

Resources and Readings For College

Useful Websites:

1. <https://www.scoir.com>- Expert advice from a former dean of admissions.
2. www.collegeboard.org - Information on the PSATs, SATs, and APs; colleges; and financial aid including registration for the CSSIProfile.
3. www.act.org - For information on the ACT.
4. www.fafsa.ed.gov - For information and registration for the FAFSA.
5. www.finaid.org - For financial aid calculators, information on scholarships and grants, as well as information on bogus financial aid offers and companies not to be trusted.
6. www.famemaine.org - For scholarship searches, financial aid calculators and (for Maine residents) help filling out financial aid forms.
7. www.commonapp.org - One application used by hundreds of colleges.
8. www.fairtest.org - Everything you need to know about test-optional colleges.
9. www.collegerealitycheck.com - Allows for quick and easy comparisons between colleges on measures families should weigh during their search. It includes early-career salaries for college graduates from payscale.com, which are self-reported by users of the site. It lets you know how long you'll be living in mom and dad's basement.
10. <http://www.collegecost.ed.gov/scorecard/> - This website helps you figure out where to get "the most bang for your educational buck" by compiling federal data collected from colleges.

Useful Books:

1. College Unranked, edited by Lloyd Thacker. This book is a hot topic in college admissions. Thacker and his collection of writers are on a mission to rescue the college search from the politics, pressures, and blind adherence to the numbers game that is ruining this developmental process for our children.
2. Winning the Admissions Game, by Peter Van Buskirk. A "flip book" with separate chapters for students and parents, with detailed advice on how to navigate the system with your own priorities at the forefront.
3. Colleges that Change Lives, by Loren Pope - a favorite of college counselors everywhere. Realizing that students and colleges are unique, Pope provides a tremendously diverse list of colleges that nurture the individual and help students find and utilize their potential,
4. Making a Difference, by Miriam Weinstein - a wonderful resource for students who "want to make a better world." The book recommends colleges with strong community service programs and socially involved majors.
5. The Student Athlete's Handbook, by Perry Bromwell and Howard Gensler - a "how-to" for college-bound athletes. Information on regulations, coach contacts, and selling yourself.
6. Looking Beyond the Ivy League, also by Loren Pope -A great read to discover colleges with Ivy quality education but without the Ivy League admissions issues.
7. Fiske's Guide to the Colleges, by Edward Fiske - a helpful guide with basic information about a few hundred colleges. Fiske is honest and objective in his assessments of campus life, academic strength, etc.
8. Insiders Guide to the Colleges, by Yale Daily News - a student written and student edited guide to colleges with great quotes and insights into college living.
9. College Prowler, by Mark Bevenuto - a detailed look at hundreds of colleges in easy to use categories. Regional guides as well as individual college books available.
10. The College Finder, by Steven R. Antinoff - a great collection of college lists in categories ranging from strong science and art programs to sports and extracurricular activities.