

College Counseling Guides 2014-15

COMPREHENSIVE, OBJECTIVE COLLEGE GUIDES

These are data driven collections of statistics and comprehensive guides for every college and university in the United States. Much of the information they include is now searchable on the web, but book format makes it easy to find information about tuition, room & board, enrollment figures, location, most popular majors, etc.

The College Handbook, The College Board
Barron's Profiles of American Colleges, Barron's Educational Series
Four-Year Colleges, Peterson's

NARRATIVE, SUBJECTIVE COLLEGE GUIDES

These books are meant to be read rather than searched, although they do have some statistics that make it easy to do a side by side comparison of colleges. They offer narrative descriptions of each of the colleges they profile which make it easy to appreciate a given colleges' strengths and weaknesses.

The Fiske Guide to Colleges, Edward Fiske. This guide is updated annually, but does not change too much from year to year, and is generally positive about all the 300 schools it profiles.

The Insider's Guide to the Colleges, Yale Daily News Staff. This guide is put together by Yale students each year based on surveys from current students at the colleges they profile.

Colleges That Change Lives, Loren Pope. First published in 1996, recently revised in 2012, the introduction is particularly valuable in understanding the merits of smaller liberal arts colleges. Pope then includes profiles of 40 schools he considered particularly noteworthy. *Looking Beyond the Ivy League* by the same author (1995) considers the same question comparing famous schools to smaller, less-well known colleges and offers suggestions on how to evaluate the latter.

GENERAL COLLEGE COUNSELING BOOKS

College Admission, Robin Mamlet and Christine Vandevelde (2011). Up-to-date information about navigating the college application process written for parents and students by former dean of Stanford and her co-author.

If the U Fits, Kevin McMullin and Robert Franck (2014). A user-friendly guide which outlines a step by step approach to applying to college. Because it is published by the Princeton Review, it spends a long chapter outlining testing strategies. Please consider this portion with a grain of salt.

The Fiske Guide to Getting Into the Right College, Edward Fiske. Currently in its fourth edition, provides a step-by-step how to guide to finding a college that is right for you, including a survey and advice about the application process.

College Admission without the Crazy, Nancy Donehower (2015). A short student friendly how to book to help manage the most daunting moments in the college research and admission cycle.

TRANSITIONING TO COLLEGE

The Thinking Student's Guide to College, Andrew Lawrence Roberts (2010), A Northwestern University professor offers advice on how to be successful in college, once enrolled.

The Secrets of College Success, Lynn Jacobs and Jeremy Hyman (2010). More catchy graphics and less thoughtful in tone than the above but good information for current college students wanting to make the most of their undergraduate experience.

Letting Go: A Parents' Guide to Understanding the College Years, Karen Coburn & Madge Lawrence (2009)

BOOKS OF LISTS/SPECIALTY GUIDES

Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges, Frederick E. Rugg (recommends colleges by major)

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

Smart Choices: Honors Programs and Colleges, Peterson's

Index of Majors and Graduate Degrees, The College Board

Colleges With Programs for Students with Learning Disabilities or ADD, Peterson's

Degree Programs in Visual and Performing Arts, Peterson's

The Gap-Year Advantage: Helping Your Child Benefit from Time Off Before or During College, Karl Haigler & Rae Nelson

FINANCIAL AID GUIDES AND INFORMATION

The Financial Aid Handbook: Getting the Education You Want for the Price you can Afford. Carol Stack and Ruth Vedvick (2011) A how-to book about understanding and accessing merit scholarships, applying for financial aid, and managing the gap between aid awards and what you can afford.

Getting Financial Aid, The College Board

Scholarship Handbook, The College Board

Scholarships, Grants & Prizes, Peterson's