

## Resources for College Research

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### THE BIG ONES: REFERENCE GUIDES

*These enormous references books contain the most up-to-date statistics about seemingly every college in the country. They are great resources for finding out basic information about specific colleges of interest to you, as well as for looking up colleges according to certain criteria, such as geographical area or majors offered.*

**Barron's Profiles of American Colleges.** Barron's Educational Series

**The Complete Book of Colleges.** Princeton Review

**Peterson's College & University Almanac: A Compact Guide to Higher Education.** Peterson's Guides

**The Performing Arts Major's College Guide.** Arco

**The Professional Degree Programs in the Visual and Performing Arts.** Peterson's

### THE FUN ONES: NARRATIVE GUIDES

*In these guides you will find less raw data and more description. These books discuss aspects of colleges such as campus culture and the food in the dining hall. Subjective in nature, these books nicely compliment the more objective reference guides mentioned above.*

**The Fiske Guide to Colleges** by Edward Fiske. Written by the former education editor of *The New York Times*, this guide offers in-depth analysis of each college's academic strengths and many other interesting details.

**Colleges That Change Lives: 40 Schools You Should Know About Even If You're Not a Straight-A Student** by Loren Pope. Profiles of great schools for students who are looking for a good fit, not just the college with the most competitive admission or famous name.

**Looking Beyond the Ivy League: Finding the College That's Right for You** by Loren Pope. An authoritative, carefully expressed argument for aiming at a small liberal-arts college rather than a large, impersonal university. Pope claims that there is "a lot of non-Ivy quality available" for many kinds of students, and describes several colleges and programs to back up his points.

## THE OFF-BEAT ONES: UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES

*If you are looking for colleges with particular philosophies or unusual majors, try one of these books.*

**Cool Colleges: For the Hyper-Intelligent, Self-Directed, Late Blooming, and Just Plain Different** by Donald Asher. A collection of iconoclastic schools across the country and what makes them standouts.

**Making a Difference College and Graduate Guide** by Miriam Weinstein. This book provides information on graduate and undergraduate colleges for students interested in social justice, community service, and the environment.

**Taking a Gap Year** by Susan Griffiths. The definitive handbook for students wanting to make the most of a year off before starting college, commonly referred to as a "gap year." Find information on specialty gap year programs, jobs for travelers worldwide, volunteer work, plus stories and case histories from other gap travelers.

## THE PERSONAL ONES: THE IMPACT ON THE FAMILY OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

*The college application process can be emotional for the whole family. These books contain practical advice on how to navigate the sometimes stormy seas ahead.*

**The College Admissions Mystique** by Bill Mayher. A practical and eye-opening view of the application and admission process from a former college counselor. This book is directed at both students and parents.

**Almost Grown...Launching your Child from High School to College** by Patricia Pasick.

**For Parents Only...Tips for Surviving the Journey from Homeroom to Dorm Room** by Julia Johnston and Mary Kay Shanley.

## WEBSITES

*To conduct on-line college searches, or to find out more information about standardized testing (including on-line registration), career planning, financial aid, and other college related information, try one of these excellent comprehensive sites below.*

College Board Online  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

CollegeNET  
[www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)

CollegeView  
[www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)

NASFAA Scholarship Info  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

Hillel  
[www.hillel.org](http://www.hillel.org)

ACT  
[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

**College Websites.** Most include course catalogues, tuition information, and on-line applications. Use a search engine such as [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) to find a particular school's website.

To contact the college counseling office, click on [collegecounseling@emeryweiner.org](mailto:collegecounseling@emeryweiner.org)