your results..
- If you plan to take the ACT, register for the February ACT. Some colleges require the ACT or both SAT and two or three subject tests.
- Set up an account at www.collegeboard.com if you are planning to take a spring SAT.
- If you will take the SAT, take an SAT prep class or study on your own.
- Spend some time with friends who are home from college.

January

- Begin to plan your schedule for the fall. The most selective colleges like to see that you have challenged yourself by taking some of the most challenging courses available at your high school.
- Set up an initial appointment for your family with the College Counselor.

- January 23, 2016 SAT Test.

February

- Meet with your school counselor to discuss preliminary college lists.
- Register for the ACT or SAT test.

Don't forget that President's week is an excellent time to visit schools in different parts of the country if you have time off from school.

- If you are going to visit campuses during spring break, start your planning and travel arrangements. Read [Guide to Campus Visits](#).
- February 6, 2016 ACT Test.

March

- Request college information using mail, telephone or the Internet.
- Attend the annual College Fair sponsored by the National Association for College Admissions' Counseling. Exact dates are found at www.nacacnet.org. Arrive early!
- March 5, 2016 SAT Test.

April

- Visit colleges over spring break. Call ahead to schedule tours and interviews (if they are offered) or you can schedule this on the college's website in the Admissions' section.
- "College Campus Tours, Inc." at 530-525-7095 provides good tours of East Coast schools.
- Consider some summer schools or enrichment programs or look into summer jobs.
- April 9, ACT Test

May

- Attend any college fairs in the area. See www.nacacnet.org and www.wacac.com for the college fair schedule.
- Over the summer you can contact coaches at schools where you have an interest if you plan on playing sports in college. They can give you information about intercollegiate and intramural sports programs and athletic scholarships. If you want to play Division I or II sports, complete the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse form. It cannot be submitted, however, until you complete your sixth semester of high school.
- The Colleges That Change Lives Organization usually has a College Fair in August. Check their website for exact dates, www.ctcl.org)
- May 7, 2016 SAT Test.

June

- June 4, 2016 SAT Test
- June 11, 2016 ACT Test

Calendar For Senior Year -- 2015-2016

September

- Keep track of Registration deadline for the ACT or SAT if you are planning to re-take any of these test.
- Sign up for college rep visits.
- Sign up with the Common Application (www.commonapp.org) It usually goes live August 1.
- September 12, 2015 ACT Test.

October

- All recommendation forms must be turned in to teachers and the College Counseling Office by October 1 if you applying for Early Decision/Early Action.
- October 3, 2015 – SAT.
- October 24, 2016 ACT.
- Register CSS/Financial Aid Profile, required at many private colleges.
- Finalize list of colleges.
- Work on application essays. The College Counselor and some of your teachers will be willing to give you feedback on them.

November

- November 5 – Registration deadline for December 5, 2015 SAT.
- All recommendation forms, aside from early decision/action, should be given to teachers and College Counseling office by November 5.
- November 7, 2015 – SAT.
- November 1 or 15 is usually the application deadline if you are applying early decision/early action to any colleges.

Calendar for Seniors

- .
- November 25 – 29 – Thanksgiving break.
- November 30 – UC/CSU application deadline. However, it is recommended that you submit your application in early November.
- Be sure to release any SAT scores that you want to have sent to colleges, through www.collegeboard.com

December

- December 5, 2015 – SAT.
- December 12, 2015 ACT Test.
- High School exams.
- Complete all college applications. January 1 or 2 is usually the deadline.
- Before the winter break, be sure you have arranged to have scores released and sent to colleges. Also, if you are applying for financial aid, make sure you have filed a CSS Profile (found on www.collegeboard.com) and FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov) You also need to get a pin (www.pin.ed.gov) which functions as your electronic signature.
- Lastly, make sure you have thanked your teachers who have written recommendations for you. A thank you note is appropriate and appreciated!

January

- Submit the FAFSA (the Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by March 1. It is at www.fafsa.ed.gov. It cannot be submitted until January 1.
- Parents need to complete financial aid forms. They do not need to wait until tax returns are completed. It is fine to estimate.

February

- The February break is an excellent time to visit schools.

Calendar for Seniors

- If possible, schedule interviews with local alumnae.
- The Preview Program is when colleges invite newly admitted students to their campuses. Most schools have these in early to mid April.
- If you wish to take advantage of this, and the time does NOT coincide with your high school's spring break, be sure you check your school's absence/grade policy so you are not caught unawares.

March

- UC's and CSU's will communicate their decisions by the end of March. Private colleges let you know throughout March and early April.

April

- Respond to wait-list schools. Discuss this option with your high school college admissions counselor.
- Last week of April – Email or mail your decisions to the colleges, as May 1 is the standard reply date.
- April 19, 2016 ACT Test.

Make sure you notify by email the colleges you will not be attending, as well the one you will be!

Financial Assistance

Since college costs are rising each year, schools realize that you and your family may not be able to afford tuition, room and board, books, transportation costs and personal expenses. Colleges expect you and parents to contribute as much as possible to the cost of your education, but you should apply for assistance if you cannot afford all of these expenses. At many schools, more than half of the student population receives some sort of financial aid or assistance from the college, state or federal government, or from private sources. Many schools still admit students on a “need-blind” basis. This means that the admissions decision is made without any consideration at all of your ability to pay. Therefore, the decision to admit you or not is not influenced by the amount of financial aid you may need.

The types of financial aid are as follows:

- Grants and Scholarships. These are gifts of money. They are usually based on need, but they also can be conferred based on academic achievement and potential or special talents.
- Loans. These can constitute a large proportion of aid packages. They do need to be repaid, but this usually is not required until after graduation. The repayment period varies from several years up to 30 years.
- Work Study. This is a part-time job on campus

Financial Aid Forms can be found in the Financial Aid Section of each college’s website, and colleges will evaluate what you are eligible for based on the information you provide. You should be sure to check the financial aid deadline at each college. The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) needs to be completed to apply for federal grants and loans. The website is www.fafse.ed.gov and can be filed after January 1. The FAFSA must be completed if you are applying for aid at any state university (like the UC’s) and most private colleges. Both the parent and student need to apply for a PIN on the FAFSA website. The PIN number is considered an electronic signature.

Some colleges and universities require that you use the PROFILE Service of the College Scholarship Service or a school's own forms. Make sure you find out which forms you need to complete and what the deadlines are for each school. Keep a copy of all the financial assistance/aid paperwork that you fill out.

Here is some more information on sources of financial assistance.

College Costs and Financial Aid Handbook, The College Board, New York, N.Y.

Peterson's College Money Handbook, Peterson's Guides, Princeton, New Jersey

The Ambitious Student's Guide to Financial Aid, Octameron Press, Alexandria, Virginia.

The A's and B's of Academic Scholarships, Octameron Press, Alexandria, Virginia.

www.finaid.org . This web site explains many types of financial aid and assists you in calculating college costs and financial aid.

www.ed.gov/prog_info/SFA/ This is part of the U.S. Department of Education Web site that includes links to FAFSA information as well as two publications, "Funding Your Education" and "The Student Guide".

www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/agencies.html This web site will link you to the Web sites of state higher education agencies, which provide information about financial aid programs by state.

www.nasfas.org This is the web site of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). It contains a section with information on financial aid for you and your parents.

www.fastweb.com Financial Aid Search through the Web is a database of more than 400,000 scholarships, grants, and internships.

www.salliemae.com Sallie Mae, a web site for information about money for college

www.scholarships.com another source of information on scholarships.

Here are some additional scholarship websites:

www.college.net

www.meritaird.com

www.moolashspot.com

www.scholarshipexperts.com

www.scholarships4students.com

www.educationplanner.org

www.mycollegeoptions.org

A Quick Word on Scholarship Scams!

Please be aware that fraudulent scholarship search services are thriving. The Federal Trade Commission tells students to be suspicious if a service claims:

- That a student is guaranteed to win a scholarship.
- That certain scholarship information is not available anywhere else.
- A credit card or bank account number must be given so that the scholarship can be held for the student.
- The service will do all the application paperwork.
- That the student is a finalist in a contest that the student never entered.
- The student can be offered a membership in a club that will guarantee scholarship money.

If you suspect an offer made to you is a scam, talk with your school counselor. The Better Business Bureau, the National Fraud Information Center (800-876-7060) and the National Aid Information Page (fax, 888-411-6565. editor Mark Kantrowitz) can also all help you sort through any questionable material.

Campus Visits

Students typically begin to visit campuses in the spring of their junior year. President's week and spring break are good choices. However, keep in mind that colleges have spring breaks at different times, so it is recommended that you check with the Admissions office of each school. It is good to choose a particular geographical area when planning a college trip. Also many schools begin classes in August, so you can profitably visit colleges during your summer break and the school will be in session. Many admissions offices are open on Saturday mornings while the school is in session so this, too, can expand your options for tours and interviews.

In planning your visits, you can choose from the following: a student-led tour, a self-guided tour, an information session, an interview with an Admissions officer, a visit to classes, a meeting with an athletic coach or faculty member. Typically your visit will include a student-led tour and an information session or interview on campus. If the campus requires an interview as part of the admissions process, make sure you find this out ahead of time. Most students will prefer to schedule the interview after the on campus tour.

Try to talk with as many people as possible. Have a meal in the cafeteria. Hang out in the Student Union. Find a coffee bar and have a cup of coffee. Look at the students in a leisurely fashion and soak up the flavor and atmosphere of the campus. Read the bulletin boards and look for a book in the library. Wander through the campus bookstore. Look through the student newspaper. Ask some students what they do on the weekends. Try and stay overnight on or near campus if possible. Some schools allow you to spend the night in a dorm with a current student. Explore the area surrounding the campus.

Here are some other questions you can ask students:

- How many hours a day do you study?
- Is it difficult to get classes that you want?
- Are you able to study in your dorm room?

Campus Visits

- Are faculty members available and accessible to you outside of class?
- How is the food?
- What do you like most and least about this college?
- Would you choose to attend if you could do it over again?
- Is it difficult to get an on-campus job?
- Do you feel challenged in your classes?
- Do many students study in the library? Does the library have an open stacks policy?
- Questions to ask yourself as you tour the campus:
 - Are the grounds well-kept?
 - Are there new as well as old buildings?
 - Is the setting and architecture attractive to me?
 - Are the common areas in the dorms attractive? Are there laundry and kitchen facilities?
 - Are the computers up-to-date and in sufficient quantity?
 - Are the dorm rooms nice? Are they quiet enough to study in?
 - Is the cafeteria clean and attractive?
 - Are the buildings kept up?
 - How are the facilities for the activities that I would want to participate in?

After each campus visit, write down your impressions and thoughts while everything is still fresh in your mind. Don't wait until after you have seen several campuses! Take the time to do it immediately after each visit and the time spent at each school will be distinct and memorable.

The College Interview

It is important to make a good impression so dress in neat and clean attire. Be prepared prior to your interview. That means that you should learn as much as possible about the college by reading the catalogue and other materials and writing down any questions you have. Also, give some thought ahead of time to your strengths and weaknesses, talents, values, and goals. Be prompt by arriving about ten minutes before your interview is scheduled. Give your interviewer a firm handshake if he/she offers a hand. Be comfortable about asking questions as long as these are not answered in the college's literature. Having a list ahead of time assures you that you will not forget to ask something you wanted to know.. Don't be nervous. The interviewer is genuinely interested in getting to know you. Here are some questions that you may want to ask in your interview or conversation with an admissions counselor:

1. What is special and distinctive about this college?
2. Does this college have academic programs that mesh with my interests?
3. How difficult is access to computers? Do I need to pay for computer time?
4. How is the college's advising system?
5. How many students will probably be in the courses my first year? Are they taught by full-time faculty members or by graduate assistants?
6. What extracurricular activities are there on campus? How are the facilities?
7. If I qualify for work-study what kinds of jobs will be available?
8. What are the college's recent graduates doing now?
9. Do I have a have a good chance of being admitted?
10. Are the college's admission's policies need-blind?
11. What percentage of students graduate in four years?

After your the interview is over, be sure to write a thank-you note to the individual you spoke with. Also, remember to write down your impressions of the college

The College Interview

while they are still fresh. Ask yourself whether the students you met were friendly and if they are the type of people you would like to get to know. Did you feel that the college was genuinely interested in you as a prospective student? If you observed a class, what were your impressions of the quality of teaching? How did the general atmosphere feel to you?

University of California and California State University System

University of California

There are nine general UC campuses:

1. Berkeley
2. Davis
3. Irvine
4. Los Angeles
5. Merced
6. Riverside
7. San Diego
8. Santa Barbara
9. Santa Cruz

All of these campuses offer balanced programs covering all basic areas of college study. Each campus, as well, has particular features and programs that set it apart. The University of California has built an international reputation for academic excellence, and undergraduate education is one of its highest priorities.

Check with your high school counselor for the admission requirements of high school units/coursework. The UC Pathways website is www.ucop.edu/pathways. You can download the application information, fees, fee waivers and information to submit with your application. Filing periods for fall semester are November 1 – 30. For the Fall 2016 term, your standardized tests cannot be taken later than the December, 2015 test dates. Check the box on the UC Application that allows your scores to be shared among the campuses where you have applied.

California State University System

The California State University is comprised of 23 campuses and over 370,000 students. It is the nation's largest four-year system of higher education and an acclaimed university system. You can browse through www.csumentor.edu to explore the CSU system. Check the minimum eligibility requirements, and different campuses online. You can also apply through CSU Mentor. Note that some of the campuses require ACT or SAT testing completed by the October test date. Check with your high school counselor for the testing and subject requirements as well as the CSU Eligibility Index.

Glossary

(DEFINITIONS OF SOME TERMS YOU WILL SEE ON WEB SITES AND YOUR COLLEGE MATERIALS.)

AP/Advanced Placement

Many high schools offer advanced placement courses for those students who seek additional challenge by taking college level studies as high school students. 26 introductory college courses are offered with exams scheduled in May each year. You may be able to receive advanced placement credit in college.

ACT/American College Testing Program

This is a standardized test that includes English, Math, Natural Science and Social Science. It can be used in place of the SAT. You can sign up for the ACT with or without the Writing Section (at www.act.org), but it is recommended that you take the ACT with Writing as many colleges require the Writing Section. For the ACT, there is no penalty for guessing.

Articulation Agreement

This is an arrangement where a class at a community college is equivalent to a class offered at a CSU or UC campus (or other school) so that the courses are transferable.

Candidates Reply Date Agreement/CRDA

This agreement states that May 1 is the earliest date that a college will require a student accepted into its program to give the school an answer. Most colleges communicate their acceptances by early April and abide by this agreement to give accepted students until May 1 to respond and, usually, send a deposit.

College Board

A non-profit consortium of colleges and universities that administers the PSAT, the SAT, the SAT Subject Tests, Advanced Placement tests, the College Scholarship Service (CSS) and PROFILE.

Common Application

The Standard application that is accepted by almost 400 members. It is available at www.commonapp.org. However, if a college has its own application form, it is recommended you use that. Use the common application only when it is the only choice.

Concurrent Enrollment

An enrichment program designed to give high school students an opportunity to start college while still in high school. Usually the student will take classes at a community college.

Consortium

A consortium refers to a group of colleges and universities that are in geographical proximity to one another and share resources in a cooperative arrangement. For example, students can take classes, use the libraries and athletic facilities or attend arts and cultural programs at schools that are members of this group.

Deferral

This is when a school will postpone an applicant for early decision or early action to be considered with the regular application pool.

Deferred Admission

This is a situation when a student has applied and been accepted to a college while a senior in high school, but then decides to take a year off and the student seeks the school's permission to enroll one year later.

Early Action

This admissions plan has an early application deadline and early notification of admission. If you are accepted, however, you do not have to commit in advance. The cut-off date for a response is usually the same as for regular admissions.

Early Decision

This admission plan should be used only if you have a clear first choice college. Under this plan, you usually apply in the fall and are notified early. With early decision, you may apply to other institutions but must withdraw your other applications if your early decision application is accepted.

ETS – Educational Testing Service

This is a non-profit organization that is separate from the College Board but develops college entrance exams for the College Board.

Greek System

The Greek System refers to Fraternities and sororities on campus (called Greek because their names come from letters in the Greek alphabet).

IB – International Baccalaureate

This is a course of study that allows high school students to satisfy admission requirements of universities in over 70 countries. Students can earn university credit for scores of 5 or higher on IB Higher Level examinations for an IB diploma with a score of 30 or above.

Legacy

A college applicant whose parents or grandparents are graduates of the college. If the student is academically qualified, being a legacy usually gives them an advantage in being admitted.

Liberal Arts

A college course of study that includes the humanities, the social sciences, math, foreign language study and fine arts. It is a typical undergraduate education.

Profile

The CSS Profile financial aid form from the College Board is a form that many select colleges require in making financial aid awards.

PSAT – Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test

Also called the National Merit Qualifying Test (NMQT). This test is taken by sophomores and juniors in October. It is a practice test for the SAT. Junior results are submitted for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Regular Admissions

This is the admissions plan where you submit your application by the college's deadline and the college will notify you by a certain date as to whether you have been accepted or not. You usually have until May 1 to decide whether you will enroll.

Rolling Admissions

An Admission Plan where students are notified as their applications are submitted, usually within six weeks. Students are accepted until the entering class is filled

SAT

The SAT is a multiple-choice and essay test given by the College Board that measures math and verbal skills. In 2005, the College Board included a written section that increased the length of the test to 3-1/2 hours. Colleges use the SAT scores along with high school transcript and other information in the application package to measure future college performance.

SAT Subject Tests

Formerly called SAT II's, these are one hour multiple-choice tests given by the College Board on specific subjects. Highly selective colleges require two or three SAT Subject Tests.

UC – Eligible

This means that the student has met the University of California's minimum admission requirements. The minimum UC GPA required for admissions is 3.0.

Waiting List

Qualified candidates who are not accepted at the standard time are often placed on a waiting list. They can eventually be accepted, but there is no guarantee. Some years colleges will not take any students off their waitlist.

Yield

The percentage of students accepted at a college who actually choose to enroll. Some people claim that yield drives college admissions since colleges are commonly rated by the number of accepted students who enroll.

Books For Further Reading

(Alphabetical by title)

Admission Matters: What Students and Parents Need to Know About Getting into College. By S. Springer, J. Reider, and M.R. Franck. 2nd Ed. Jossey-Bass

Barron's Profiles of American Colleges, Barron's Educational Series

The Best 379 Colleges, The Princeton Review

The Best Buys in College Education, Edward B. Fiske

The Best of the Top Colleges, Joyce Slaton Mitchell

The Black Student's Guide to Colleges, Barry Beckham, Madison Books

Cass and Birnbaum's Guide to American Colleges, Julie Cass-Liepmann, Harper Perennial, New York.

Choosing a College, The College Board

The College Admissions Mystique, Bill Mayher, Noonday Press

College Financial Aid Made Easy, Patrick Bellantoni, Ten Speed Press

The College Finder 3rd Ed., by Steven R. Antonoff, Ph.D. Wintergreen Orchard House.

The College Handbook, The College Board

Colleges that Change Lives – 40 schools You Should Know About if You're Not A Straight A Student, Penguin Books

Cool Colleges for the Hyper-Intelligent, Self-Directed, Late Blooming and Just Plain Different, Donald Asher, Ten Speed Press.

College Survival, Greg Gottesman and Friends

A Comparative Guide to American Colleges, James Cass and Max Birnbaum

The Fiske Guide to Colleges, Edward Fiske, Time Books

The Fiske Guide to Getting Into the Right College, Edward Fiske

Books for Further Reading

Guide to Performing Arts Programs: Profiles of over 600 Colleges, High Schools and Summer Programs, Carole Everett and Muriel Topaz. Princeton Review (Division Of Random House).

The Insider's Guide to Colleges, The Yale Daily News

The K & W Guide to Colleges for the Learning Disabled, Marybeth Kravets and Imy F. Wax, Random House, Inc.

Looking Beyond the Ivy League: Finding the College that's Right for You, Loren Pope, Penguin Books

The Multicultural Student's Guide to Colleges, Robert Mitchell, Noonday Press

Peterson's Colleges with Programs for Students with Learning Disabilities, Peterson's, Princeton, New Jersey

Peterson's Competitive Colleges, Peterson's, Princeton, New Jersey

Peterson's Guide to Two Year Colleges, Peterson's, New York

Peterson's Professional Degree Programs in the Visual and Performing Arts, Peterson's, Princeton, New Jersey

Playing the Private College Admission Game, Richard Moll

Princeton Review Student Access Guide – The Big Book of Colleges, Random House, New York

The Public Ivies, Richard Moll